

RECORD NOTE OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE DEVELOPMENT REFORMS COMMISSION (SUB GROUPS) HELD ON 28-08-2007 IN THE OFFICE CHAMBER, OF SHRI E.K. MAWLONG, CHAIRMAN OF SDRC, MEGHALAYA SECRETARIAT, RILANG BUILDING AT 11.00 A.M..

The list of Members and Officers who attended the Meeting is at Annexure – I.

The meeting was chaired by Shri D.N. Joshi, Deputy Chairman of the State Development Reforms Commission. At the outset, the Deputy Chairman welcomed all members and Officers present in the Meeting and he also reiterated the main purpose for having this Sub-Group meeting on Animal Husbandry & Veterinary including Dairying sector.

Initiating the discussion, Shri A. Lyngdoh, Vice Chairman referred to the terms of reference of the Commission and requested the Department of Programme Implementation & Evaluation to circulate the same to all members and he also read out the terms of reference in the meeting. He also explained further the reasons for constitution of the sub-group which is to discuss thoroughly regarding the expected contribution and achievement of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department for the welfare of the farming community in this year of the Farmers.

Shri W. Synrem, Member Secretary wanted to know from the Department whether there are programmes/schemes that have not been very successful and if so, the reasons for failure have to be found out along with ways and means to make them successful. He also reminded about the point made by the Chairman, State Development Reforms Commission in the last meeting regarding Amul Products and also the other main issues to be taken up.

Dr. Khonglah, Director of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary clarified that subsidy schemes are meant only for educated unemployed youths but the quantum of assistance is very less due to fund constraints. The Director of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary informed in the meeting that out of thousands of applications received from educated unemployed, only a few could be selected. While allotment of schemes to educated youth, priority is given to the persons who had received vocational training. He also informed that the cost of subsidy for each poultry unit comes to about Rs.64,500/-. He mentioned that the Department did not

receive adequate Plan outlay and as a result it had to curtail a number of activities. Even poverty alleviation programmes/schemes also could not be given to the beneficiaries due to fund constraints. He also informed that at present there are only 37 units of poultry and 25 units for piggery in the whole State. The number of units District-wise are as follows:-

Districts	Poultry	Piggery
East Khasi Hills	5	7
West Khasi Hills	7	3
Ri-Bhoi	3	2
Jaintia Hills	7	3
East Garo Hills	7	3
South Garo Hills	3	2
West Garo Hills	5	5
Total	37	25

With regards to Dairying, there are 54 (fifty four) number of units and 4 (four) cross-breed cows are given to each unit. He also informed that the amount charged by the Departmental farm per cow is Rs.17,000/- each but this amount is very less since the cheapest cow available now-a-days in the open market is Rs.30,000/- each and this very high price is due to the fact that most of the cows are being supplied to neighbouring States like Mizoram and Nagaland where they make prompt payment in cash. As of now it appears that the over all scenarios regarding Dairy farming is bleak although the potential is bright. The Director stated that due to the high cost of cows, even the department could not increase the number of units.

The Member Secretary suggested that the Department should increase cow production through artificial insemination (AI). The Deputy Director informed the meeting that the process has now been started but this will take some time since the pregnancy period of cow is 9 (nine) months and can be sold only after it has become 18 (eighteen) months old. He informed that the production cycle in cattle takes more than 3 (three) years. He further mentioned that the Government of India has been requested to give more good quality breeding bulls for far flung areas which cannot be covered by A.I. workers and where money cannot be charged for each servicing. He also informed that at present the Department is buying bulls from outside the State.

The Director also informed the meeting that educated unemployed youths will be trained to give Artificial Insemination (A.I) to the cows. They will be provided with kits and

free semen. The Government has fixed Rs.10/- per Artificial Insemination. The Awareness programmes also had been conducted in rural areas to make the people aware of the benefit of cattle rearing. Census of cattle is expected to go up in the next few years. He also informed that Artificial Insemination for piggery had not yet been done as preservation of semen at present is not available as it has to be used only within 1 hour. The Department also is giving training to the beneficiaries. There is a good response from the educated un-employed youth for training. Selection of the beneficiaries will be done by the Deputy Commissioner of the District who is the Chairman along with representatives from Animal Husbandry and Veterinary. The Director also informed that many of the people who have been trained if they don't get grant or subsidy from the Government, they go for their own investment.

Regarding cattle farms, the Director informed that there is 1 (one) farm in East Khasi Hills, 1 (one) in Garo Hills, 1 (one) in Jaintia Hills and 1 (one) in Ri-Bhoi District and for Goat & Sheep there are 2 (two) farms. At present there is only 1 (one) Buffalo Farm in the whole state. All the farms are functioning well except 1(one) in Jaintia Hills. The Department also received revenue of Rs.27 Lakhs per annum from Upper Shillong Farm alone. In Garo Hills, many schemes are yet to be taken up. With regards to supply of milk, Mawiong alone can supply milk upto 10,000 litres, Tura 1500 litres and Jowai 600 litres per day. The fat content is 3.5 % (only Buffalo milk has 4% fat content). Tura dairy is expected to increase milk supply in the coming years as Deputy Commissioner is also taking interest in this matter.

The Chairman wanted to know if the feeds are available to the farmers and also whether training facilities are given to the people. The Director informed that the Department has got the training facilities at Kyrдем Kulai and Rongkhon. This year cluster approach has been introduced in poultry, piggery and dairying. The main aim is to give subsidy to the villages and to know the impact of the schemes as well as the economic condition of the people. The Deputy Director stated that there is a selection Committee in which Deputy Commissioner of the District is the Chairman while headmen and representatives of the Department are members for selecting villages as well as beneficiaries.

The Director stated that there is 1 (one) Fodder farm in upper Shillong, 1 (one) in Kyrдем Kulai and 1 (one) in Tura. At present there is in-sufficient vaccine for swine fever.

Regarding swine fever vaccine, the Department is getting supply from West Bengal and Assam. He also informed that the vaccine is made from the spleen of a rabbit. Therefore, the Department supplies rabbits to Assam to make vaccine and purchases the vaccine from Assam.

With regards to egg production, the Chairman wanted to know whether eggs were coming from outside the State. The Director informed that the Department cannot meet the demand of the people and hence people have to procure from outside the State. He also informed that the Central Government has given assistance to upgrade all the farms especially for egg and poultry production. He further informed that the farms at Jowai and Williamnagar have been strengthened to help increasing production in the State. Shri A. Lyngdoh, Vice Chairman said that the cost of one egg in Andhra is only Rs. 0.70p whereas in Meghalaya it cost Rs.2.50 to Rs.3.00 and therefore he wanted to know the reasons for the difference in price. The Director said that the egg produced within the State is costlier due to feed problem. The production of maize, wheat bran, groundnut, oil cake is very less in our State and these feeds are brought from outside. Since the cost of the feed and transportation is very high, the farmers have to raise the cost of eggs.

The Chairman wanted to know whether the Department is inspecting the meat market. The Director informed that unless there is a slaughter house, meat could not be checked. The Director informed that the Department has recently sent 40 (forty) butchers to Mumbai for spot inspection of a butcher house there. It is interesting to note that after they came back from Mumbai this group wanted a butcher house to be constructed in the State. He also informed that cattle check has been stopped for the last 2 -3 years back. Now checking is being carried out only for entry of poultry in the State. The Department has proposed for construction of a slaughter house at Mawiong for Shillong. For other places, like Jowai, Tura etc., it will be done in later stages. In this regard, the Department is trying to get funds from NABARD who is willing to give financial assistance.

Shri W. Synrem, Member Secretary suggested that the Department should enter into Public Private Partnership to ease the financial burden of the Department. The Director informed that MOU is being prepared by Department for Public Private Partnership.

Regarding Milk collection the Director informed that the Department is collecting milk from Ri Bhoi, 3rd Mile and Mawlai areas. He also informed that there are 31(thirty one) Nos of Co-operative Societies which supplied milk to the Department. These Cooperatives Societies are getting all kinds of assistance from the Department.

The Chairman said that Meghalaya has got the potential for producing milk and it could be supplied even outside the State. The Director said that awareness campaign had been launched in rural areas by showing films, pamphlets, etc., and cited an example of Orissa where women groups could produce tonnes of milk in that State. A proposal for construction of storage of night milk in Byrnihat and Baridua where milk taken in the night can be stored and processed in the next day has been taken up with the Government. The Chairman of the meeting wanted to extend the grazing land at upper Shillong, but the Director stated that the present land has not been fully utilized due to fund problems. He also informed that only Oat grass is suitable to be grown here and it is grown twice a year and at present the Department is totally dependent on private firms for supply of feeds.

The Member Secretary suggested that proper co-ordination between Agriculture & Veterinary Departments is needed so that maize production by farmers can be increased and the entire output can be used by Veterinary for feeds of cattle. All members agreed with the suggestion by adding that proper co-ordination must be there between Agriculture and Animal Husbandry & Veterinary. The Deputy Director said that there is a very good co-ordination between the two Departments, but the farmers are afraid to grow maize as they are not assured of profitability and market. The Committee suggested that the Government should be ready to help the farmers in times of disaster and encourage them to produce more maize. The Deputy Director informed that there is no one to look after organized marketing in the Department and as such farmers are very much exploited by middlemen in marketing their livestock. The Member Secretary suggested that the Department should tie up with private organizations for marketing. It is also suggested by the Director that establishment of Livestock Development Board is necessary so that funds from the Central Government as well as from other financial agencies can directly be transferred to the Board for speedy access of funds to implement various schemes.

It is suggested by the Member Secretary that the Department should submit a write up on scheme-wise performance/achievement of the Department in order to have a more fruitful and detailed discussion in the next meeting. The Director requested the members of State Development Reforms Commission also to interact frequently with the Department so as to see the ground realities and get feedback from the Department. It was agreed that the Director will arrange a field trip for the Sub-Group on 12th September, 2007 to Kyrдем Kulai and Umsning. The team will meet at the Directorate's premises in Garikhana at 9.30- 10.00 A.M. and the next meeting will be held after the field visit.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the chair.

Sd/- D.N.Joshi
Deputy Chairman,
State Development Reforms Commission.

Memo No. No.PIE 23/2007/ Pt.I/1-A,

Dated Shillong, the 14th September, 2007

Copy for kind information and necessary action to :-

1. P.S. to Shri E.K.Mawlong, Chairman, State Development Reforms Commission for kind information of the Deputy Chairman..
2. P.S. to Shri D.N.Joshi, Deputy Chairman, State Development Reforms Commission for kind information of the Deputy Chairman..
3. P.S.to Shri A.Lyngdoh, Vice-Chairman, State Development Reforms Commission for kind information of the Vice-Chairman..
4. Shri F.B.Lyngdoh, Member, State Development Reforms Commission for information.
5. Shri W.G.M. Phillip, Member, State Development Reforms Commission for information.
6. The Commission & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department for information.
7. Director of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Meghalaya, Shillong for information.
8. Director of Programme Implementation & Evaluation, Meghalaya, Shillong for information.

Sd/-
(V.Wanswett)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Programme Implementation & Evaluation Department

ANNEXURE - I

List of Members/ Officers present in the Meeting of the Sub Group of the State Development Reforms Commission on Animal Husbandry & Veterinary held on the 28th August, 2007 in the Office Chamber of Shri E. K.Mawlong, Chairman of SDRC, Meghalaya Secretariat at 11.00 A.M.

1	Shri D.N.Joshi,	Deputy Chairman
2	Shri Anthony Lyngdoh,	Vice-Chairman
3	Shri F.B.Lyngdoh,	Non-Official Member
4	Shri W. Synrem, Officer on Special Duty, Porgramme Implementation & Evaluation Department	Member Secretary
5	Dr.D.Khonglah, Director of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary	
6	Dr .E.Bareh, Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary	
	In Attendance :-	
1	Shri E.B.Lyngdoh, Assistant Research Officer.	
2	Shri D.S.Kharpan, Assistant Research Officer.	
3	Shri W.Kharngi, Assistant Research Officer.	
4	Shri N.Kharshandi, Research Assistant.	
5	Shri H.Nongshiej, LDA	