

To  
**Dr. SAMRA**  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Rain-Fed Area Authority  
NASC Complex, PUSA  
**NEW DELHI – 110 012**

Date: 28.12.2009

**Ref: Your Letter F.No. 3-14/NRAA/PPC/2009, dated 16.12.2009.**

Dear Sir,

Sub: **6<sup>TH</sup> NFC- SPONSORSHIP OF TECHNICAL SESSION BY NRAA  
– REPORT OF THE DELIBERATIONS & RESOLUTIONS –REG.**

CIFA conveys its gratitude to NRAA for sponsoring the technical session on the occasion of 6<sup>th</sup> National Farmers Convention on 2-3 December 2009 at New Delhi.

The deliberations on the above technical workshop were enthusiastically participated by a large number of delegates from various states. The convention has resolved to continue its programs with NRAA in its activities including policy advocacy, training farmers, revitalizing Primary Producer Companies and in other related matters.

We are enclosing a report of the proceedings along with resolutions. An album of photos taken during the 6<sup>th</sup> NFC meeting is enclosed for your kind perusal.

The utilization certificate is sent separately.

Thanking you once again

Yours Sincerely

(P.Chengal Reddy)  
Secretary General

Copy to: Dr V.K.Bahuguna, Technical Expert, (Forestry) NRAA

Encl: as above

## PROCEEDINGS

### **6<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL FARMERS CONVENTION 2009**

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The Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations (CIFA) organized **6<sup>th</sup> National Farmers Convention 2009**, at New Delhi on 2-3 December 2009.

#### **A. PROGRAM DETAILS**

1600 Farmers Delegates from 169 districts, representing 24 states participated in the convention. The delegates comprises of CIFA Member organizations, Commodity Interest Groups, Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), IFFCO, stake holders of various organizations concerning with Agriculture and allied activities, Agro inputs, Agro Processing Industry, Policy Makers, Administrators, Scientists, Economist and also Foreign dignitaries participated in the conference.

#### **B. Day I - Inaugural Function – Technical Sessions – Delegate Session.**

First day on 02.12.2009 Inaugural session was graced by **Sri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh**, MP and Former Rural Development Minister, GOI; **Sri N. Chandra Babu Naidu**, Former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh; **Sri Navjot Singh Siddu**, MP; **Sri Shrad Joshi**, MP & Founder President – Shetkari Sangatana, Sri. Ajit Singh, MP, other Member of Parliament and **Ms Amita Sarkar**, Director, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and many others.

#### **C. Technical Session on Integrated Management of Rain Fed Farming:**

The following participated:

- a. Sri Bharat Singh, Minister of Rural Development, Govt. of Rajasthan
- b. Dr S.A.Patil, Ex-Director, IARI & Chairman, Karnataka Agriculture Commission.
- c. Sri V.S.Rao, Former Agriculture Minister, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.
- d. Sri Manish Sharma, Jain Irrigation
- e. Sri Basavaraj Thambake, President, CIFA
- f. Sri K. Prabhakar Reddy, President, Federation of Farmers Assns,AP.
- g. Sri Basavaraj Ingin, State President, KARNATAKA Pradesh Red Gram Growers Association
- h. Shri Kanhaiah Lal Sihag, EC Member, CIFA, Rajasthan
- i. Sri Raghunadh Ramachandra Patil, Shetkari Sangathana, Maharashtra
- j. Sri Rajput, Madhya Pradesh and others.

#### **D. Discussion Details:**

1. During the deliberations the participants observed that the rain-fed areas are affected by low productivity, high level of unemployment, migration, mal-nutrition, social unrest and also suicides.

It is further pointed out by the speakers that large number of programs by Central and State Governments are under implementation. There are also many success stories in many parts of the country. However, lack of coordination seems to be the main problems in replicating the success stories and also achieving optimum utilization of the resources under various programs.

The delegates further suggested that many technologies are available with private sector and also public sector institutions that requires to be taken to the field level.

India has huge consumer markets of about 300 million which is in a position to utilize the commodities produce produced in Rain Fed Areas.

It is also further observed that private sector with high entrepreneur skills & managerial capacities can play a key role in developing of Rain Fed Areas by establishing processing, research, info-centers and other activities.

2. It is suggested to request governments to focus on construction of farm ponds in individual farms. Strengthening and maintenance of ponds should be a continuous program. Awareness on the small ponds and supporting farmers in Rain Fed areas should be taken as a full time activity. Its importance in terms of recharging the wells/tube wells and providing the life saving irrigation has to be highlighted.
3. It is suggested to propagate conversion of Irrigation tanks as percolation tanks especially in Southern States where Tanks are existing in large number. A campaign has to be launched for this purpose.
4. It is suggested to encourage usage of solar energy or wind mills or bio-mass power generation in the Rain Fed Areas.
5. It is suggested that CIFA may take-up pilot study projects to study the ground level situation in selected Rain Fed districts in different states.

The study will also identify scope and feasibility for changing the cropping pattern, market related issues, development of Animal Husbandry, opportunities for PPP, introducing new technologies etc. The study will also include issues of migration and Rural unemployment problems.

6. It is suggested to conduct workshops in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry and others in different states to identify areas of investment and partnership by private sector.
7. It is suggested to establish an info center to assist exchange of information, technologies and other related issues related to rain-fed areas. CIFA may approach private sector and also NRAA for establishing the centers.
8. The speakers expressed unanimous opinion that Animal Husbandry plays a very important role in providing sustainability under Rain-Fed conditions. Even in the extreme climates of RANN of Kutch, Thar Desert, Deccan Plateau, cattle (cows, sheep, donkeys, camels) will provide multiple usages to small farmers.
  - It is reported that the farmers do not get adequate credit for purchase of cattle.
  - There is need to improve breed and genetic characteristic of the animal.
  - There is need to provide veterinary (animal husbandry) services and also training farmers as para-veterinary volunteers.
  - It is suggested that a special effort be made by CIFA in consultation with government, research institutions and private sector to take up animal husbandry development as a priority area. The support of NRAA may be sort for the study.
9. India has huge forest cover and also de-graded lands including marshy areas. For various reasons these huge land mass is not utilized. The speakers suggested that in these lands can be utilized for productivity purpose.
  - CIFA should make special efforts to study the issue and prepare a detailed road-map for action program.
  - The legal and administrative issues to be studied to get the lands allocated to farmers organizations or even private sectors.
  - It is suggested that CIFA may seek assistance from NRAA on this issue.

10. Speakers suggested that special trees – Red Sanders, Sandal Wood, are grown in rain-fed areas in South India. These trees have very high value in foreign countries.
- These trees can be grown extensively in forest lands and also private lands. Procedures have to be simplified to grow these trees in private lands.
  - Government may consider providing forest lands to farmer's societies to grow these trees.
  - CIFA is suggested to conduct a study and prepare detailed report with support of NRAA.
11. Medicinal and aromatic plants have huge commercial value. Ole-resins and natural colours are having huge demand. The synthetic colours used in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and food industry are replaced by natural colours. It is suggested that CIFA may conduct a study and prepare a detailed report on the above issues.

## **RESOLUTIONS PASSED**

1. It is resolved to request and persuade the Government Departments of Agriculture / Irrigation, Rural Development, Forests and others to take-up construction of farm ponds, minor and medium irrigation tanks in their lands. These water storages will be used for percolation, animal drinking water facilities and other purposes.
2. It is resolved to request to provide drip Irrigation / Micro Irrigation facilities to the crops in all the rain-fed areas.
3. It is resolved to promote producer farmers groups and also women groups for the following activities.
  - a. Credit to farmers including tenant/share croppers / to take up animal husbandry.
  - b. To provide quality inputs – fertilizer, seed & pesticides.
  - c. To establish warehousing facility to enable farmers store their produce & obtain credit through hypothecation. It will help the farmers from distress selling immediately after production.
  - d. Establishing processing or direct marketing or entering into contract farming with retail chains, processors and exporters.

4. Reduction of physical drudgery is an incentive for rural youth to continue in agriculture. It is resolved to request to establish agriculture service centers in every village. The service centers will have agriculture machinery, such as tractors, equipment such as sprayers, dusters, threshers, deep ploughing equipment and etc. The equipment for the service center be provided at concessional rate to unemployed youth. The center can be established as cooperative or primary producer company.
5. It is resolved to establish a state level coordination committee in each state for Rain fed Areas. The committee will work on policy related issues, mobilization of additional resources, identifying investors, solving procedural problems and lobby with policy makers and others. The committee will work with various Government Departments including NRAA. It will also coordinate with private sector.
6. It is resolved that CIFA should continue to work with NRAA in all the future activities.
  - Prepare joint programs for the coming year 2010.
7. NRAA is now playing the role of co-coordinator in Rainfed Area programs. However, without sufficient power & authority it will be difficult for NRAA to bring about various institutions together to get the programs implemented in a time bound manner.

An empowered NRAA will be able to identify partners at different levels for different purpose. It can coordinate activities with farmer's organizations including CIFA, State level Committees, and Commodity (producer) groups.

The NRAA will also identify opportunities and partnership programs with private sector.

It is resolved to request Government of India to empower NRAA to perform the above mentioned activities effectively under independent Ministry which enables it to get be purposive and performance oriented.

A special vote of thanks was proposed by Sri Basavaraj Ingin to the NRAA for sponsoring the technical session.

**KRSR/281209**

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