

A statement of the boards, councils, committees and other bodies consisting of two or more persons constituted as its part or for the purpose of its advice, and as to whether meetings of those boards, council, committees and other bodies are open to the public or the minutes of such meetings are accessible for public.

[in pursuance of section 4(1)(b)(viii) of The Right to Information Act, 2005]

The meetings of the Boards, Councils, Committees and other Bodies set up in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation are not open to the public as such. It has also not been practice to make public the minutes of the meetings of these bodies. However, some of these bodies, inter-alia, consist of members other than official functionaries.

The following boards, councils, committees and bodies have been established in the Department:

1. MECHANISATION & TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

- (i) **Minimum Performance Standards Committee for Evaluation of Test Reports of Tractors and Power-Tillers:** This committee evaluates test reports of tractors and power tillers and prescribes the minimum performance standards for grant of institutional finance assistance through NABARD. A representative of Tractors' Manufacturers Association is one of the members nominated to this committee.
- (ii) **Technical Committee for Evaluation of Proposals in respect of Demonstration and Outsourcing Components of the Scheme entitled "Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training, Testing and Demonstration".** This committee evaluates such proposals for release of funds.

2. SEEDS DIVISION

- (i) **Central Seed Committee:** This Committee has been constituted under Section 3(1) of the Seeds Act, 1966 and consists, inter-alia, of 8 persons nominated by the Central Government to represent such institutes as it thinks fit, of whom not less than 2 persons are representatives of growers of seed. The functions assigned to the committee are to advise :-
 - a. the Central Government and the State Governments on matters arising out of the administration of the Seeds Act, 1966 and to carry out the other functions assigned to it by or under this Act;
 - b. the Central Government whether a particular kind of variety of seed should be declared as a "notification kind of variety" (by notification in the Official Gazette) in order to regulate the quality of seed of the kind/variety and for which State(s) and or for which areas thereof;

- c. the Central Government in regard to the minimum limits of germination and purity with respect to any seed of any notified kind or variety and the mark or label to indicate that such seed conforms to the minimum limits of germination and purity specified and the particulars which such mark or label may contain;
- d. the Central Government whether a particular Seed Certification Agency established in any foreign country should be recognized as an agency for the purpose of this Act.

The said committee has also been assigned the following additional functions under the Seeds Rules, 1968:

- a. recommend the rate of fees to be levied for analysis of samples by the Central and State Seed Testing Laboratories and for certification by the certification agencies;
- b. advise the Central or State Governments as regard the suitability of seed testing laboratories;
- c. recommend the procedure and standards for certification tests and analysis of seeds; and
- d. carry out such other functions as are supplemental, incidental or consequential.

In addition, there are two Sub-Committees constituted as per Section 3(5) of the Seeds Act, 1966, namely;

- a) Central Sub-Committee on Crop Standards, Notification and Release of Varieties for Agricultural Crops;
- b) Central Sub-Committee on Crop Standards, Notification and Release of Varieties for Horticultural Crops.

- (ii) **Central Seed Certification Board:** This Board advises the Central Government and State Governments on all matters relating to seed certification and coordinates with the State Seed Certification Agencies established under Section 8 of the Seeds Act, 1966. The Board consists, inter alia, of 13 Members nominated by the Central Government to represent such interests as that Government thinks fit, of whom not less than four persons shall be representatives of seed producers or tradesmen.

The Central Seed Certification Board is also having a Sub-Committee called Technical Committee of Central Seed Certification Board.

- (iii) **EXIM Committee:** This committee has been constituted to advise the Government on matters relating to export/import of seeds and planting materials. The main function of this committee is to analyse and give recommendations to the Director General of Foreign Trade for issuing licence for export of seeds which are listed in the restricted items. It also gives recommendations for import of seeds for planting material and fibre crop seeds. The committee also gives recommendations for import of vegetable seeds like peas and beans.

3. GENERAL COORDINATION DIVISION

Complaint Committee for prevention of the possibility of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace: A representative of Mahila Dakshta Samiti, an NGO, is one of the Members of the Committee.

4. PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION

- i) Central Insecticides Board : This Board has been set up under Section 4 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 to advise the Government on technical matters arising out of implementation of the Insecticides Actm 1968.
- ii) Under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act 1968, a Registration Committee has been constituted to register pesticides.
- iii) An Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation with Secretaries of the Departments of Health, Chemicals & Petrochemicals and Agricultural Research and Education as its members has been set up to review the continued use or otherwise of chemicals and hazardous pesticides.
- iv) Steering Committee on Monitoring of Pesticides Residue: This Committee has been constituted to prepare the road map for implementation of monitoring of Pesticides Residues Approach in India. The Committee is required to analyse the data of pesticide residue testing by various laboratories in the country and make recommendations for corrective action, including policy changes. It is also required to assess the availability of residue testing facilities for export/import of agricultural commodities and make recommendations for their improvement/strengthening.

5. HORTICULTURE DIVISION

- i) National Committee on Use of Plastics in Agriculture : This Committee has been set up to help promote the application of plastics in horticulture in a coordinated manner.
- ii) General Council on National Horticulture Mission to consider matters of Policy; provide overall direction and guidance to the national Horticulture Mission and monitor its functions.

- iii) Executive Committee on the National Horticulture Mission. This has been set up to promote holistic growth of the horticulture sector through area based regional differentiated strategies and to oversee the activities of the Mission as well as to approve the action plans/projects of the State Governments and other agencies for implementation of the Mission as per the prescribed guidelines.
- iv) Board of Directors of National Horticulture Board: The Board, inter-alia, considers and decides the programmes of activities of the Board; introduction of new schemes for implementation; appointment of auditors for the Board; and supervises the functions of the Managing Committee.
- v) Managing Committee of the National Horticulture Board: The Committee exercises general superintendence, direction and control of the affairs of the Board.
- vi) Coconut Development Board: The Board has been set up for the development and promotion of coconut and coconut industry in India.

6. CROPS DIVISION

- i) A Standing Committee on Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation; and Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary have been set up under Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton.
- ii) Under the Scheme of On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India, provision exists for setting up of Central Level Coordination Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and the representatives of the line departments as members. This Committee is not open to the public.

7. CREDIT DIVISION

Technical Advisory Committee on National Agricultural Insurance Scheme: This Committee has been constituted in pursuance of provisions of the 'National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)' to decide about the sample size of Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) and all other technical matters pertaining to NAIS. Joint Secretary (Credit), Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is the Chairman of this Committee. The other members have been drawn from National Sample Survey Organisation, General Insurance Corporation of India, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

8. RAINFED FARMING SYSTEM DIVISION

- i) National Watershed Committee: This Committee has been constituted to advise the Government on Watershed Programmes in the country.
- ii) Central Steering Committee of Watershed Development Fund: This Committee has been constituted for the purpose of integrated watershed development and includes representatives from three NGOs.
- iii) Under the scheme of National Watershed Development Programme in Rainfed Areas, the Committees like State Watershed Committee (SWC), District Watershed Committee (DWC), Watershed Associations (WA), Watershed Committee (WC) have been set up. These Committees are involved in planning, implementation and maintenance of watershed activities.

9. NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION

- i) National Level Standing Committee(NLSC)- A Standing Committee under the chairmanship of Special Secretary/Additional Secretary has been constituted to review implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Programme of Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project & Flood Prone River(RVP & FPR) and advice the future Plan of Action.
- ii) State Level implementation Committee (SLIC) – SLIC for RVP & FPR exists in the Nodal Department of each State under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Commissioner, Development Commissioner or Principal Secretary. SLIC is responsible for overall direction and control of the programme within the State.
- iii) Project Level Implementation Committee(PLIC)- PLIC also exists under the chairmanship of officers of the nodal department in charge of the Project and is responsible for formulation and implementation of the programme on field level.
- iv) Watershed Committee(WC)/Watershed Association (WA)- Watershed Committee(WC)/Watershed Association(WA) are formulated right from the beginning of the project and are actively involved in the planning, implementation and maintenance of assets created.

10. INTEGRATED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT DIVISION

- i) Empowered Technical Committee: Under the National Project on Organic Farming, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has constituted an Empowered Technical Committee to approve parameters/guidelines on all the components for promotion, production, certification and marketing development of National Project on Organic Farming.

- ii) Project Sanctioning Group: The Group has been constituted by the Empowered Technical Committee to consider and approve the applications involving expenditure upto Rs.40 lakhs for setting up projects under the scheme titled “National Project on Organic Farming”.

11. POLICY & PLAN DIVISION

A High Powered National Commission on Farmers has been set up under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan to examine and recommend policies, programmes and measures on various issues confronting Indian Farmers and to suggest appropriate interventions for improving the economic viability and sustainability of diversified agriculture including horticulture, livestock, dairy and fisheries and for doubling the farmers income. The Commission is empowered to consult the stakeholders for preparation of its report.

12. HINDI DIVISION

In order to review and render advice in regard to the position of the use of Hindi in the official work of the Ministry of Agriculture, a Joint Hindi Salahkar Samiti has been constituted for its three Departments (viz. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Deptt. of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries) under the Chairmanship of the Union Agriculture Minister. The Samiti consists of 15 official and 15 Non-official members.

13. ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

- i) Committee headed by Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation to consider and approve Annual Direct Recruitment Plan of the Department.
- ii) Departmental Promotion Committees to consider cases of eligible officers for promotion / confirmation. The composition of such Committees is prescribed under the relevant Recruitment Rules.
- iii) Committees to review the cases of Government servants under FR 56(j) to assess their suitability for retention in Government service beyond the age of 50 years in case of Group A & B Officers and 55 years in case of others.

14. TECHNOLOGY MISSION ON OILSEEDS, PULSES AND MAIZE

National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oil Development Board is a statutory body constituted for the purpose of increasing the production of oilseeds, to reduce import and achieve self-sufficiency in edible oils and to promote traditional oilseeds cultivation. The Board consists of 36 members and 2 co-opted members and is headed by the Union Agriculture Minister.

This Board has a Managing Committee, which is headed by Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

15. COOPERATION DIVISION

A High Powered Committee on Cooperatives has been constituted to advise the Department on issues relating to co-operatives including co-operative legislation. This Committee is, however, constituted for the said specific purpose and is therefore ad-hoc in nature.

16. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

- i) An Empowered Norms Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary(IT) with AS & FA, JS(IT), JS(Admn.), representative of NIC as Members and Director(IT) as Member Secretary has been set up for prescribing norms and specifications for providing IT equipment to officers and staff in the Department proper as well as for field offices/Directorates.
- ii) In order to assess and approve the functional requirement of IT apparatus another Committee under the Chairmanship of the JS of the Division concerned with Director(Fin), representative of NIC, Director(IT) as Member and Nodal Officer(IT) of the Division concerned as Member Secretary has been constituted.

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