

Interface Meeting on District Contingency Plans Organized

13th June 2014, Jaipur

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 Rajasthan here today. 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 Ashok Sampath Ram, Additional Chief Secretary (Agriculture), Rajasthan chaired the meeting. He emphasized upon the need for dissemination of contingency crop plans to farmers along with information on availability of seed of short duration varieties in the light of the likely delay in monsoon onset.

Shri Narendra Bhooshan, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India expressed that implementation of the district contingency plans prepared for 33 districts is the key for ensuring food security and sustaining the agricultural growth rate in Rajasthan. Shri Bhooshan said that under RKVY, states have been advised to set aside 10% of funds for implementation of contingency measures to face drought. Seed of alternate crops and short duration varieties should be stocked at the local level and seed indents need to be placed.

Shri Kuldeep Ranka, Commissioner (Agriculture), Rajasthan informed that the state mostly experienced deficit rainfall conditions in years whenever below normal rainfall was forecast. Appreciating the district contingency plans prepared by CRIDA, he said the department will take up the challenge of implementing the plans during this season.

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

Shri J.K. Tanania, Additional Director of Agriculture presented a detailed status on crop-wise requirement and availability of seed and other inputs at the state level. The session followed by inputs on the status of seed availability at the district level to meet the likely contingent situations.

Earlier, Dr. V.U.M. Rao, Project Coordinator (Agrometeorology) explained the monsoon forecast and probable rainfall scenarios for Rajasthan. Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Project

Coordinator (Dryland) and Dr. Y.G. Prasad, Co-PI, NICRA project shared experiences from village level implementation of technologies for climate resilient agriculture implemented through dryland centres and NICRA-KVKs in Rajasthan.

Vice Chancellors of State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) of Udaipur, Jobner, Kota and Jodhpur; Dr Y.V. Singh, Project Director, ZPD VII, Jodhpur; Managing Director, State Seed Corporation; Directors and representatives of ICAR institutes; Joint Director (NFSM), DAC; Joint Directors of agriculture of 7 divisions of Rajasthan; District Agricultural Officers; and Programme Coordinators of KVKs from 33 districts participated in the meeting.

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

(Source: NRM Division, ICAR)