

# TECHNOLOGY MISSION ON OILSEEDS, PULSES & MAIZE

Secretary (A&C) in her opening remarks mentioned that if the production of food grains including pulses and oilseeds in the country goes below thresh hold level, it will have serious implications. Presently, country has to import wheat and pulses due to insufficient domestic production. She stressed the urgent need for crop diversification in favour of oilseeds and pulses. She further mentioned that ample numbers of varieties are available in oilseeds, if not in pulses, but unless multiplication and dissemination is really taken up seriously, substantial change can not be expected in production and productivity improvement front. Secretary asked the State representatives to put in order the seed multiplication system by promptly indenting for breeder seed and large scale multiplication. Director General, ICAR in his speech suggested that training and seed production can do much more in increasing food grains production in the country. In self pollinated crops, seed can be introduced at the village panchayat level for further multiplication through farmer to farmer seed exchange. He also expressed apprehension that without increasing profitability, productivity can not be increased. He advised the states to increase cropping intensity with cultivation of crops like green gram, black gram, toria etc.

The salient issues relating to TMOP which emerged from the State presentations are as under:

**Haryana:** The Director, Agriculture sought the support for biofertilizers/seed treatment. He informed that the state has achieved highest area under kharif pulses during this year. The State Department of Agriculture is making efforts to motivate farmers to divert area from paddy and wheat towards oilseeds and pulses during coming rabi season. Most of the area under oilseed in the state falls in the zone with lower rainfall and light textured soils. Therefore, state is promoting sprinkler irrigation to a great extent in these areas. The state is also promoting use of gypsum as a source of sulphur in oilseeds under ISOPOM.

**Punjab:** The state has taken up seed multiplication programme in 440 hectare for groundnut and 400 hectare for soyabean in a farmer's participatory mode. In the next kharif season, the state will take up large scale seed production in these crops. The state is promoting maize to replace rice to some extent. To sustain this diversification, the state has sought higher MSP and farm procurement of maize.

**Rajasthan:** The Director, Agriculture, Govt.of Rajasthan informed that due to good rains received up to September during the current year, area under mustard crop is likely to go up which may cause procurement problems at MSP. The state has initiated specific measures to increase the productivity of mustard and soyabean crop in the state through 20 plus compaign. The state has targeted distribution of sprinkler sets for about one lakh hectare area during a month long compaign Jan Chetna Yatra. GOI was requested to

consider providing uniform subsidy rate under macro management work plan, ISOPOM and ICDP for macro irrigation component. The state also requested for higher support from GOI for print media.

**Gujarat:** Director, Agriculture Gujarat State, informed that the state has targeted 14% higher area coverage and 30% higher foodgrain production during coming rabi season. To achieve this, the state is promoting use of hybrid/improved seed, balance use of fertilizer, IPM, organic farming, biotechnology and macro irrigation techniques.

**Maharashtra:** The state requested for scientific validation of ITK to ICAR. The state also requested for providing assistance to TOT under ISOPOM.

**Andhar Pradesh:** To encourage pulses cultivation, state government is providing an additional MSP of Rs.70.5 per tunds. The state requested Govt. of India to review fertilizer pricing policy to provide more focus on micro nutrients. The state is under taking crop diversification under wells and borewells from high water consuming crop like paddy, sugarcane etc to low water consuming crops like oilseeds and pulses.

**Tamil Nadu:** The state has targeted 4.67 lakh hectares under oilseeds during coming rabi season as against the normal area of 4.42 lakh hectare. NAFED has taken up contract farming in maize in the state. As a result area under maize is increasing. The state reported non utilization of funds under ISOPOM due to delayed release of funds by GOI of third instalment and non issue of state sanction.

**Karnataka :** The Govt.of Karnataka has provided Rs. 3 crore as corpus fund for tur bore to encourage tur cultivation and increase production. The state has fixed 10% growth rate for oilseed during coming rabi 2006-07. The state is promoting improved varieties of groundnut and sunflower, IPM measures and drip irrigation to increase productivity in these crops. State is encouraging contract farming by poultry and other industries for maize crop.

**Uttar Pradesh :** The state has fixed target area under oilseeds during rabi, 2006-07 as 6.10 lakh hectare and production as 7.06 lakh tonnes. The state has given higher focus on zero tillage practice to avoid delayed sowing. State requested GOI to provide higher rate of subsidy for hybrid seeds.

**Bihar:** The state has reported some shortfall in the availability of certified seed of green gram, lentil and rai/sarson during rabi 2006-07. The state is requested to make tie-up arrangement with the NSC/SFCI and other seed corporations for supply of deficit seed. The state has targeted an area expansion from 1.5 lakh ha to 3.5 lakh ha under rabi crops. State is promoting more area under maize in winter/rabi season including baby corn.

**Madya Pradesh:** The state has targeted an area of 9 lakh ha under oilseeds during rabi 2006-07 as against the normal area of 6.24 lakh ha in the state.

**Orissa:** The state projected the following constraints in oilseeds and pulses production in the state:

- Non-availability of high yielding varieties of green gram and black gram for rice fallows under low temperature condition during *Rabi* resulting low productivity and low SRR.
- Non-availability of adequate quantity of certified/ TL seeds of suitable varieties.
- Low use of fertilizer.
- Horse gram is one of the major pulses in Orissa. But suitable High Yielding/ Improved variety are not available.
- The varieties recommended by GOI are not available and no steps have been taken to boost the production of these varieties

The state requested the GOI for market interventions for oilseeds and development of market yards.

**West Bengal:** The target area under oilseeds crops during *Rabi* 2006-07 is 7.00 lakh ha and Production 5.88 lakh tonnes against an area of 6.73 lakh ha and production of 5.56 lakh tones during 2005-06. The proposed specific strategies for oilseeds are as under:

- Increase Cropping Intensity
- Increase Seed Replacement Ratio
- Improved Management Practices

State is also giving higher thrust to maize crop. The seed production programme is being taken up in the state.

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