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Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture & Cooperation
(INM Division)

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
Dated: 23rd June, 2015

ORDER

Subject: Constitution of the Task Force on Organic and Non-Chemical Farming-Reg.

Organic Agriculture is one of the fastest growing systems of agricultural production. However, organic farming is based on the similar principles underlying our traditional agriculture and is practiced by many farmers drawing from the rich repository of traditional knowledge with modern scientific concepts and technologies. In our country, organic farming has grown from 4.55 lakh ha in 2009-10 to 7.23 lakh ha in 2013-14, with some 6 lakh farmers practicing it.

The organic sector presently, is very small when compared to the total cropped area of our country. Growth in urban cities is a big opportunity for the organic sector where consumers are influenced in their choice of food by concerns of safety and health. Developments in the agriculture are in the favor of sustainable farming practices, and in several fora, Organic Farming is singled out as a sector that should be promoted in a big way. Thus, there are opportunities for organic farmers and organic sector that needs to be identified and effective strategies suggested to bridge the significant gap between supply and demand.

The numbers of farmers converting to organic farming have been low due to shortage of technical and financial information and the perception that organic farming is governed by complicated certification procedures. A considerable amount of organic produce does not reach the consumer as organic food, but is sold into the conventional market due to the lack of organic market outlets. National regulations governing the production of organic food need to be sufficiently rigorous to maintain consumer confidence and competitiveness but it is equally important to avoid overregulation and unnecessary restrictions.

It is clear that organic sector, which is a distinct one with its own needs, requires additional measures that would help a farmer to meet the capital costs of conversion and also the support for marketing and promotional programmes.

It is considered essential to assess the potential for developing the organic sector in the light of the constraints and challenges that face the sector. It has been decided with the approval of competent authority to set up a Task Force for this purpose.

The, Composition and Terms of Reference of the Task Force will be as follows:-

1.	Dr. Anil Kumar Singh Vice-Chancellor Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Opposite Mela Ground, Race Course Road Gwalior- 474002 (Madhya Pradesh). Phone: 0751- 2467673, 2467671(O) Fax: 0751 – 2467673	Convener
2.	Dr. A.K.Singh Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension) Division of Agricultural Extension, Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan New Delhi - 110 012. Phone: 011-2584 3277, Fax : 011-25842968 Email: aksicar@gmail.com -	Member
3.	Dr. Krishan Chandra Director, Near CBI Academy, Hapur Road, Kamala Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad-201002 National Centre for Organic Farming Ghaziabad (UP)	Member
4.	AA. Shri Ananda, Uppalli, Madasur Lingadahalli Post, Sagar Taluk, Distt.: Simoga, Karnataka State-577434 (Ph.:09448204831,e-mail:anand_kpp@rediffmail.com)	Member
5.	Dr. O.P. Rupela, 120-I, Saket Colony, Kapra, ECIL Post-50062 (Hyderabad)	Member
6.	Sh. Umendra Datta S/o Shri Har Dutt Sharma, Kheti Virasat Mission, RV Shanti Nagar, Jaitu-151 202, Distt.: Faridkot,Punjab (Mb. 09872682161 E-mail:umendradutt@gmail.com)	Member
7.	Dr. B. Mohan Kumar, Asstt. Director General (NRM) Division of NRM, Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan New Delhi - 110 012. Phone: 25846557 E-mail: adgagroandaf@gmail.com -	Member-Secretary

Terms and reference (Specific)

i. To analyze the barriers to and the potential of further growth of production, processing, trade and consumption of organic products.

ii. To recommend a market based strategy covering all of the aspects of the development on Organic Farming including certification& labeling, package of practices, food safety & regulation, research & international trade in order to achieve

expansion in area under organic farming and to secure increased share in export and domestic markets

iii. To consider and present marketing and promotional programmes for assistance and development of organic farming.

iv. Suggest creation of new structures for interface with farmer organizations, input support service providers, industry associations, environmental groups, consumer associations, export-import associations, etc.

Terms and reference (General)

i. The Task Force may co-opt any other official/non-official expert/representative of any organization as member (s), if required.

ii. The Task Force may also examine and address any other issues which are important but are not specifically spelt out in ToRs. The Task Force may devise its own procedures for conducting its business/ meetings.

iii. The expenditure on TA/DA of the official members in connection with the meetings of the Task Force will be borne by their respective Ministries/Departments as per the rules of entitlement applicable to them. The TA / DA expenditure in respect of non-official members will be borne by the INM Division, DAC as admissible to the Class –I officers to the Government of India as admissible under SR 190(a).

iv. The Task Force will be serviced by the INM Division, Ministry of Agriculture Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, New Delhi.

v. The Task Force will submit its Interim Report by the end of November, 2015 and Final Report by the end of December, 2015 to the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

vi. Dr. (Mrs.) Vandana Dwivedi, Additional Commissioner (INM), Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Room No. 247A, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi-110001, Email: dwivediv@nic.in and Telefax No. 011-23384280 will be the Nodal Officer of this Task Force and any further query/ correspondence in this regard may be made with her.

(Vandana Dwivedi)
Additional Commissioner (INM)

Distribution:

1. Dr. Anil Kumar Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Opposite Mela Ground, Race Course Road, Gwalior- 474002 (Madhya Pradesh).

2. Dr. A.K.Singh, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension), Division of Agricultural Extension, Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 012.

3. Dr. Krishan Chandra, Director, National Centre for Organic Farming, Ghaziabad (UP) Near CBI Academy, Hapur Road Kamala Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad-2010National Centre for Organic Farming,Ghaziabad (UP)

4. Shri Ananda, Uppalli, Madasur Lingadahalli Post, Sagar Taluk, Distt.: Simogsa, Karnataka State

5. Dr. O.P. Rupela, 120-I, Saket Colony, Kapra, ECIL Post-50062 (Hyderabad)

6. Shri. Umendra Dutt, S/o Shri Har Dutt Sharma, Kheti Virasat Mission, RV Shanti Nagar, Jaitu-151 202, Distt.: Faridkot,Punjab

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Copy for information to:

1. PPS to Union Minister of Agriculture, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
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4. PPS to Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtriyapati Bhavan, New Delhi-110001
5. Prime Minister's Office, New Delhi-110001
6. Information Officer, NITI Ayog,Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi-110001
7. Secretary, D/o Agriculture and Cooperation, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-
8. Secretary, D/o Agricultural Research & Education, DAC, Krishi Bhawan,New Delhi
9. Secretary, D/o Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
10. Secretary, M/o Food Processing Industry, Panchsheel Bhawan, August Kranti Marg,Khelgaon, New Delhi-110049
11. Secretary, D/o Rural Development, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
12. Secretary, D/o Commerce, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi-110 011
13. Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi – 110016(Fax: +91-11-26864570, 26862418)
14. Secretary, M/o Water Resources, Shram Shakti Bhavan, Rafi Marg, Sansad Marg Area, New Delhi, Delhi 110001
15. Secretary, D/o Land Resources, Room No. 12G, NBO Building, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
16. PPS to Addl. Secretary (A&D), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
17. PS to Joint Secretary (INM), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
18. PS to Joint Secretary (PP), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
19. Secretary, D/o Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
20. Accounts-I Branch, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Krishi Bhavan,New Delhi- 1.
21. Organic Farming Cell/Fert Use Cell, DAC.

(Vandana Dwivedi)
Additional Commissioner (INM)