Minutes of Drought Action Plan Visit to Kurnool District

Dr. M.K. Srivastava, Director (AH&F), Sh. Pankaj kumar (Senior Technical Assistant) and Dr. Eazhilkrishna (Young Professional) attended meeting on “Finalization of Drought Action Plan for Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh and Implementation of interventions for drought proofing practices” at District Agricultural department office, Kurnool on 23rd October, 2018.

A team of NRAA officials discussed with District Collector Sri S.Satyanarayana, IAS on 23.10.2018 between 9.00 to 10.00 am at his office regarding water budget of Kurnool district, current situation of drought, present pattern of precipitation which is 50% deficit from actual and practices that are being in operation for the management of risk of drought. Joint Director Agriculture Smt. Uma Maheshwaramma, Dr. Ramana Reddy, Assistant Director of Agriculture (Head quarter), Kurnool division ADAs, AEOs, Project Officers, District officials from Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Sericulture, Soil & Irrigation and Ground water department were also participated.

After that, meeting with district officials of different lining department were held at state guest house under the chairmanship of Dr. Srivastava, Director (AH&F) of NRAA. Dr. Ramana Reddy, Assistant Director of Agriculture welcomed the district officials of agriculture and allied departments and outlined the purpose of the meeting.

Dr. M.K. Srivastava emphasized in his opening remarks that NRAA will perform as a knowledge platform and advocate policy formulation for rainfed areas. He then focused on strategy for increasing farmer’s income; change in cropping pattern for rainfed farming, importance of livestock, fishery and agroforestry in this regard and addressed various opportunities to overcome the risk of drought in Kurnool district. He stressed that programme should be prioritized mainly on integrated farming system and watershed based treatment approaches.

Sh. Pankaj kumar, STA has presented the various agricultural schemes which are operating at Kurnool district for the benefit of farmers in rainfed areas. He also emphasized convergence matrix of different existing schemes to mitigate the risk of drought. Dr. Eazhilkrishna also
explained about water budget of Kurnool district and it was observed that there is a water gap of 894.96 MCM between total water demand (3851.74 MCM) and total existing water utilisation (2956.78). Hence the current drought action plan is proposed to save at least 50% of water balance (i.e. 0.45 BCM) in the next 5 years.

The team from NRAA actively inquired regarding severely drought affected areas in the district. Based on the information from the district officials, it was decided to take up a pilot project at 6 villages in 2 mandals namely Bathikonda and Devanakonda (3 villages from each mandal) in 2 clusters to mitigate the risks of drought.

Thereafter, various technologies of drought proofing were presented by different line departments of the Kurnool district. They explained in detail, drought proofing road map, status and templates for the Kurnool district. They also observed that relevant data is already available in many documents eg. DIP, DAP, DPAP etc, which should be compiled and utilized for future drought proofing plan. Dr. M.K. Srivastava emphasized the importance of training of extension officers for understanding the concept of convergence of all available schemes of the different ministries/departments (under both central and state government) and deployment of all available technologies with existing agricultural schemes based on a comprehensive and integrated plan. Dr. Ramana Reddy focussed mainly on training of farmers and multipurpose extension workers.

Dr. M.K. Srivastava along with his team members actively interacted with the farmers of Devanakonda and Bathikonda mandal in order to familiar with prerequisite and the demand of farmers for the mitigation of drought. The following key issues were emerged from the farmers:

i. Farmers of Bathikonda and Devanakonda mandal has reiterated that their mandal is a vast drought prone region; water availability is less for cultivation of crops and therefore livestock has significant importance in the rural economy; funds should be made available for animal husbandry activities. They also stated that livestock contributes to food and nutrition and also enhance the income security of rural people, especially the landless, marginal and small farmer and provide safety nets during drought. Therefore, they demanded more number of dairy and sheep units to ensure the income of farmers during drought period.

ii. Since they are facing severe water crisis for cultivation of crops, efforts may be taken for filling up of water tanks from nearby villages or wherever water is available through HNSS scheme.

iii. the team from NRAA has enquired about the possibility of agro forestry, biofertilizer units and pisiculture for the benefit of farmers. But farmers of two mandals hinted that, implementation of agro forestry, biofertilizer and fish ponds are incapable at present situation due to severe water crisis.

iv. Though most of the areas already covered with drip and sprinkler irrigation under PMKSY, additional importance should be given to watershed management approaches to cope up with drought.
v. Various agronomic and engineering technologies, besides crop diversification and sector diversification, Intervention of community percolation tanks, farm ponds with plastic lining, mulching technology, vermicomposting units, poultry units and solar dehydrator are some of the alternative options to cope up with the drought.

vi. Besides above mentioned demands, they also looking for additional subsidy through various state and central agricultural schemes, agricultural loan with very low interest and additional crop insurance during drought period.

The following outcomes emerged from the meeting:

i. Department of Agriculture, Kurnool District will facilitate and submit DPR after conducting household survey in 6 villages identified at 2 mandals namely Devanakonda and Bathikonda (Before 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018). Further, they will suggest initial interventions that can be adopted in two clusters.

ii. Implementation of the programme will be done through consortium mode. The District Collector/CEO, Zila Parishad, will supervise and manage all the programmes through convergence. All the ADAs of line departments will be member of consortium.

iii. NRAA will be providing funding support for innovative and complimentary activities. Besides NRAA will be providing technical supervision and support for capacity building and training requirements in implementation of action plan.

At the end of the meeting, M.K. Srivastava (Director (AH&F) National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) thanked all the guests and participants.
இன்று ஏற்று ஏற்று கொடுக்கும்.. இங்கு ஏற்றுக்கொடுக்கும்!

அந்த பாதையில் இருந்து வருவது கொடுக்கும்.. பாதையில் தரமாக மாற்றப்பட்டு வருவது கொடுக்கும். இறுதியாக வரும் பின்னர் வரும் கொடுக்கும். இறுதியாக வரும் பின்னர் வரும் கொடுக்கும். இறுதியாக வரும் பின்னர் வரும் கொடுக்கும். இறுதியாக வரும் பின்னர் வரும் கொடுக்கும். இறுதியாக வரும் பின்னர் வரும் கொடுக்கும். இறுதியாக வரும் பின்னர் வரும் கொடுக்கும். இறுதியாக வரும் பின்னர் வரும் கொடுக்கும்.