

Interface Meeting on Implementation of District Contingency Plans Organized

11th June 2014, Ahmedabad

Natural Resource Management Division of ICAR organized an interface meeting of ICAR-DAC officials with the state and district officials of agriculture and line departments of Gujarat on 11th June, 2014 at Mahatma Gandhi Labour Institute, Ahmedabad. The meeting was aimed at enhancing the preparedness for Kharif 2014 and for operation of Contingent Plans in view of the probability of a normal to below normal South West monsoon according to forecast issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).



Shri D.K. Jain, IAS, Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) Government of India was the Chief Guest. He said implementation of the district contingency plans prepared for the 28 districts is key for ensuring food security and sustaining the agricultural growth rate in Gujarat. Both preparedness and real time implementation of contingency plans is crucial in view of below normal monsoon. He suggested that seed of alternate crops and short duration varieties should be stocked at the local level and seed indents need to be placed right away by district officers wherever shortage has been identified. He informed that states have been advised to set aside 10% of funds under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for implementation of contingency measures to face drought.



Shri Rajkumar, Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Gujarat chaired the meeting. He shared the benefits of Krishi Mahotsava organised in Gujarat and emphasized upon the need for dissemination of contingency crop plans to farmers in the light of the likely delay in monsoon onset and the projected deficit rainfall situation in this region during the kharif season.

Dr. A.K. Sikka, Deputy Director General (NRM), ICAR planned the interface meetings at national level with vulnerable states and sent his message for a robust action plan for implementation during the ensuing kharif season.

Dr. (Mrs.) M. Maheshwari, Director, CRIDA briefed the gathering about 500 district contingency plans to meet different monsoon scenarios. She informed that the purpose of the meeting is to roll out an action plan for implementing these contingency plans at the district level during this season.

Dr. V.U.M. Rao, Project Coordinator (Agrometeorology); Dr. Ch. Srinivasrao, Project Coordinator (Dryland Agriculture); and Dr. Y.G. Prasad, Principal Scientist, CRIDA made presentations on technical aspects contained in the district plans. Status of seed availability in the state and action plan of GSSC to make arrangements for procurement etc. for seed of contingency crops along with important aspects of mid-term drought mitigation techniques etc. were also discussed in detail.

Dr. S R Chaudhary, Director (Agriculture), Government of Gujarat presented a detailed status on crop-wise requirement and availability of seed and other inputs at the state level. District level officers gave inputs on the status of seed availability to meet the likely contingent situations.

Professors N.C. Patel; A.R. Pathak; R.M. Chauhan; K.B. Kathiria and Vice Chancellors of state agricultural universities of Junagarh, Navsari, Dantiwara, Anand; Managing Director, State Seed Corporation; Directors and representatives of ICAR institutes and SAUs in Gujarat; Joint Directors and Deputy Directors of agriculture; and Programme Coordinators of KVKs from all the 28 districts participated in the discussion.

Dr. Rajbir Singh, Principal Scientist, NRM division of ICAR proposed vote of thanks.

(Source: NRM Division, ICAR)