

F.No. 9-2/2005-RFD-IV
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
 (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation)
Rainfed Farming Systems Division

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi,
 Dated the 3rd November, 2006

ORDER

In order to address the problems of rainfed areas and for sustainable development of such areas, the Government of India have decided to set up a National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA). The Authority will be a two-tier structure consisting of a Governing Board and the Executive Committee with the following composition :-

I. Governing Board

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------|
| 1. Minister of Agriculture | - | Chairman |
| 2. Minister of Rural Development | - | Co-chairman |
| 3. Minister of Water Resources | - | Member |
| 4. Minister of Environment & Forests | - | Member |
| 5. Member, Agriculture, Planning Commission | - | Member |
| 6. Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation | - | Member |
| 7. Secretary, Department of Agriculture Research & Education | - | Member |
| 8. Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development | - | Member |
| 9. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources | - | Member |
| 10. Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forest | - | Member |
| 11. Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj | - | Member |
| 12. Chairman, NABARD (National Bank for
Agriculture & Rural Development) | - | Member |
| 13. One Farmer Representative/ Organization
(To be nominated by Ministry of Agriculture) | - | Member |
| 14. Chief Executive Officer (National Rainfed Area Authority) | - | Member Secretary |

II. Executive Committee

1. Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority
2. Five Eminent Experts in the field of :-
 - (i) Water Management
 - (ii) Agriculture/Horticulture
 - (iii) Animal Husbandry & Fisheries.
 - (iv) Forestry
 - (v) Watershed Development
3. One representative each from Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
4. Advisor, Agriculture, Planning Commission
5. Director, Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur

6. Director, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad
 7. Subject Matter Specialists
2. The Chief Executive Officer of the National Rainfed Area Authority and the experts in the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the Governing Board on the advise of a Search Committee appointed by the Prime Minister.
 3. The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) shall be an expert body to provide the much needed knowledge inputs regarding systematic up-gradation and management of country's dryland and rainfed agriculture.
 4. The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) shall be an Advisory, Policy Making and Monitoring Body charged with the role of examining guidelines in various existing schemes and in the formation of new schemes including all externally aided projects in the rainfed areas.
 5. The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) shall specially focus on issues relating to landless and marginal farmers who constitute the large majority of inhabitants of rainfed areas.
 6. The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) shall bring about convergence and synergy among the numerous ongoing programmes and shall advise, guide and monitor their progress.
 7. The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) shall cover all aspects of sustainable and holistic development of rainfed areas including appropriate farming and livelihood system approaches.
 8. All Central Government Ministries and Departments shall be responsible for implementation of their line programmes in rainfed areas in consultation with the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA).
 9. The mandate of the Authority shall be :
 - i) To prepare a perspective plan, outlining the national strategy and road map for holistic and sustainable development of rainfed farming areas.
 - ii) To evolve common guidelines for all schemes of different Ministries including Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) for development of Rainfed / Dry land Farming Systems.
 - iii) To coordinate and bring convergence within and among agricultural and wasteland development programmes being implemented in rainfed areas of the country.
 - iv) To identify rainfed areas in different States which need priority attention and prepare watershed development programmes for integrated natural resource management, in consultation with States, focusing on multi

dimensional crop, livestock, horticulture, agri-pasture integrated systems and programmes for landless farming communities.

- v) To identify gaps in input supply, credit availability, dissemination of appropriate technology and other requirements relevant for development of rainfed areas.
 - vi) To guide the implementing agencies on priority setting and monitor the specific interventions required.
 - vii) To develop plans/ programmes for capacity building of Centre / State Government functionaries in rainfed areas.
 - viii) To suggest modalities to strengthen National and State Level Institutions, concerned with Rainfed/Dryland areas, and establish institutional linkages with prioritized watersheds.
 - ix) To monitor disbursement of rural credit/ insurance cover/ safety net programmes developed for rainfed areas.
 - x) To set the research agenda including a critical appraisal of on-going programmes and promote diffusion of required knowledge for integrated farming in rainfed areas to district and lower level authorities.
 - xi) To evaluate the effectiveness of completed watersheds and concurrent evaluation of on-going programmes.
10. The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) shall be located in and serviced by the Ministry of Agriculture.
11. The Ministries of Agriculture and of Rural Development will suitably redeploy staff for NRAA with no creation of posts other than the Chief Executive Officer and the full time experts of the Executive Committee. The staff would be drawn from the Ministries of Agriculture and of Rural Development through consultation between the Chief Executive Officer of NRAA and the Secretaries of these two Ministries.
12. The National Rainfed Area Authority may take additional personnel on contract or on deputation basis from elsewhere, when necessary.
13. The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) shall have its own budget. The initial expenditures on establishment of NRAA shall be met under Watershed Development Council (WDC) Scheme of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.



Prem Narain
Joint Secretary

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