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From
To

No. IPH-B (F)-2-18/2005-1
Government of Himachal Pradesh
Irrigation & Public Health Department

The Addl. Chief Secretary (IPH) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

1. Pr. Secretary(Horticulture)to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
2. Director(Agriculture) Himchal Pradesh, Shimla-5.
3. Director(Horticulture) Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-6.
4. Pr.Chief Conservator of Forests Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-2.

Dated: Shimla- 171002, the 22nd May, 2013

Subject: - Proceedings of the meeting held on 20.05.2013 at 11.00 AM in the Committee Room of H.P. Secretariat under the Chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary(IPH).

Sir,
I am directed to enclose herewith copy of proceedings of the meeting held on 20.05.2013 at 11.00 AM in the Committee Room of H.P. Secretariat under the Chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary(IPH) for information and further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Special Secretary (IPH) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh
Shimla, May, 2013.

Encl: As above
Endst.No As above, dated
Copy for information and immediate necessary action is forwarded to The Engineer-in-Chief (I&PH),Himachal Pradesh U.S.Club, Shimla-171001 with the request that the proceedings may also be uploaded on the official website of the department.

Special Secretary (IPH) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Handwritten notes: 20/5, SR, S. E. G. D. V. C. A. S. T. 20/5

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Proceedings of the meeting held on 20.05.2013 at 11.00AM in the Committee Room of H.P. Secretariat under the Chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary (IPH) to the Govt. of H.P.

To consider a strategy for creating synergies amongst various line departments who are directly or indirectly related to issues of land and water in Himachal Pradesh, a brain storming session was held on 20th May, 2013 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Vineet Chawdhry, ACS (IPH) to GoHP.

The list of participants is attached as Annexure-A.

Initiating the discussions, ACS (I&PH) explained the context in which the need for strategy for integrating activities of irrigation, Agriculture, Horticulture and Forests Departments has been felt. While there had been considerable expansion of irrigation infrastructure in the State, the increase in agriculture productivity did not reflect the benefits of the irrigation potential so created. He also pointed out that Irrigation Department did not have the skills and where with all to provide improved inputs to the farmers in terms of seeds, implements and cultivation technique. On the other hand, the department of Agriculture and Horticulture have their own schemes for irrigation including micro irrigation. These Departments also provides extension services to the farmers. Forest Department had also emphasized the need for the stream of the catchment are of irrigation schemes to ensure their long term viability. All this required that these Government Departments are approached Irrigation Projects in a very coordinated manner. The issues that were brain storm in the meeting today have been in the background note already circulated, ACS(IPH) then requested the other participants to put forward their suggestions.

Mr. Tarun Shridhar, Pr. Secretary (Horticulture, Fisheries and Home) opined that any department that conceives an idea of irrigation projects should ensure that there are coordinated efforts with all concerned departments (agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, forest, rural development and animal husbandry) at the Directorate level and field level from the very initial stage. It must be made very clear that, whose responsibility it will be to ensure that water reaches to individual's farm from the main canal(s). He stressed upon the need of a structured mechanism for consultation at the directorate level where, a representative or a designated officer is nominated by each department and, consultation on this issue is held regularly for better co-ordination. He was of the view that pisciculture can provide benefits to the landless farmers and its potential should be exploited in the irrigation schemes and PRIs be integrated with the WUAs. He proposed that a model CAD be developed in the state to start with from a completed irrigation project and, Balh Valley (RB MIP) in Mandi Distt. was agreed to as the proposed project. He was of the view that a comprehensive irrigation policy be formulated for the state and suggestions given by the participants be incorporated in that policy. He also urged that water atlas of water bodies in the state be prepared by using satellite imageries by engaging some expert agencies like NRSA, BARC etc.

Mr. R.K. Gupta, PCCF suggested that a Water Policy has to be in place and the interest of landless or marginal farmers must be taken into consideration while implementing such projects. He also advocated for Water Budgeting for regulating the use of water and stressed upon the need to integrate the traditional irrigation management practices with the modern irrigation facilities. He was of the view that the water user groups should be activated for ensuring the operation and maintenance

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of the projects and to inculcate the feeling of ownership among the farmers. He highlighted the importance of CAT Plan in sustaining the water resources in the State. He also handed over certain pamphlets about the work done in this field by the Forest Department.

Mr. RK Sharma, E-in-C, IPH was of the view that the irrigation facilities created by the IPH Department in the past in some areas were not utilized to the potential as, the land use got changed due to various factors and department has very less expertise to involve farmers in motivating them to utilize the capacity created. However he was keen to take support from other departments to deliver maximum benefits to the farmers.

Mr. JC Rana, Director (Agriculture) suggested that to inculcate a sense of ownership amongst beneficiaries for irrigation schemes, a token contribution on monthly basis should be charged and an 'Irrigation Development Fund' should be created for ensuring the O&M of such schemes on their completion. He further stressed that, in order to increase diversification in cropping pattern, assurance to farmers to provide irrigation facility in lean season has to be ensured as, availability of regular supply of water is very critical for promoting diversification as, it is a risky proposition.

Mr. Gurdev Singh, Director (Horticulture) was of the view that to provide irrigation to promote Horticulture in the plains and foothills of the state provision of tanks to individual farmers should be made in irrigation schemes. This will discourage flood irrigation being promoted at the moment.

Decisions Taken:

1. A **State Level Committee** will be constituted to be headed by ACS (IPH) wherein HOD's of Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Forest, IPH Departments will be members and this committee will meet once in three months to sort out the inter departmental issues of various irrigation schemes in the state and, to create synergies amongst various stakeholders.
2. **Balh Valley (Right Bank) MIP has been identified as a Model Irrigation Project** wherein coordinated efforts to converge the activities of major line departments (Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Forest and IPH) will be made. The Principal Secretary (Horticulture, Fisheries & Home) Sh. Tarun Shridhar will hold a meeting with D.C. Mandi on 6th June 2013 wherein a road map will be drawn to move ahead with approach of inter- departmental coordination. The E-in-C (IPH) will provide the background note on Balh Valley (Right Bank) MIP to Mr. Shridhar and D.C. Mandi before 30th May, 2013. The concerned officers of IPH Department will also attend this meeting. Changer Irrigation Scheme in Bilaspur would also be taken up for similar monitoring.
3. A comprehensive **Irrigation Policy** will be formulated for the state covering major issues by inviting the suggestions of also stakeholders. An advertisement to invite the suggestions will be displayed in regional news papers to give wide publicity.

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4. All irrigation schemes will factor in the concept of micro irrigation in the DPR's and funding arrangement for introducing micro irrigation will be defined in the document by the IPH Department. It will be ensured that last mile connectivity is taken care of in each irrigation scheme at the DPR stage itself.
5. The term of reference of **District Irrigation Committee** will be studied and modified if required so as to have meaningful consultation on the irrigation potential created in the districts and members of Panchayats and Water Users' Association will be involved in the committees.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all the participants.



Annexure-A

Name of Participants:

1. Sh. Tarun Shridhar. Pr. Secretary (Horticulture, Fisheries & Home).
2. Sh. R.K. Sharma. Engineer-in-Chief (IPH)
3. Sh. J.C. Rana. Director, Agriculture.
4. Sh. Gurdev Singh. Director, Horticulture.
5. Sh. R.K. Gupta. Pr.C.C.F.
6. Sh. Surinder Kumar. A PC CF (Fin & Plg).
7. Sh. Sushil Kapta Spl. Secretary(IPH).