

From Director of Agriculture,
Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Punjab

To

1. Director Research PAU, Ludhiana
2. Dr. Ritesh Sharma, Principal Scientist, Basmati Export Development Foundation (APEDA, Ministry of Commerce, GoI), SVPUAT Campus, Modipuram, Merrut
3. Director, Punjab Rice Millers Exporters Association, 5, Rattan Chand Road, The Mall, Amritsar.


No. /ADO (PP-1)

Dated:-

Subject:- Minutes of the Meeting held under the chairmanship of Sh. K.S. Pannu, Secretary Agriculture, Punjab on 30.06.2020 at 11:00 am in Kisan Bhawan, Chandigarh to discuss issues related to use of pesticides on Basmati Crop and their residue effect.

Kindly find enclosed herewith the minutes the meeting, held under the chairmanship of Sh. K.S. Pannu, Secretary Agriculture, Punjab on 30.06.2020 at 11:00 am in Kisan Bhawan, Sector 35, Chandigarh to discuss issues related to use of pesticides on Basmati Crop and their residue effect , after duly approved from Secretary Agriculture, Punjab


2. This is for your information and necessary action please.


Director Agriculture, Punjab

Endst. No. /ADO(PP-1), Dated:

A copy of the above is forward to:-

1. PA to Secretary Agriculture, for kind information of Secretary Agriculture, Punjab.
2. PA to Director Agriculture, for kind information of Director Agriculture, Punjab.


Director Agriculture, Punjab

Endst. No. 1379 /ADO(PP-1), Dated: 29-07-2020

A copy of the above is forward to:-

UPL Limited, Crystal Crop Protection Ltd, Syngenta India Ltd, BASF India Ltd., Insecticide India Ltd., NACL Industries Ltd., Rallis India Ltd., Coromandel International Ltd., Bayer Crop Science Ltd., FMC, KRBL Ltd. Dhuri through email.


Director Agriculture, Punjab

Subject:- Proceeding of the meeting held on 30.06.2020 In Kisan Bhawan under the Chairmanship of Sh. K.S. Pannu, Secretary Agriculture, Punjab to review the progress of campaign launched to produce pesticide residue free basmati in Punjab and planning for ensuing season.

The list of participants is enclosed as Annexure -1. At the onset, the Chairman welcomed the participants and informed the house that in the past two years, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers welfare has launched a campaign for production of pesticide free basmati. This program was initiated in the background of recent crisis arising out of rejection of few consignments of basmati by European Union and USA due to higher pesticides residue than prescribed limits set by these Countries. Such information was also highlighted by APEDA during the year 2019-20, when nine such pesticides were identified, whose MRL Values was less than 0.01 ppm for export purpose. Therefore, the campaign to produce pesticide residue free basmati actually started in kharif 2018, when the plan to discourage the use of five pesticides was promoted amongst the farmers. This campaign was further extended to nine pesticides in Kharif 2019, when massive awareness programs was implemented in key basmati growing areas of the State. During Kharif 2019, this program was also supported by numerous pesticide companies by adopting few districts as chalked out by the Department of Agriculture. Massive awareness was created amongst farmers through different means like camps, personal meets, advertisements, posters etc. So, in order to review the progress achieved in kharif 2019 and to extend the program further into kharif 2020, the Chairman directed Director Agriculture Punjab to ask each of the representative of the companies to share the views and feedback gained during kharif 2019.

2. Director Agriculture informed the house that during kharif 2018 & 2019, the basmati was sown on about 5.11 lac ha & 6.29 lac ha respectively. The different stakeholders companies have participated in this campaign during kharif 2019 by conducting camps and mass meetings with the farmers. The Director Agriculture then requested the representative of the various companies present in the house to share their feedback and views



on this campaign so as to improve its implementation in the ensuing season.

3. The representative of Bayer Crop Science Ltd., informed that two districts viz Amritsar and Tarntaran districts were allotted to them in kharif 2019 during which they conducted 20 camps and 48 small meetings with the farmers. They adopted one village in Amritsar. He informed that the company collected 15 samples of basmati rice, out of which, 6 samples were found as per EU guidelines, while 9 samples failed to meet the standards. Keeping in view, they have planned to launch digital prediction system at 4 places jointly with 4 KVKs centers, under which 100 farmers from each such place will be added in this program. On the basis of that prediction, they will guide those farmers to use pesticide, accordingly.

4. The representative of KRBL, an exporter of rice, informed that about 50% samples were found having pesticides above the prescribed limit. Chairman asked the representative to give suggestion for keeping the residue under the prescribed limit. The representative suggested that these chemicals should not be available in the market, so that farmers have no option but to use their alternative pesticides. He also suggested that awareness program for this purpose should be strengthened through electronic media like TV etc.

5. Representative from FMC company suggested that the State needs to chart out a clear cut program to dissuade farmers from using these pesticides. Representative from Crystal Crop Protection Ltd. told the house that about the trade of Rs. 300 crores is involved in sale of these 9 pesticide in Punjab. Out of these pesticides, Carbendazim is a safe pesticide and there is no such report of higher residue of this pesticides in basmati. Farmers should be educated about its correct and timely application. However, all 9 pesticides are registered for use by CIB&RC on paddy and also on other crops. He stressed that the area under basmati is only 20-25% of total paddy area. He also told the house that the alternatives of these nine pesticides are very costly and are supplied by limited Companies.

The representative of Rallis India Ltd. told the house that in Haryana State, the exporters have made contract with the farmers under which the use of pesticides is only as per their guidelines/schedule.

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The representative of BASF suggested for proper enforcement measures regarding sale and purchase/use of these pesticides.

Syngenta's representatives suggest that the end user i.e. farmer should be made aware about the use of such pesticides on basmati as these pesticides are also recommended on other crops.

The representative of IIL said that by banning these nine pesticides, companies will suffer with great economic loss. Rather the dealers should be made aware about not to use/ sale of these nine pesticides on basmati as these are also recommended on other crops by Punjab Agricultural University. He said that in the previous years, campaign they also distribute leaflets regarding not to use on basmati crop etc.

The representative of UPL suggested that farmer should also be made aware about the judicious use of fertilizer, because with higher dose of fertilizer, pest attack is more.

Chairman said that we have launched campaign for this purpose of produce pesticide residue free basmati, but from the 2 years experience, we are 50% successful. Companies are selling these without bothering their residue effect on the quality of basmati and the exporters are facing problems in export it. Consequently, farmer may suffer huge monetary losses by not getting remunerative selling price for basmati.

After detailed discussions on various issues as highlighted above, the following decisions were taken.

1. The sale/ purchase of those nine pesticides will be immediately stopped in Punjab so as to save the basmati crop from deterioration of quality viz a viz export hindrance.
2. The companies will take back the stock of these pesticides from dealers and shift the same to other states as per their requirements.



Meeting to promote pesticide free basmati under the chairmanship of Secretary
Agriculture on 30.06.20

(year 2020-21)

List of Participants					
Sr No	Name	Designation	Mobile No.	Email ID	Signature
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10	Dr K.S. SURS Principal Entomologist 'UJHANA	PAU	9815901188	ksurs@pau.edu	
11	Dr Mandeep Hunjan Sr. Plant Pathologist	PAU	9779907040	mandeep.hunjan@pau.edu	
12	Mr. Harinder Singh Bains	UPL LTD.			
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