

1. Functions and Organisational Structure of the Department

Functions: The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation formulates and implements National Policies and Programmes aimed at achieving rapid agricultural growth and development through optimum utilization of country's land, water, soil and plant resources. The Department essentially supplements and complements the efforts being made by the State Governments to promote agricultural production and productivity. It also makes direct intervention in matters connected with trade, price policy, credit, etc.

Some of the more important functions discharged by the Department to achieve the aforesaid objectives are briefly indicated below:

- Endeavouring adequate and timely supply of inputs and services such as agricultural credit, fertilizers, pesticides, seeds and implements to the farmers;
- Administering Crop Insurance Scheme to provide relief to the farmers in the event of crop failure;
- Laying down Minimum Support Prices for certain key agricultural commodities to ensure food security for the country and remunerative prices for the farmers;
- Assisting the States in the management of drought and to undertake scarcity relief measures;
- Endeavouring to bring about the integrated development of marketing of agricultural produce to safeguard the economic interests of the farming community;
- Assisting the State Governments to bring improvement in agricultural extension services by adopting new institutional arrangements through the involvement of NGOs, Farmers Organizations and Agricultural Universities;
- Promoting Plant Protection measures through dissemination of appropriate information and technology;
- Working towards promoting measures for production of quality seeds and distribution of improved plant varieties;

- **Developing suitable strategies for rainfed farming through, inter alia, people's participation for holistic and integrated development of potential watershed and promotion of farming system approach for augmenting income and nutritional level of farming communities; and**
- **Strengthening the cooperative movement through appropriate policy measures and also through the organizations like National Cooperative Development Cooperation (NCDC), the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI).**

The Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers Rights Authority (PPV&FRA) has been set up with the objective to stimulate investment for research & development of new plant varieties and also to facilitate the growth of Seed Industry in the country to ensure availability of high quality seeds and planting material to Indian farms. The Department is also working actively to protect our national interests in the Fora like World Trade Organisation and participates in activities of other International Organisations for fostering bilateral cooperation in agricultural and allied sectors for promotion of export of agricultural commodities. National Seed Research & Training Centre (NSRTC) at Varanasi to impart training to personnel working in various seed development organizations. This center will also act as Central Seed Testing Laboratory.

Structure: The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is one of the three constituent Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture. The other two Departments of the Ministry are Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries and Department of Agricultural Research and Education. The Department is headed by Agriculture Minister and is assisted by a Minister of State. The Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation) is the administrative head of the Department and Principal Adviser to the Minister on all matters of policy and administration within the Department. The Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, is assisted by Principal Advisor, five Additional Secretaries, Financial Adviser, Agriculture Commissioner, nine Joint Secretaries, one Horticulture

Commissioner, one Agricultural Marketing Adviser and one Economic Adviser.

The Department is organized into 24 Divisions and a Technology Mission on Oilseeds, Pulses & Maize. There are four attached offices and twenty one subordinate offices spread all over the country for coordination with State level agencies and implementation of Central Sector Schemes in their respective fields (Annexure – 1.1) under the administrative control of the Department. In addition, there are two public sector undertakings, seven autonomous bodies and eleven national level cooperative organizations under the administrative control of the Department. (Annexure – 1.2). Besides, two Authorities, namely, Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers Rights Authority (PPV& FRA) National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) have been set up.

2. Schemes under implementation by the Department

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has been assigned the responsibility to formulate and implement National Policies and Programmes aimed at enhancement of agriculture production and productivity through optimum utilization of natural resources of land, water, soil, etc. in the country. In the furtherance of this basic objective, a number of schemes and programmes are under implementation as briefly discussed in the succeeding paragraphs.

A. Crops

(i) Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC - Mini Mission –II): The programme has been in operation since 2000-01. Its main objectives are to improve production, productivity, quality of cotton; to reduce cultivation costs in the country; and to raise the income of the farmers. It is being implemented in 13 States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The Mission envisages an end-to-end approach comprising varietal improvement; increased production / productivity; marketing infrastructure; and processing facilities.

(ii) Jute Technology Mission (JTM - Mini Mision – II): This is a new initiative approved by the Government in June 2006 for the overall development of jute sector both in terms of increase in productivity and improving the quality of the fibre.

(iii) Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize (ISOPOM): In order to provide flexibility to the States in implementation based on regionally differentiated approach, to promote crop diversification and to provide focused approach to the programmes, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is being implemented since 1.4.2004 by merging the four erstwhile schemes of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP); National Pulses Development Project (NPDP); Oilpalm Development (OPDP) and Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP).

(iv) Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme: It is one of the flagship schemes of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation formulated with the objective to ensuring that the Central Assistance is spent on focused and specific interventions for development of agriculture in areas of priority of different States. It became operational in 2000-01 in all States and UTs. The Scheme provides sufficient flexibility to the States to develop and pursue the programmes on the basis of their regional priorities mainly connected with development of rice, wheat, sugarcane and coarse cereals through an appropriate mix of measures aimed at enhancement of soil health, supply of quality seeds and other inputs and promotion of agricultural mechanization. The Schemes also lays special emphasis on natural Resource Management through watershed development management approach.

B. Horticulture

(i) National Horticulture Mission: National Horticulture Mission was approved for implementation in May 2005 as one of the flagship schemes of the Department to give a new impetus/momentum to development of horticulture in the country so as to generate employment and enhance farm incomes. The Mission is envisaged to

address problems related to generation of technology, production, post harvest management and processing and marketing under one umbrella.

(ii) Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand: It was launched in 2001-02 with the objective to harness the potential of horticulture in North Eastern Region and the hilly States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand . The scheme is being implemented in a Mission mode approach with its four Mini Missions to address all the issues related to development of horticulture in these eleven states.

(iii) National Horticulture Board (NHB): The Board has been established primarily to encourage promotion of integrated development of horticulture industry and to help in coordinating, stimulating and sustaining the production, post harvest management and processing of horticultural crops and establish a sound infrastructure in the field. The various programmes launched by the Board include (a) Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management; (b) Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Modernization/ Expansion of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce; (c) Technology Development and Transfer for Promotion of Horticulture; (d) Market Information Service for Horticultural Crops; (e) Horticulture Promotion Services; and (f) Strengthening Capabilities of NHB.

(iv) Technology Mission on Coconut: This programme has been under implementation since 1982-83 and is being carried out by Coconut Development Board. The main objectives are expansion of area under coconut and integrated development of coconut industry in the country. The Mission helped to stimulate product diversification, value addition, market promotion, awareness, creation and generation of demand for coconut and its products.

C. Seeds

In order to make available good quality seeds in sufficient quantity in time to the farmers, the Department is implementing the

scheme entitled “Development & Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds”. The main objectives, inter alia, are to develop and strengthen the seed infrastructure facilities relating to processing, storage, production and distribution of certified / quality seeds, quality control arrangement of seeds. Yet another important intervention is establishment of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights Authority under the Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers’ Rights Act, 2001 to stimulate investments for research and development both in the public and the private sectors for the development of new plant varieties by ensuring appropriate returns on such investments; and to facilitate the growth of seed industry in the country.

D. Integrated Nutrient Management

In order to promote the organic farming and balanced and integrated use of fertilizers, two Schemes, namely, (i) National Project on Organic Farming; and (ii) Strengthening of Central Fertilizer Quality Control & Training Institute & Regional Fertilizer Control Laboratories are being implemented. The former scheme aims at (a) capacity building through service provider; (b) providing financial support to the production units of bio fertilizers, compost and vermin compost etc.; (c) development of human resources through trainings on certification and inspection, production technology etc.; (d) conducting of field demonstrations programme on Organic Farming; (e) development of model organic farm; (f) market development for organic standard; (g) development of organic standards (h) extending support to new initiatives on technology related to organic farming; (i) formulation of regulatory mechanism of organic farming; and (j) creation of awareness about organic farming.

The second scheme titled “Strengthening of Central Fertilizer Quality Control & Training Institute and Regional Fertilizer Control Laboratories” is being implemented to execute techno legal functions under the Essential Commodities Act, 1985, Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) 1957 / Fertilizer Control Order 1985. The main objectives of the scheme are (a) drawal, inspection and analysis of

both indigenous and imported fertilizers; (b) training of State Enforcement Officers and Analysts including officials from developing countries; (c) development of methods of analysis; and (d) acting as a Referee Laboratory and Advisory body on the issues relating to Fertilizer Quality Control.

E. Plant Protection / Quarantine

Plant Protection continues to play a significant role in achieving targets of crops production. The major thrust areas of plant protection are promotion of Integrated Pest Management; ensuring availability of safe and quality pesticides for sustaining crop production from the ravages of pests and diseases; streamlining the quarantine measures for accelerating the introduction of new high yielding crop varieties; eliminating the chances of entry of exotic pests; and human resource development including empowerment of women in plant protection skills. In order to achieve the aforesaid objectives, three schemes are being implemented. These are (i) Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India to assist State Governments and UT Administrations in the development of infrastructure for production of bio-control agents and bio-pesticides as an alternative to chemical pesticides to minimize pest / disease incidence and maximize production of crops yield; (ii) Strengthening and Modernization of Plant Quarantine Facilities in India to preclude the entry of exotic pests and diseases into the country; and (iii) Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at National Level to create a national level repository of pesticide residue analysis data from various departments / institutions engaged in this task by collating / compiling data on the subject.

F. Agriculture Mechanization

As an integral part of strategy to promote agricultural mechanization and technology for enhancement of agricultural production and productivity in the country the Department is implementing a scheme entitled 'Promotion & Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanisation through Training, Testing & Demonstration'. It comprises the following components: (i) Training

& Testing; (ii) Outsourcing of Training; and (iii) Demonstration of newly developed agricultural/horticultural equipment at farmers' field.

G. Extension

It is imperative that the agriculture extension is integrally linked with agriculture research in order to disseminate the updated information about the new technologies etc to the farmers. In order to rejuvenate and reform existing agricultural extension support system to fill the extension gap through available resources and public private partnership, the following initiatives are under implementation:

(i) Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms: The objective of the Scheme is to make extension system farmer-driven and farmer-accountable by way of new institutional arrangements for technology dissemination. Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) is established at district level to operationalize the extension reforms.

(ii) Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension: The programme is under implementation since 2003-04 and under it the impressive infrastructure of Doordarshan and All India Radio is being utilized for providing information and knowledge to the farming community;

(iii) Agri-Clinic/ Agri-Business Centres Scheme: The scheme, in operation since 2001-02, is aimed at increasing self-employment opportunities for eligible agriculture graduates as well as to support agriculture development through economically viable ventures.

(iv) Extension Support to Central Institutions: In conformity with the extension reforms proposed in the Policy Framework for Agricultural Extension, extension support to the central institutions has been provided by pooling of various components, namely, (a) Support to National Institute of Training and Extension Education Institutes; (b) Training Abroad; (c) Exhibitions/Fairs; (d) Awards (National Productivity Awards, Krishi Ratna Awards); (e) National Gender Resource Centre in Agriculture; (f) Media Publicity; (g)

Support to Restructured Directorate of Extension (DOE); (h) Monitoring and Evaluation; and (i) Innovative Activities.

H. Agricultural Marketing

Agricultural marketing reform is another important area to which the Government is attaching a lot of importance. Post-harvest and marketing infrastructure, including grading, packaging, transportation and storage, needs to be created on a large scale. The following schemes are under implementation in this sector:

(i) Construction of Rural Godowns (Grameen Bhandaran Yojana): The main objective of the scheme is creation of scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas for storage of farm produce. The scheme also enables prevention of distress sale by creating the facility of pledge loan and marketing credit;

(ii) Development / Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading & Standardization: The main objective of the Scheme is to develop marketing infrastructure in the country to cater to the post-harvest requirement of production and marketable surplus of various farm products and allied sectors including dairy, meat, fisheries and minor forest produce. The Scheme is reform-linked and is being implemented in those States/ UTs which amend their respective Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Acts, wherever required, to allow direct marketing, contract farming and setting up of markets in private and cooperative sectors.

(iii) Marketing Research and Information Network: In order to improve the present market information system, the Department launched this IT based Scheme in March 2000, with the objective to establish a nationwide network for speedy collection and dissemination of market information data for its efficient and timely utilization.

(iv) Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium- Agri-Business Development: The Central Sector Scheme for Agri-business Development is being implemented by Small Farmers' Agri-business Consortium (SFAC) in close association with Commercial Banks for

providing (a) Venture Capital Assistance to agribusiness projects and (b) assist farmer/producer groups in preparation of quality Detailed Project Reports (DPR). Further, in order to facilitate agribusiness development in the country, the SFAC provides assistance to agripreneurs in setting up agribusiness projects through equity participation.

(v) **National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur:** This is a premier institute engaged in (a) developing a sound knowledge on scientific rural warehousing and cold chain management among the agricultural graduate; (b) developing the technical and analytical skills of agricultural graduates to transform rural storage projects into modern warehouses; (c) enhancing the decision making capability of agricultural graduates; (d) making the students understand thoroughly, the inter-relationships among the warehousing functions and the need for cold chain and scientific storage with effectiveness and efficiency; and developing marketing methodologies and effective communication skills of the agricultural graduate to serve the farming community in a better way.

I. Information Technology

To promote e-governance in Agriculture, the Department is implementing a scheme titled “Strengthening / promoting Agricultural Information System”. The scheme consists of the following components: (i) Development of Agricultural Informatics and Communication; (ii) Strengthening of IT Apparatus in Agriculture and Cooperation Departments in the States and Union Territories (AGRISNET) (iii) Strengthening of IT apparatus in DAC Headquarters and its field offices; (iv) Agricultural Resources Information Systems (AgRIS); and (v) Kisan Call Centres.

J. Risk Management

Crop Insurance is one of the instruments for protecting farmers from crop production related risks caused, inter alia, by adverse weather conditions. For this purpose, the Central Sector Scheme titled “National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)” is under implementation to (i) provide insurance coverage and financial

support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop as a result of natural calamities, pest and diseases; (ii) encourage the farmers to adopt progressive farming practices, high value inputs and higher technology in agriculture; and (iii) help stabilize farm incomes, particularly in adverse years.

K. Cooperation

The Cooperatives are an important institutional system for promoting economic development of our agricultural and rural economy. They are engaged in several economic activities such as disbursement of credit, distribution of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers and agro-chemicals and in arranging storage, processing and marketing of farm produce. To enable the farmers in getting quality inputs at reasonable price as well as remunerative returns for their produce, the Department is implementing a scheme titled “Assistance to NCDC Programmes for Cooperative Development”. Its main objectives are to (i) assist the cooperative societies for modernization, expansion and diversification; (ii) provide share capital; and (iii) provide margin money. The main components of the Scheme are: (i) Assistance for Cooperative Marketing, Processing & Storage in Cooperatively Underdeveloped States; (ii) Share Capital Participation in Growers’/Weavers’ Cooperative Spinning Mills; (iii) Integrated Cooperative Development Project (ICDP) in Selected Districts; and (iv) Assistance to National Cooperative Federations.

L. Agriculture Statistics / Data

The availability of the reliable statistics / data in time is the pre-requisite for efficient formulation of appropriate policies. The collection and compilation of agricultural data is, therefore, of significant importance. The schemes being implemented to achieve this objective are; (i) conducting of Agriculture Census at regular intervals; (ii) generating estimates of area covered under principle crops and major fruits and vegetables and then under the scheme of improvement of Agricultural Statistics; (iii) Studies in Agricultural Economic Policy and Development; and (iv) Forecasting Agricultural Output using Space, Agro-Meteorology and Land Based Observation (FASAL).

M. Other Initiatives

(i) Micro Irrigation: The scheme was approved for implementation in March, 2006. Its main objective is to increase the area under efficient methods of irrigation viz drip and sprinkler irrigation as these methods have been recognized as only alternative for efficient use of surface as well as ground water resources.

(ii) National Bamboo Mission: A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Bamboo Mission was approved by the Government in October, 2006 to promote growth of the bamboo sector through area based regionally differentiated strategies; increase the coverage of area under bamboo in potential areas; introduce appropriate varieties to enhance yields; promote marketing of bamboo and bamboo based handicrafts; and generate employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youths.

(iii) National Rainfed Area Authority: The Government has recently constituted a high level authority, “National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA)” to address the problems being faced by the farmers in rainfed areas in a holistic manner. This will be the Central Authority for preparing and outlining the strategy and road map for holistic and sustainable development of rainfed farming areas and evolving common guidelines to bring about convergence and synergy among the numerous ongoing programmes of different Ministries. The Authority will also suggest modalities to strengthen National and State-level institutions concerned with rainfed / dryland areas and monitor rural credit insurance and safety net programmes in the area. It will also have the task of evaluating effectiveness of completed watershed programmes and concurrent evaluation of ongoing programmes and also set research agenda for segments particularly important for rainfed areas.

(iv) Rehabilitation Package: The incidents of farmers committing suicide in certain parts of the country has been a matter of serious concern. In order to address this problem in distressed areas the Government has identified 31 districts in the States of Andhra Pradesh (16); Maharashtra (6); Karnataka (6); and Kerala (3) where

the incidence of farmers suicides has been very high. A rehabilitation package of Rs.16978.69 crore for these districts has been worked out and is envisaged to be implemented over a period of 3 years. It includes both immediate and medium term measures for establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services, improved marketing facilities and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc.

N. Other schemes

The other schemes under implementation are: (i) Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds; (ii) Central Institute of Horticulture in Nagaland; (iii) Loan to State Farms Corporation of India; (iv) Watershed Development Council; (v) All India Soil and Land Use Survey; (vi) Investment in Debenture of State Land Development Banks; (vii) Cooperation Education Training; (viii) Strengthening Agmark Grading and Export Quality Controls; (ix) Capacity Building to Enhance Competitiveness of Indian Agriculture and Registration of Organic Products Abroad; and (x) Secretariat Economic Service.

INVENTORY OF FIELD FORMATIONS

I. ATTACHED OFFICES

1. Directorate of Economics & Statistics.
2. Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.
3. Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, Faridabad (Haryana).
4. Directorate of Marketing & Inspection, Faridabad (Haryana).

II. SUB-ORDINATE OFFICES

1. Central Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institute, Budni (Madhya Pradesh).
2. Northern Region Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institute, Hissar (Haryana).
3. Southern Region Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institute, Gardol, Distt. Anantapur (A.P).
4. North Eastern Region Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institute, Biswanth Chariali, Distt. Sonitpur (Assam).
5. Directorate of Cotton Development, Mumbai (Maharashtra).
6. Directorate of Jute Development, Kolkata (West Bengal).
7. Directorate of Millets Development, Jaipur (Rajasthan).
8. Directorate of Tobacco Development, Chennai (Tamil Nadu).
9. Directorate of Sugarcane Development, Lucknow (U.P).
10. Directorate of Rice Development, Patna (Bihar).
11. Directorate of Wheat Development, Ghaziabad (U.P).
12. Directorate of Extension, New Delhi.
13. Directorate of Oilseeds Development, Hyderabad (A.P).
14. Directorate of Pulses Development, Bhopal (M.P).
15. Central Fertiliser Quality Control & Training Institute, Faridabad (Haryana).
16. National Centre of Organic Farming, Ghaziabad (U.P).
17. Directorate of Cashewnut and Cocoa Development, Kochi, (Kerala).
18. Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Cannanore Kozhikode (Kerala).

- 19. All India Soil and Land Use Survey, New Delhi.**
- 20. Office of the Minister (Agriculture), Embassy of India, ROME (ITALY).**
- 21. National Seed Research and Training Centre (NSRTC), Varanasi, (Uttar Pradesh).**

ANNEXURE-1.2

III. PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

- 1. National Seeds Corporation, New Delhi.**
- 2. State Farms Corporation of India, New Delhi .**

IV. AUTONOMOUS BODIES

- 1. Coconut Development Board, Kochi (Kerala).**
- 2. National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon (Haryana).**
- 3. National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi.**
- 4. National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgaon (Haryana).**
- 5. Small Farmers' Agri Business Consortium (SFAC), New Delhi.**
- 6. National Institute for Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad (A.P).**
- 7. National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur (Rajasthan).**

V. NATIONAL LEVEL COOPERATIVE ORGANISATIONS

- 1. National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi .**
- 2. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi.**
- 3. National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd., New Delhi.**
- 4. National Heavy Engineering Cooperative Ltd., Pune (Maharashtra).**
- 5. National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Ltd., New Delhi .**
- 6. The All India Federation of Cooperative Spinning Mills Ltd., Mumbai-400001 (Maharashtra).**
- 7. National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks Federation Ltd., Mumbai (Maharashtra).**
- 8. National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Ltd., Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra).**
- 9. National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd., New Delhi .**

- 10. National Federation of Labour Cooperatives Ltd., New Delhi.**
- 11. National Cooperative Tobacco Growers' Federation Ltd., Anand (Gujarat).**
