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IMPLEMENTATION OF NFSM THROUGH GOVERNMENT OF INDIA: INCREASE PULSES PRODUCTION

Popular Article

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ABSTRACT

The National Development Council (NDC) in its 53rd meeting held on 29th May, 2007 adopted a resolution to launch a Food Security Mission comprising rice, wheat and pulses to increase the production of rice by 10 million tons, wheat by 8 million tons and pulses by 2 million tons by the end of the Eleventh Plan (2011-12). Accordingly, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 'National Food Security Mission' (NFSM), was launched in October 2007. The Mission is being continued during 12th Five Year Plan with new targets of additional production of food grains of 25 million tons of food grains comprising of 10 million tons rice, 8 million tons of wheat, 4 million tons of pulses and 3 million tons of coarse cereals by the end of 12th Five Year Plan. The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) during the 12th Five Year Plan will have five components (i) NFSM- Rice; (ii) NFSM-Wheat; (iii) NFSM-Pulses, (iv) NFSM Coarse cereals and (v) NFSM-Commercial Crops. Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P) is another step forward for vigorous implementation of the pulse development under the NFSM-Pulses. A3P has been conceptualized to take up the active propagation of key technologies such as Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in a manner that creates catalyzing impact by assuring farmers of the higher returns from the identified pulse crops.

Introduction

National Food Security Mission-Pulses (NFSM-Pulses) is one of the components of the centrally sponsored scheme of National Food Security Mission and is under implementation since rabi 2007-08 in 171 districts of 14 states. Pulses component of Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil palm and Maize (ISOPOM) was also under implementation in these 14 states. Initially the NFSM-Pulses was meant only for additional areas but considering the implementation problems and unexploited yield potential in existing districts it was decided to cover 100% area in the identified NFSM-Pulses districts. It was also decided that the pulses component of the ISOPOM will cease to operate in these NFSM-Pulses districts except for those components which were not covered under NFSM-Pulses such as demonstration, minikits and water carrying pipes etc. These NFSM-Pulses districts accounts for 80% of pulses area while rest 20% area is in Non-NFSM pulses districts and Non-NFSM states. As a result both the schemes namely NFSM-Pulses and pulse component of ISOPOM were operative in these 14 states with the condition that ISOPOM in NFSM Pulses districts was only for those components which were not covered under NFSM-Pulses. In rest of the country pulses production is supported under the Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMA). The implementation of both schemes with certain riders in these 14 states had created some confusion as well as operational difficulties. Recently following decision has been taken to further promote the pulses production in the country. These are merger of all pulse components of ISOPOM with NFSM-Pulses, Coverage of all districts by NFSM-pulses in all the 14 NFSM-Pulse states ¾ Inclusion of 10 districts of Assam and 15 districts of Jharkhand under NFSM-Pulses. Implementation of additional programmes. In order to bring the uniformity in implementation of pulses

component of ISOPOM as well as NFSM-Pulses, it was necessary to merge those interventions of the pulses components of ISOPOM which were not covered by NFSM-Pulses. The remaining pulses components of ISOPOM have now been merged with NFSM-Pulses. The pulse components of ISOPOM which were not covered by NFSM-Pulses and are now merged with it are:

- Distribution of seed minikits.
- Block demonstration, Frontline demonstrations.
- Supply of Pipes for carrying water from source to the field.
- Supply of plant protection chemical, Supply of Herbicides.
- Supply of Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus (NPV).
- Supply of rhyzobium culture/phosphate solubilising bacteria.
- Involvement of private sector in other activities.
- Foreign training of officials, Staff & contingencies.
- Contractual research by ICAR/ICRISAT.

Pulse Production Scenario in India:

- India is the largest producer, largest consumer and the largest importer of pulses in the world.
- Total Pulse production in India is 19.25 million tonnes during 2013-14.
- In India Pulses are grown in around 24-26 million hectares of area producing 17-19 million tonnes of pulses annually. India accounts for over one third of the total world area and over 20 per cent of total world production.
- Bihar is one of the important pulse growing state of India with productivity of 839.3 Kg/ha in 2010-11 which is projected to attain 1461.3 kg/ha by 2050-51, highest in eastern India.
- The increasing mismatch between production and consumption of pulses has resulted in larger imports of pulses in recent years. Imports of pulses in 2012-13 (April-March) were a record 4.0 million tonnes an increase of 500,000 tonnes over 2011-12.
- More than 80 % area under pulses is rainfed conditions.
- India is importing 3-4 million tonnes of pulses to meet the domestic requirement.
- Government of India has initiated various crop development programmes like NFSM, RKVY, and BGREI etc. to enhance the pulses production in the country.

Objective

The objective of NFSM-Pulses is to increase the production of pulses by 2 million tons by the end of Eleventh Plan (2011-12). The objective of A3P are to demonstrate plant nutrient and plant protection centric improved technologies and management practices in compact blocks covering large area for five major pulse crops namely gram, urad (black gram), arhar (red gram/pigeon pea), moong (green gram) and masoor (lentils) for increasing production and productivity of these crops. Apart from increasing the production and productivity of pulse crops by the participating farmers another objective of A3P is to stimulate other farmers in the adjoining areas to adopt these technologies.

Merger of Pulses component of ISOPOM with NFSM-Pulses

There are 433 districts in 14 NFSM-Pulses/ISOPOM states out of which 171 were covered under NFSM-Pulses and rest of the 262 districts were served by Pulses component of ISOPOM. NFSM-Pulses has been extended to cover the entire districts of 14 states where pulses component of ISOPOM/NFSM-Pulses were being implemented in a scattered manner thus making the NFSM-Pulses as the sole scheme for the pulses to cover the entire districts of 14 states. This means that all the districts in the 14 states presently under ISOPOM/NFSM Pulses are now covered by NFSM-Pulses.

Inclusion of New States under NFSM-Pulses

Assam and Jharkhand states has1.13 and 4.10 lakh hectare of pulse area and contribute about 0.49% and 1.73 % of total area in the country under pulses. It has been decided to include these 10 districts of Assam and 15 districts of Jharkhand under NFSM-Pulses. These states and districts will be provided all components of NFSM-Pulses at state and district level including Project Management Team (PMT).

Inclusion of additional programs

Innovative projects: Innovative projects of both government / non government organisations focusing on issues such as pest monitoring and surveillance, timely delivery of crop advisories to farmers; promoting practices on water use efficiency ; post harvest handling, etc. would be supported. An amount of Rs. 10 crores will be provided to support such innovative projects. The allocation under this program could also be used as a top up amount to ensure convergence with other schemes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme MGREGS {erstwhile National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)} etc especially for augmenting/utilizing the stored water in the rainwater harvesting structures.

Development Research Projects: Research projects related to production, resource conservation and protection technologies etc which need field evaluation and suitable refinement for adoption could be taken up by government / semi-government/ autonomous bodies, international organisations based in India, State Agriculture Universities etc. An amount of Rs 10 crores will be provided for the development research 3 projects to fast track adoption of the agriculture technologies relevant to Pulses crops.

Accelerated Pulses Production Program (A3P): For vigorous implementation of the pulses development programs under the NFSM Pulses, Accelerated Pulses Production Program (A3P) has been conceptualized to take up active propagation of key technologies in a manner that creates catalyzing impact by assuring farmers of the higher returns from the identified pulses crops. Separate guidelines for the implementation of A3P have been developed.

The overall specific interventions under NFSM-Pulses are following:

- Production of Breeder Seeds of Pulses.
- Purchase of Breeder Seed of Pulses.
- Production of Foundation and Certified Seed of Pulses.
- Seed Minikit Programme of Pulses.
- Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) in Pulses Mechanization.
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
- Assistance for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Pulses.
- Assistance for Plant Protection Chemical.
- Block demonstrations: Suggested interventions for the conduct of demonstrations: Supply of seed, Seed treatment chemicals, Use of pheromone traps, Supply of lures, Scouting for insect pest and diseases. In addition to input demonstrations there should be some method demonstrations where some methods of pulse production such as use of a machine, production of pulses on raised beds etc should be demonstrated.
- Training of Trainers, Extension Workers and Farmers.

Conclusion and Policy

Food Security Mission comprising rice, wheat and pulses to increase the production of rice by 10 million tons, wheat by 8 million tons and pulses by 2 million tons by the end of the Eleventh Plan (2011-12). Key factor for expanding area of pulses and enhancing productivity of pulses are availability and adoption of suitable varieties (Short duration, high yielding, disease resistant, drought tolerant), availability and adoption of low cost agronomic package including the use of inoculants, promotion of pulses in cereal based cropping system, cultivation of summer mungbean, Promotion of pulses as intercrop with oilseeds, cereals and commercial crops, promotion of utera/relay cultivation of Pulses in rice fields, replacement of low productivity crops with pulses, demonstrations of pulses through Krishi Vigyan Kendras for spread of new technologies and seed varieties.

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