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Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana Cell

**SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSION IN THE EASTERN ZONE
CONFERENCE TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RASHTRIYA
KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (RKVY) HELD ON 20-11-2007 AT PATNA**

List of participants is appended at Annexure-I.

At the outset, Shri N.S. Madhavan, Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Bihar welcomed Shri R.J.M. Pillai, Development Commissioner, Government of Bihar and the participants from the Government of India as well as the States in the Eastern Zone. The Conference was formally inaugurated by Shri Pillai. He highlighted the need for having a close look at the process of preparation of District Agriculture Plans (DAPs) by agencies such as the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA), the nature and the extent of involvement of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in preparation of the DAPs in the context of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, the requirement of manpower in the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and the focus on increasing the area under cultivation of sugarcane in Bihar.

Shri P. K. Basu, Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), Government of India (GOI) thanked Shri Pillai, Development Commissioner for having agreed to inaugurate the Conference, Shri Madhvan, Principal Secretary to have organized the Conference, and also the senior officers and representatives from the participating States. He explained in brief the background of launching the RKVY scheme. The objective of holding the five Zonal Conferences at the State Capitals/New Delhi was to sensitize and activate the State Governments to implement the RKVY scheme in a time-bound manner in the current year.

Shri Pankaj Kumar, Joint Secretary, DAC made a brief presentation on the RKVY scheme, inter alia, highlighting the objectives, salient features, eligibility criteria, allocation of funds to Southern States and the time lines to be followed for each activity in the current year as under:

- Constitution and notification of SLSC by 03.11.2007;

- Identification of Nodal Agency for implementation by 03.11.2007;
- Identification of District Planning Unit by 16.11.2007;
- Preparation of State Agriculture Plan / District Agriculture Plan by 30.11.2007;
- Preparation of shelf-projects under Stream I by 30.11.2007;
- Preparation of proposals under Stream II by 30.11.2007;
- Holding of SLSC meeting during from 16.11.2007 to 23.12.2007;
- Submission of proposals for release of fund to DAC by 31.12.2007.

He also said that it was a matter of concern that the allocations made in the agriculture & allied sectors as a percentage of the State Plan by the Eastern States during 2007-08 were lower than the allocations (in percentage terms) for 2006-07 which could lead to these States failing to meet the eligibility criteria for funding under RKVY during 2008-09. He informed that pursuant to a recent decision taken in consultation with the Planning Commission, 25% of the RKVY allocation was being released to the eligible States under Stream-II so that the implementation of the scheme was not delayed. The States could utilize these funds broadly in conformity with the priorities set forth in the State Plan for 2007-08 already approved by the Planning Commission. The details of the schemes taken up under Stream-II for 2007-08 would have to be intimated to the Planning Commission. If the States wanted to utilize the funds being released under Stream-II for funding the projects under Stream-I, they could do so with the approval of the SLSC.

Shri Madhavan, Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Bihar also highlighted the issue of the nature and the extent of involvement of PRIs in preparing the DAPs. In the presentation on implementation of RKVY in Bihar, it was informed that the Bihar Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (BAMETI) was the designated Nodal Agency for implementation of RKVY. The DAPs had been prepared. The projects under Stream-I had also been prepared and no proposal was contemplated under Stream-II for 2007-08.

Dr. A.K. Padhee, Director (Agriculture), Government of Orissa informed that the SLSC had been constituted and the Nodal Agency identified. The emphasis under RKVY was on soil management, mechanization, green manuring, system of rice intensification, seed processing, the agriculture information system, capacity building in providing extension services etc. Crops were not being taken during 2007-08 as the time available was short and the Rabi season was well under way. He emphasized the need for quick

