

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಸಂ.ತೋಇ/ತೋಅಪನಿ/ತಾಬೆಯೋ/ಸತೋಅ-2/42/2008-09

ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ,
ಲಾಲ್ ಬಾಗ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.05.2016

ರವರಿಗೆ,

ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ,
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ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. 560 001

ಮಾನ್ಯರೆ,

ವಿಷಯ:- ತಾಳೆ ಬೆಳೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿದ ಶಿಫಾರಸ್ಸು
ಮತ್ತು ಸಲಹಾ ಸೂಚನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೈಗೊಂಡ ಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ:- ಸಂ.KEA/110/EVN/2012 (1) ; ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.04.2016

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ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ತಾಳೆ ಬೆಳೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ವನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಂಡ Evaluation Consultant Organization (ECO) ಯಾದ Centre for Symbiosis of Technology Environment & Management (STEM)- Bangalore ರವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಶಿಫಾರಸ್ಸು ಮತ್ತು ಸಲಹಾ ಸೂಚನೆಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೈಗೊಂಡ ಕ್ರಮಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಉಲ್ಲೇಖದ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದರಂತೆ, ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ ಶಿಫಾರಸ್ಸುಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೈಗೊಂಡ ಕ್ರಮ ಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕಂಡಿಕೆ ವಾರು ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಈ ಪತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಲಗತ್ತಿಸಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕ್ರಮಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದೆ.

ತಮ್ಮ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸಿ,

ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

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Action taken and initiated by Department of Horticulture on the Suggestions / Recommendations specified by Evaluation Consultant Organization (ECO) with regard to Evaluation of Oil Palm Development Programme in Karnataka.

Sl.No.	Suggestions / Recommendations	Action Taken / Initiated.
Short Term Recommendations		
1.	The incentives through subsidies should be regulated and develop a system to ensure these incentives are reaching the right people at the right time.	The Department of Horticulture has initiated a soft ware project to computerize the process of extending various subsidies to the farmers through various schemes / programs. Oil Palm Development Program is also included in this process. Once the program is computerized it will automatically ensure that the incentives will reach the right people at the right time.
2.	Ensure adequate and timely supply of quality planting material, fertilizers and enhance subsidy limit for area expansion.	Adequate and timely supply of quality planting material and fertilizers is being ensured through close monitoring of the activities of the oil palm companies operating in specific zones by the oil pam nodal officers, who are appointed and posted specifically for this project. There is no subsidy limit for planting material, entire planted area will be eligible for planting material subsidy, however for input subsidy the subsidy limit has been fixed at 15.00 ha. per beneficiary.
3.	Decentralizing the planning process to local levels to undertake effective extension work through demonstrations, group meetings, supply of technical literature in local language, regular field visit by the field staff to provide technical advice to reduce the risk and increasing the productivity.	The program planning and implementation has been decentralized. The respective taluk officers and technical officers at Raitha Samparka Kendras (RSK) have been vested with planning and implementation of the program. Night meetings are being conducted jointly by the private companies in association with departmental officers to identify eligible farmers. Progressive oil palm farmers themselves give training and provide extension support. The oil palm plantations of the progressive oil palm growers are itself taken as demonstration blocks to demonstrate various aspects of oil palm cultivation. Technical literature (ತಾಳೆ ಬೆಳೆ - ಕೇಳೆ ತಿಳಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪುಸ್ತಕ) in local language (Kannada) have been published and circulated among farmers.

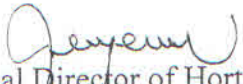
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4.	The view of the farmers, officials from Department and company is that growers should be given a fixed price for a term of atleast five years. Another view is that the Government has to find a way to sustain the grower's interest through some additional payment.	<p>The price of FFBs are fixed as per the formula recommended by Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP) and this price is paid by the companies. The difference between the price paid by the company and the minimum assured price is being paid by the State Government.</p> <p>The State Government has provided this minimum support / assured price for oil palm farmers for the last 7 years consecutively. The scheme has ended on March-2015. A proposal has been submitted to State Government for extending assured price for oil palm from 2015-16 for next three years i.e. till 2017-18.</p>
5.	Enhance the price of FFBs and ensure a minimum price of Rs.12/- per ton of FFBs will help the existing oil palm farmers to continue and encourage others to take up oil palm cultivation.	For the year 2015-16 it is proposed to extend assured price of Rs.9500/- per M.T. of Fresh Fruit Bunches with an increment of 3% for the next 2 years. The proposal is under the consideration of the State Government.
6.	<u>Improved harvesting machinery:</u> At present crop height is a serious problem for harvesting in adult plantations of more than 10 years old trees, Harvesting is done either by climbing the tree or through an aluminium pole attached to sickle.	<p>A mechanical harvesting tool is not the solution of harvesting oil palm fruits from tall palms. Harvesting of fruits from palm is an art, which is executed by skilled labour. The Department of Horticulture is extending training to oil palm farmers for harvesting fruits from tall palm with the help of light weight alluminium poles.</p> <p>Further, since skilled labour are too expensive, the farmers are being extended an assistance of Rs.600/- per M.T. for harvesting fruits from such plantations where the height of the palms are more than 20 ft.</p>
Long Term Recommendations.		
1.	The most important suggestion is to avoid adhoc approach and framing of a long term strategy with full involvement of State Department of Horticulture. It is emphasized the need for	In Karnataka State there is exclusive staff for planning, implementing and monitoring oil palm development program. But, unfortunately, the central government does not provide funds for staff salary. Hence, the entire financial burden towards staff salary is being met out from the

	<p>strengthening the organizational set-up at the district level by recruiting full staff required for the field work.</p>	<p>State share of funds. This is affecting the financial sharing pattern between central and state government. Therefore, thin staff strength is being maintained under the project, so that it would not affect the sharing pattern. This problem could be solved if the staff component is transwerved to state non-plan head.</p> <p>Hence, attempts have been made to transwer the entire staff under oil palm development program to the state non-plan head. The State Government is yet to take action in this regard, as transwer of staff from plan head to non-plan head requires approval from the Finance Commission.</p> <p>Once the transwer of staff component from plan head to non-plan head is completed it would be possible to recruit full strength of staff for proper and effective monitoring of the project.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Oil Palm requires constant irrigation at constant intervals through protective watering. Concerted efforts must be made to bring large irrigated area under the Oil Palm Development programme.</p>	<p>A proposal had been submitted to Revenue Department of the State Government for declaration of oil palm as 'Plantation Crop', because once it is declared as Plantation Crop, then private companies would be able to purchase or take vast land on lease and start 'Captive Plantation'.</p> <p>The Revenue Department after examining the proposal has replied that the Government of Karnataka has the power and rights to relax the clauses under Karnataka Land Reforms Act of 1961 column 109 (1A) and grant permission to private companies / investors to take up oil palm cultivation in large and wider area. The interested companies / processors / investors need to submit proposals to the State Government through proper channel. The proposals will be examined by a special high power committee chaired by Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka and then upon approval of the Cabinet, the company / processor / investor can be given permission for taking up oil palm cultivation in large scale as a commercially viable enterprise.</p>

3.	Evolving high-yielding dwarf varieties of oil palm is of utmost importance for increasing the area under oil palm cultivation and yield. Research Centres should be activated and infrastructural facilities should be strengthened to this effect.	<p>Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research, an exclusive research centre for oil palm has been established at Pedavegi, West Godawari district, Andhra Pradesh. The Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research is conducting research on developing dwarf high yielding varieties of oil palm.</p> <p>The Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, through National Mission for Oil seeds and Oil Palm is providing funds for strengthening the infrastructural facilities of the research centre, to enable them to come out with the result at the earliest.</p>
4.	Implementation of crop insurance scheme should be considered and sensitize commercial banks and NABARD for promotion of oil palm cultivation.	<p>Crop insurance is not of much importance to oil palm as it is least affected by drought or floods. Instead, the crop requires price security as the farmers are not able to get good price for their produce. The State Government has taken appropriate measures for providing price security.</p> <p>As far as extending loans to the farmers is concerned, the oil palm nodal officers operating at the district level have already upraised the bank managers of the respect district lead bank about the implementation of the oil palm project in PPP (Public Private Participation) mode, which is ideal for requiry of loan extended to the farmers.</p>
Policy Level Suggestions.		
1.	Unstable import policy should be addressed seriously. Deomestic prices of oil palm are significantly affected by cheaper imports from Malaysia and Indonesia, hence fluctuates considerably. The policy of allowing duty-free import of crude vegetable oils is affecting oil palm growers.	<p>Letters have been addressed from State Horticulture Minister to Central Agriculture Minister and Commerce Minister to increase the import duty on Crude Palm Oil to atleast 45%, so that the domestic price of Crude Palm Oil will increase and the farmers would be able to get competitive price for their produce.</p> <p>But, the Central Government has increased the import duty from zero percent to 12.50% only, which is not sufficient.</p>

2.	Inadequate financial support by Government, resource and security related issues viz., credit from commercial Banks and NABARD, implementation of crop insurance schemes, enactment of legislation should be looked into seriously.	Though several requests and letters have been addressed to NABARD and district lead banks for extending financial support to oil palm farmers, very few farmers have availed financial assistance, as the banks and other financial institutes are under the influence of bitter experience from a severe set back in the past, which has imparted a kind of negativity among bankers on the project. Further, the farmers are usually financial defaulters, which in turn as affected the extension of financial assistance to the oil palm farmers.
3.	Formulate some legal provisions to recover govt. assistance / subsidy provided if oil palm is up-rooted / diverted without justification.	<p>The State Government in the year 2013 has enacted The Karnataka Oil Palm (Regulation of cultivation, Production and Processing) Bill. As per rule 19 of the oil palm bill, provisions have been made to recover govt. assistance / subsidy if the farmers willfully uproot oil palm.</p> <p>The dues shall be recovered from the farmers as if it were an arrears of land revenue.</p>
4.	The Centre can utilize the duty collected form imports of vegetable oils for subsidizing oil palm and other oilseed growers.	<p>The Central Government has been requested during various meetings and forums to increase the import duty to atleast 45% and a small portion of the amount collected from importers as import duty, can be diverted to "Price Stabilization Fund", which can be utilized to provide support / assured price to the oil palm growers.</p> <p>The Govt. of India is yet to take any decision in the matter.</p>


 Additional Director of Horticulture
 Oil Palm project

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