



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN



# STATE AGRICULTURE POLICY



Department of Agriculture, Rajasthan, Jaipur

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*(Approved by the State Cabinet on June 26, 2013)*



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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RAJASTHAN  
JAIPUR**



# STATE AGRICULTURE POLICY

## 1. PREAMBLE:

**1.1** The State of Rajasthan is unique in many ways. It is known not only for its valour, historical places, a rich culture & tradition and vibrant colours but also for its biodiversity comprising both plants and animals. Rajasthan is the largest state of India covering nearly 10.4 percent of total geographical area of the country. Nearly 65 percent of its population (56.5 million) is dependent on agriculture.

**1.2** The State is presently divided into 33 administrative districts and has 10 agro-climatic zones. Agriculture in Rajasthan is primarily rainfed covering country's 13.27 percent of available land. Groundwater is getting depleted as well as polluted. In general, every third year is a drought year. Despite these, the State has made significant achievements since independence and has attained self-sufficiency in food-grains, both cereals and pulses. Today, Rajasthan is surplus in the production of oilseeds. The State is also rich in its agro-biodiversity and possesses some unique medicinal and aromatic plants as well as seed spices and legumes. Desert trees and shrubs like *khejadi*, *rohida*, *phog*, *ker*, *ber* etc. are indigenous to Rajasthan. The State has speciality crops and breeds that are almost exclusive or predominantly belonging to Rajasthan. These include crops like moth, guar, coriander, cumin, fenugreek, isabgol, mehndi, and breeds such as Rathi, Tharparkar, Kankrej, Gir, and Nagauri cattle, Magra and Bikaneri Chokla sheep, Marwari goat and few others. Nevertheless, there is a need to capitalize on available potential of Rajasthan agriculture that

remains yet untapped. In this context, revitalization of agrarian economy in Rajasthan is warranted.

## 2. SCENARIO:

**2.1** Rajasthan has total geographical area of 342.65 lakh ha of which 26.75 lakh ha is under forests, 42.62 lakh ha is not available for cultivation and 63.19 lakh ha is other uncultivable land (excluding fallow land). The total cultivable area is around 220.00 lakh ha. There is a decrease in the gross cropped area which is evident from the fact that the highest gross cropped area was around 223.25 lakh ha during the year 1997-98.

**2.2** The average rainfall of the State is 575 mm, out of which about 532 mm precipitation occurs in the rainy season i.e. June to September. The average rainfall of eastern Rajasthan is about 704 mm and that of western Rajasthan is about 310 mm which reflects a vast variation. Rivers in Rajasthan are non-perennial except for Chambal and Mahi rivers.

**2.3** The average surface water is only 1 percent of the country's water resources. The State has 118 major and medium irrigation projects. The total cultivable command area of the State is 36.46 lakh ha.

**2.4** The ground water situation in the State is quite alarming and it has deteriorated very fast in the last two decades. Out of 249 blocks in the State, most are in the 'dark zone' and only 40 blocks are in the 'safe category'.

**2.5** By the end of X Plan, the State increased its

cereal production by more than 2.5 times and the oilseeds production by 3.5 times. The State enjoys 1<sup>st</sup> position in the country in production of rapeseed and mustard, coriander, cumin, fenugreek, guar and moth. In pulse production, the state has the distinction of being among the top two states in the country. Currently, Rajasthan has a major share in production of crops like bajra (40 percent), moth bean (85 percent), rapeseed and mustard (51 percent), coriander (66 percent), and fenugreek (87 percent). Coriander cultivation is presently concentrated in three districts of Kota, Baran and Jhalawar. Cumin is concentrated in the districts of Jodhpur, Jalore and Barmer. Fennel is cultivated mainly in the districts of Jodhpur, Nagaur, Tonk and Sirohi. Sirohi district alone contributes around 40 percent of the fennel area. Fenugreek is mainly cultivated in the districts of Sikar, Jhalawar, Nagaur and Chittor. Nevertheless, increasing the productivity and profitability from these crops is needed for improving the livelihood status of the farmers.

**2.6** The Cropping intensity in the State fluctuates between 106 to 126 percent, which indicates further scope for its improvement.

**2.7** The livelihood of the resource poor farmers in large part of arid areas in the Thar Desert is mostly dependent on dairy farming as well as around small ruminants like sheep and goat. The State has about 17.07 lakh ha of land under permanent pastures for grazing, and the total livestock population is currently 5.44 crore, which is almost comparable to that of human population of the State. The area under pasture is not able to meet the total fodder requirement of present livestock population.

### **3. CHALLENGES:**

**3.1** Scanty rainfall, scarcity of water and the inefficient water management practices constitute some of the major challenges in the State. Both crops and animals are prone to vagaries of nature. Frequent droughts lead to decline in productivity and reduced performance and even death of animals. Climate change, including global warming, has further aggravated the existing problems of abiotic stresses in the State. A comprehensive technology-based development approach to promote dry land/arid agriculture is the need of the hour. Another important impeding factor is the deteriorating soil health including imbalanced use of fertilizers, micronutrient deficiency, lack of organic matter content, inadequate soil microbial flora and fauna etc.

**3.2** Presently, agriculture has become a relatively unrewarding profession mainly due to low productivity, unfavourable prices and practically very little value addition. In most of the cases, even primary value addition is missing. Practically, there is no commercialization in the field of agriculture. The situation gets aggravated further in the wake of globalization of agricultural trade. Carbon trading is a new area from which the State may benefit, especially in the context of massive efforts put in for stabilization of sand dunes and for greening the desert through agro-forestry programmes undertaken by the Government. Mechanisms of export promotion, adherence to sanitation and phyto-sanitation (SPS) standards and measures for minimizing the export rejections are missing in case of several seed spices and industrial crops that have the

potential for export to other countries. Farmers are mostly not linked to markets. Often there are distress sales. These all lead to non-remunerative agriculture and often dissuade the farmers from continuing farming activities.

**3.3** Besides increasing the overall system productivity, the challenge also is to appropriately reduce the cost of cultivation. Science led conservation agriculture is lacking even though some old traditional practices that conserve resources continue. Modern resource conservation technologies (RCTs) along with the improvised and field-tested indigenous technical knowledge need promotion in the State.

**3.4** Integrated farming approach is another area which needs preferential attention. In several regions, cultivation of crops alone cannot provide livelihood. It has to be supplemented by livestock raising, milk production, arid horticulture, fishery etc. wherever feasible. Supplemental livelihood options, including the services in agriculture and rural non-farm enterprises for retaining youth in agriculture are invariably lacking. Although some entrepreneurship development in rural areas has commenced, it is not to the scale desired. The present day challenge is to ensure overall farm prosperity.

**3.5** Huge yield gaps exist between the experimental yields and those obtained at farm level. Up-scaling of farm-validated modern technologies and agricultural innovations is often lacking. Gender mainstreaming in agriculture is also not up to the desired level.

**3.6** Farm mechanization, which is important for

increasing production and quality of produce, is presently lacking in the State. It needs further impetus especially in the tribal areas.

**3.7** Despite the availability of germplasm of both plant and animal origin that has adapted to extreme conditions of Rajasthan there is a need to have a systematic approach to conserve, augment, sustainable use and benefit from these resources. Much needs to be done lest we lose this valuable source of novel genes forever. Modern tools of science like genotyping and allele mining have not been resorted to conserve this unique diversity. In general, the emerging techniques and technologies such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, remote sensing, GIS etc. have also not been used effectively.

**3.8** The challenge also is to provide proper institutional mechanisms and undertake organizational and management (O&M) reforms and co-ordination between various agencies for development activities and investment for overcoming the felt constraints coming in way of farm prosperity in the State.

#### **4. VISION, GOAL AND OBJECTIVES**

**4.1** The future vision of Agricultural Policy of Rajasthan shall be to ensure food and nutritional security and economic empowerment of the people through accelerated yet sustainable growth in agriculture. The goal will be to ensure food and nutritional security, farm prosperity and strengthen agrarian economy by tapping vast agricultural resources of the State through an inclusive development strategy. For this, the agriculture policy shall strive for doubling the

production of food grains in the next 10 years and to attain a minimum of 4 percent of agricultural growth per annum.

**4.2** The policy unravels options and opportunities for addressing major issues in agricultural development from both short-term and long-term perspectives. The objectives laid down under the policy are :

**4.2.1** To ensure social justice and equity, food and nutritional security will be given high priority. To ensure a balanced diet for all, particularly the rural masses, the policy will promote fruit and vegetable production and their consumption in rural areas.

**4.2.2** To achieve fodder security to meet the demand of livestock population which is increasing by 4 percent annually and is expected to be around 8.68 crores by 2020. This shall be ensured by promoting fodder crops and fodder and feed storage systems, as well as by promoting silvi-pastoral practice in the arid western Rajasthan.

**4.2.3** To bridge the existing yield gap through adoption and up-scaling of improved technologies involving public, private and community approaches for extension delivery and input availability.

**4.2.4** To promote best practices in water management systems that save water at least by 30 percent and increase productivity per unit of water.

**4.2.5** To make grey areas green through adoption of new technologies, including scientific land use planning and integrated farming system's mode.

**4.2.6** To increase farm income by initiating measures to minimize cost of cultivation, increase

in productivity, encourage rural based agro-processing and value addition, and to link farmers to the market.

**4.2.7** To enhance productivity of core crops of the State such as Bajra, Guar, Pulses, Oil seeds, Seed Spices etc.

**4.2.8** To promote much needed diversification of agriculture, comprising an amalgam of cash and speciality crops (like seed spices, guar, moth bean etc.), horticulture, animal husbandry, dairying, bee-keeping, sericulture, agro-forestry, and inland aquaculture. In this context, area specific development of integrated agricultural production systems, associated with market linkages and post-harvest management, will be accorded priority.

**4.2.9** To encourage individual, joint or contract-farming for speciality crops in order to ensure higher income through efficient production, processing and export of value added commodities.

**4.2.10** To discourage migration, both seasonal and permanent, of rural people to urban areas through various means of improved rural livelihood and income generation through on-farm and off-farm opportunities.

**4.2.11** To accelerate capital formation in agriculture through long term public and private investments including development of infrastructure such as roads, communication, silos, cold chain, and agro-based processing industries. State shall make available necessary resources to ensure that full benefits accrue from Centrally Sponsored Schemes in future.

**4.2.12** To complement and align different development initiatives through a well-coordinated mechanism between different Ministries/ Departments as well as initiatives under the State Livestock Policy, State Water Policy and State Agro- Processing & Agri-Business Policy. For policy directions, coordination and monitoring, a State High Level Agriculture and Rural Development Coordination Board under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister and an Executive Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary will be constituted. Annual interface with Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, & DDGs with SAUs, ICAR Institutes in the State and development departments of the State will be organized under the Joint Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, GOR and Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR to develop strategy to propel agricultural growth through advanced technologies relevant to the State.

## **5. STRATEGY:**

### **5.1 Integrated Farming System Approach especially for Dryland Agriculture:**

**5.1.1** Since vast rainfed areas in the State constantly encounter droughts and crop failures in most years, integration of crop farming with horticulture, animal husbandry, back-yard poultry, agro-forestry and pasture development is necessary for generating farm income and sustaining livelihood of the small and marginal farmers in the State. Such a farming system not only allows most optimal use of on-farm resources but also helps in avoiding land degradation and environmental pollution, besides providing income to the farmers on a regular basis. The

system will be based on the principles and practices of watershed management. The arid regions also need effective water harvesting and conservation practices along with conjunctive use of water. Therefore, development of various cost-effective and sustainable models of integrated farming system with joint research work of ICAR, SAUs and other Universities and Institutions working in aspects related to agriculture for greening dry land areas in the vast arid and semi-arid tracts of the State will be encouraged.

**5.1.2** Arid horticulture forms an important component of the integrated farming systems in the State. Arid areas do provide special niche for the production of arid fruits like ber, pomegranate, aonla, kinnow, malta, bael, lasoda (*Cordia myxa*), ker (*Capparis decidua*), custard apple, datepalm and other fruits. For this purpose endeavour would be made to prepare Horticulture Development Plan for the state. The plantations and silvi-pastoral systems can also be ideally utilized for carbon trading. All plantations have to necessarily follow the water-saving practices like micro-irrigation. Protected cultivation of vegetables and flowers in arid areas can also prove profitable to the farmers and increase their income to a great extent. Farmers will be motivated to adopt integrated farming practices for increased income and better livelihood.

**5.1.3** Mixed/inter-cropping and diversification of crops such as arid horticulture crops, vegetables, sericulture, medicinal and aromatic plants, agro-forestry, seed spices and fodder crops shall be encouraged in the western part of Rajasthan.

**5.1.4** Organic farming can add yet another dimension to income generation from horticultural crops in the arid Western Rajasthan. This, however, shall be facilitated by educating the farmers about exclusive organic cultivation practices along with certification and marketing of organic produce and products. Post-harvest management, agro-processing and value addition of fruits and vegetables will lead to holistic development of horticulture and higher income generation, thus helping the resource-poor farmers.

## **5.2 Optimum use of resources:**

**5.2.1** Reclamation of degraded soils, soil conservation, soil testing, soil fertility mapping, crop residue management, promotion of organic farming and optimal land use need to be promoted. Modern tools of remote sensing and GIS will be deployed for land use planning and sound management options for profitable use of the vast land resource available in the State.

**5.2.2** Rajasthan has no other recourse but to take the path of more crop and income per drop of water. Micro irrigation is the only option and hence shall be popularized in command/canal areas with reduced conveyance losses. Rain water harvesting by construction of farm bunds, dugout farm ponds, '*nadies*', polythene lined water ponds etc. will also be the major thrust area. Private and community initiatives will also be encouraged in water sector. A multi-priority analysis in deciding priority and developing guidelines for the public use of water shall be adopted.

**5.2.3** Use of brackish and saline water for the

plantation crops such as datepalm and other trees and crops that are tolerant to salinity shall be encouraged. Similarly, treated waste water shall be used for irrigation purpose particularly for non-food crops such as cotton, fodders like berseem, lucerne etc.

**5.2.4** Research programme on Integrated Water Management (In-situ water conservation, water harvesting, water recharge, treatment of problematic water) will be strengthened.

## **5.3 Enhanced availability of quality seed:**

**5.3.1** Production of breeder, foundation and certified seed and their availability will be enhanced with special emphasis on new high yielding varieties/hybrids that require less water and are short duration in nature. Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) will have to be increased particularly in case of pulses, oilseeds and Seed Spices. "Seed village concept" will be encouraged. Incentives to and partnership with the private seed sector will be ensured to enhance timely availability of quality seeds especially of hybrids in the State. A rolling plan for each 5 year cycle will be prepared and monitored for implementing. Availability of fish seed and semen of proven bulls will also be enhanced.

**5.3.2** Emphasis will be given to increase production and availability of seeds of high yielding varieties of vegetables, seed spices and aromatic plants, through public system. Similarly arrangement will be made to increase the availability of planting material of new varieties of fruit plants. For this private sector participation will also be promoted.

## **5.4 Nutrient Management:**

**5.4.1** Integrated nutrient management practices will be promoted, especially to address micro nutrient deficiencies. Application of bio-fertilizers will be promoted concurrently to ensure a target of 10 percent to begin with. Vermi-composting and recycling of farm residues will be popularized. To improve efficiency of fertilizer use, enhanced location-specific research on efficient fertilizer practices (such as balanced use of nutrients, correct timing and placement of fertilizers, and wherever necessary, use of micronutrient, bio-fertilizers, and soil amendments) will be promoted. Policy for fertilizer mix for specific crops, especially vegetables and for use of liquid fertilizers will be put in place. Soil health cards for every farmer shall be provided. To improve soil health and INM, indigenous resources will be exploited i.e. soil micro and macro organisms, organic manure, soil amendments and micro nutrients.

## **5.5 Integrated Pest Management:**

**5.5.1** Chemicals do cause environmental hazards and pollution of both soil and the produce. Hence, integrated pest management (IPM) practices and use of bio-agents/bio pesticides will be promoted to control the pest and diseases through farmers' participatory approach. Residues of agro-chemicals in crop produce shall be minimized. Required referral laboratories in the State will be established. With greater emphasis on IPM approach, use of pesticides will be reduced to half by 2020.

## **5.6 Farm Mechanization:**

**5.6.1** Seed-cum-fertilizer drill, zero till drill, laser

levellers, rotavator, reaper, solar dryer, grading machine, small processing units, baling machine and various farm implements and tools need to be popularized along with bullock drawn implements for small and marginal farmers. Seed dressers, sprayers, weeding implements and other drudgery reduction implements will be popularized. Custom hiring system will be promoted and popularized using the concept of "Agri-Clinics". For this, rural youth will be provided vocational training and given needed incentives.

## **5.7 Fodder production:**

**5.7.1** Diversified livestock production in Rajasthan is an integral part of farming system. There is a specific need for the assessment of fodder demand and supply, especially in drought years. Scientific methods of fodder preservation and storage and fodder banks in rural areas will be a right step in this direction. There is a need to complement the efforts for green fodder production as per State Livestock Policy e.g. fodder production, availability of fodder seeds, making of silage, promoting silvi-pastures, and extension efforts to motivate farmers to grow fodder crops.

## **5.8 Ensure the quality of inputs like Fertilizer, Insecticides and Seeds:**

**5.8.1** Private intervention in agricultural services will be promoted. Unemployed agriculture school pass outs and graduates will be trained and attracted towards custom hire services and input delivery systems by providing necessary incentives/financial support to start Agro Service Centers/Agri-Clinics etc. quality control

mechanism will be strengthened, effectively administered and monitored. Village level cooperative societies will be strengthened to supply quality inputs at the door step of the farmer.

## **5.9 Infrastructure facilities:**

**5.9.1** Needed infrastructure facilities particularly those pertaining to marketing, cold chain, storage (including modern silos), rural based agro-processing and facilities for exports will be created through Government and Private Sector initiatives.

## **5.10 Support for Agricultural Research and Education:**

**5.10.1** Adequate additional resources will be allocated to State Agricultural Universities in order to have adequate and competent faculty, a pre-requisite to build trained manpower, generate need based technologies and their up-scaling. Precision farming, organic farming, use of biotechnology for required breakthrough/genetic improvement against biotic and abiotic stresses etc. will be given high priority for future research. Major research thrust will be on crops that are unique for economic empowerment and nutritional & food security in the State. Job oriented UG/PG programmes, Diploma and paravets / para horticulturists / certificate courses for capacity building will be given priority. Emphasis will be given to teaching of agriculture. To achieve this, agriculture as a subject may be considered at the secondary and higher secondary level, wherever adequate number of students are available.

## **5.11 Alternate energy sources:**

**5.11.1** Utilization of renewable energy mainly

solar and bio-gas in agriculture and promotion of energy plantation on waste land, using appropriate, cost effective and efficient technologies will be a priority area under this policy. Through an integrated approach, sufficient power generation will be targeted and achieved as a matter of priority.

## **5.12 Extension Support and Capacity Development:**

**5.12.1** Revitalization of existing extension system will be given a high priority under this policy. Private sector will be encouraged for extension services in order to complement the work of public extension system. Media and other communication means like ICT, mobile phones etc. will be used extensively to promote good agriculture practices. Agriculture Research Stations, KVKs and Department of Agriculture may consider starting mobile phone service and preparing programme to be relayed on T.V. Channel and develop content for touch screen. A dedicated channel on agriculture will also be launched through public-private partnership so as to ensure better access to knowledge for farmers in Rajasthan. Kiosks will be opened at village Panchayat level for knowledge empowerment of the farming families. Focus will be on documentation of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) of Rajasthan.

## **5.13 Improving the Livelihoods of Farmers:**

**5.13.1** Crop-horticulture-livestock integrated farming systems and creating better livelihood options through agro-processing and value

addition will be promoted. Conversion of landless labour and resource poor farmers into skilled workers through imparting skill oriented training with strong follow-up support will be a key for off-farm employment generation. Incentives will be provided through micro-financing/lower interest rates to support small farm holders for better livelihood. Emphasis will also be on rural non-farm enterprises for retaining youth in agriculture.

#### **5.14 Credit Support:**

**5.14.1** Credit at lower interest rates will be ensured to all small farmers in the State. State Government will consider to adequately compensate banks through cash subsidy to provide credit at lower rates to all small farmers.

#### **5.15 Gender Mainstreaming:**

**5.15.1** Women empowerment in agriculture will be a major thrust of this policy. Special programmes for women empowerment in agriculture sector, especially targeting maternal and child health care, to overcome their drudgery and to provide them proper education/training/skills associated with required incentives will be launched. Appropriate policies will also be put in place to ensure their effective role in decision making.

#### **5.16 Capital formation and investment in agriculture for diversification:**

**5.16.1** The strategy under this policy emphasizes major efforts towards diversification of agriculture. But diversification is not to be viewed parochially in terms of crops alone but would encompass composite agriculture having crops, horticulture,

livestock, fisheries and secondary agriculture. Farmers and rural people would be motivated and enabled to adopt all related means and practices for increased incomes and better livelihoods. Towards meeting this objective, there is a need to not only augment but also to re-structure the pattern of investment in agriculture. Steps would be taken to improve capital formation in agriculture through both Public and Private Sectors. Switching from traditional crop cultivation to horticulture, for example, would require more investments on cold chain including cold storage, warehouses, processing units, and marketing network, along with general facilities such as rural roads, provision of electricity, communication, etc. simultaneously, efforts will be needed to revitalize agriculture through use of new cutting edge technologies such bio-technology, precision agriculture, nanotechnology etc. and up scaling of innovations. This would require substantial increase in investment on research and development in agriculture. To ensure speedy growth, all efforts will be made to increase capital investment in agriculture.

#### **5.17 Organizational and Management Reforms**

**5.17.1** Change is difficult but change we must. Organizational and management reforms are difficult to decide and implement but these do bring about great impact. For example, market reforms are greatly needed but very little is being done and implemented. Farmers need to be linked to markets. They need to have a role in deciding the price of a commodity and be enabled to do so through cooperative, self help groups

(SHGs) and civil societies. The decision making process in the Government has to be devolved. Several powers could be delegated to lower rungs of the government structure. The PME (priority setting, monitoring and evaluation) cells will have to be established and wherever already established may be revisited and strengthened for better performance. The outcome and impact assessment also needs to be carried out.

**5.17.2** Starting of new initiatives may be based on felt need and may involve the stakeholders, mostly the farmers. It should be meticulously done through proper methodology and appraisals rather than on individual perceptions.

**5.17.3** In the area of extension, Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) would henceforth work in unison. There should be a special cadre, well trained for extension purpose. Private extension also needs encouragement. There is a need to avoid duplication or overlap of institutional mandate and structures. The lack of complementarity and united client focus will be addressed.

**5.17.4** Increased use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) is needed in all endeavors including governance. Little institutional reform has occurred in public sector agriculture research or extension that allows it to cater effectively to changing demands for agricultural innovations. Structures and mechanisms such as Pulse Development Board, Centre for Abiotic Stress Management and Climate Change, Seed Cooperatives through a specific Act, Nursery Act, related subordinate legislations etc.

need to be considered as appropriate and as needed. A coordinating mechanism is needed to have complementarities between different components of agriculture and related sectors.

## **6. ROAD MAP FOR IMPLEMENTATION:**

### **6.1 Food and Nutritional Security to be addressed through:**

**6.1.1** Accelerated growth in the production of food grains, vegetables and fruits to meet increasing demand. The increase should be more in case of coarse grains to meet the energy requirements of those below poverty line (BPL) at affordable rates.

**6.1.2** Special emphasis will be given to increase the production and productivity of pulses and oil seed crops, in which the state has a comparative advantage.

**6.1.3** Increasing production of horticultural products, animal products and other components of food, in line with specific needs and demand.

**6.1.4** Enhancing productivity of all food commodities to keep the cost of production at reasonable level. This would warrant upgrading technologies and increasing investment in agriculture. Research should emphasize more on producing nutritionally rich varieties of food commodities.

**6.1.5** Increasing the purchasing power of the masses, particularly of the poor and weaker sections of the society.

**6.1.6** Improving post harvest management and marketing of food crops.

## **6.2 Management of Land Resources**

**6.2.1** A high level policy-cum-coordination committee will be constituted to look into the issues of Land reforms and scientific land use planning, water and other inputs including credit. Representatives of the Agriculture University, animal husbandry, agriculture, water resources, power and revenue departments will be the members of this committee under the chairmanship of Minister of Agriculture.

**6.2.2** Land use should be delineated on the basis of arid, semi-arid and assured irrigated areas. Land must be allocated for different uses based on land capability, land productivity and production goals. GIS and Land Use Planning will be given high priority so that required reorientation is ensured for some of the non-scientific cropping systems, especially in the arid lands of the State, including Indira Gandhi Canal command areas.

**6.2.3** Cropping pattern and mixed farming will be planned on the basis of suitability of land for growing food crops, cereals, high value crops e.g. fruits, aromatic and medicinal plants, etc. rotational grazing by animal / livestock and stall feeding will be promoted to prevent degradation of grasslands.

**6.2.4** District and village Panchayat level soil health maps (including salinity/alkalinity, micro-nutrients etc.) will be prepared for integrated farming system development and higher productivity/sustainability. Extensive efforts will be made to improve the soil health. Deficient zones in the micro nutrients such as zinc, sulphur, iron etc. will be demarcated for correcting the nutrient imbalance. Use of gypsum for both reclamation

and as basic nutrient for oilseeds and pulses will be given high priority. For this, 1.00 lakh MT of gypsum per year will be targeted for distribution among farmers at subsidized rates. All farmers in the State shall be provided soil health cards in next five years. Farmers will be advised to use fertilizers as per their soil test recommendations.

**6.2.5** Organic farming, with special emphasis on horticultural crops will be promoted. Main emphasis will be given on cultivation of organic seed spices and medicinal crops for export promotion. Contract farming will also be promoted for improving income and market access of the farmers in the region.

**6.2.6** Area and Production will be increased through effective implementation of reclamation of saline, alkaline and barren lands.

## **6.3. Water Management Including Dryland Agriculture**

**6.3.1** The policy will strive for efficient management of all sources of water i.e. surface water, groundwater and rain water. It will promote water saving devices like drips, sprinkler, in-situ rain water conservation and other farm practices for efficient and optimal utilization of each drop of water.

**6.3.2** Efforts will be made to harmonize with the recommendations as given in the *Rajasthan State Water Policy prepared by the State Water Resources Planning Department (2010)* which addresses issues related to integrated water resource management, water resources infrastructure, water conservation, water quality,

micro-irrigation, capacity building and research relevant for use in irrigated agriculture with focus on efficient use of water and optimum utilization of surface, ground and rainwater.

**6.3.3** Special attention will be given on harnessing the rain water especially in arid and semi-arid parts of the state. Present level of rain water use is 33 percent. Time bound programme will be prepared for increasing the use of rain water. Emphasis will be given on promotion of water harvesting structure and suitable water conveyance system. Construction of water reservoirs or '*diggies*' in canal command areas will be supported with installation of sprinklers and drips. Construction of large number of diggies and farm ponds ('*khet-talai*') will be targeted in a time-bound manner and electric connections will be provided on priority at normal rates for efficient use of harvested rain water by adopting drip irrigation system. Fisheries, wherever feasible, will be promoted in these water harvesting and storage structures by providing technical know-how and fish seed. To complement the State Water Policy, efforts will be made to promote micro-irrigation such as drip and sprinkler. It is proposed to cover all functional wells and the canal command areas under drip / sprinkler irrigation system. Piped water conveyance will be promoted to reduce the water conveyance losses. To check seepage losses in canal command areas incentives will be provided for construction of cemented channels. Awareness building and education of farmers for water saving and efficient use of water, including conjunctive use of surface and ground water will be promoted. Efforts will be made to increase cropping intensity from 125 percent to 160 percent.

**6.3.4** Dryland agriculture, in particular, will be addressed through proper crop planning/crop substitution for aberrant weather conditions; efficient cropping and farming systems; use of efficient farm implements and promotion of alternate land use systems *viz.*, agro-forestry, pasture development, silvi-pastoral systems, agri-horticulture will be undertaken in association with the institutions/agencies concerned.

**6.3.5** All agriculture development in rainfed areas will be planned and implemented on a watershed basis. All plans will be prepared on the basis of individual agro-climatic zone. Drought management, including contingent cropping strategy and the seed bank will be given due emphasis for rainfed agriculture.

**6.3.6** Special attention will be focused on water quality and receding ground water levels in certain areas due to over exploitation/withdrawal. Participatory community irrigation management will be popularized and encouraged through Water User Associations (WUAs). To recharge the underground water, effective water recharge schemes will be prepared and executed by Ground Water Department.

**6.3.7** A legislation to prohibit ground water exploitation for any purpose without prior Government approval will be brought about for the areas falling under "dark-zone".

**6.3.8** Incentives will be provided to popularize good agriculture practices such as micro-irrigation, watershed management, conservation agriculture, use of integrated pest management, use of certified seeds etc. Disincentives will be put

in place to discourage undesirable practices such as growing of water intensive crops, irrigation through flooding, etc. more subsidies on sprinkler, drip system and electric motor / diesel pump sets may be considered to popularize their use.

**6.3.9** Water quality maps for irrigation water will be prepared and recommendations for their efficient use will be provided.

**6.3.10** Efforts will be made to utilize MNREGA funds for soil and water conservation, development of Goshalas, development of land and other agriculture operations.

#### **6.4 Enhanced Availability of Quality Seed and Planting Material:**

**6.4.1** Production of quality seeds of high yielding/improved varieties and hybrids, which are disease resistant and of short duration, will be taken on priority.

**6.4.2** Seed production and supply of planting material in the State by the private sector will be promoted after ensuring quality and reasonable cost.

**6.4.3** Incentives to plant breeders will be provided for evolving varieties/hybrids of cereals, oilseed, pulses, seed spices, medicinal plants and other major crops suitable for the different agro climatic zones in the State.

**6.4.4** More emphasis will be given to achieve the Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) to the optimum level. The average SRR of '*kharif*' crops is presently 27 percent and that of '*rabi*' crops is 33 percent. Efforts will be made to double SRR i.e. to around 50 percent in '*kharif*' and 70 percent in '*rabi*' crops

along with seed spices in next 10 years. The targeted SRR for hybrids of all crops has to be around 100 percent. Therefore all necessary efforts will be made to provide seed of high yielding varieties to farmers in sufficient quantity at affordable rates.

**6.4.5** Farmers' participatory seed production will be promoted. Seed co-operatives of the farmers will be encouraged.

**6.4.6** Seed village scheme will be promoted for seed production and foundation seed producer/agency will be made responsible for quality of the seed.

**6.4.7** Hybrid seed production of Bajra, Maize, and Cotton in the State will be encouraged and research support would be provided for the development of the varieties and seeds of State specific crops.

**6.4.8** An effective policy for production and sale of seed will be put in place in the State. A basic training of specific duration will be made compulsory for input dealers. Shops/plots will be provided in Krishi Upaj Mandies/fruit mandies to unemployed agriculture graduates for sale of agricultural inputs by issuing licenses to them on priority.

**6.4.9** Fish seed will be made available to farmers in sufficient quantity and incentives will be provided for fish farming.

**6.4.10** The availability of quality seed of fodder crops like bajra, jowar, lucerne, Berseem, kasni, oat, etc. will be ensured.

## **6.5. Integrated Nutrient Management**

**6.5.1** Availability of nutrients for increased crop production to the farmers will be ensured on the basis of Soil health cards.

**6.5.2** The farmers will be motivated to use organic/bio-fertilizers for improving the soil health. The State will take up a massive drive for organic recycling and use of bio-fertilizers. The services of private sector and new entrepreneurs will be ensured for this purpose and needed incentives will be provided.

**6.5.3** Farmers will be motivated and incentive provided for use of crop residues / organic material, green manuring, crop rotations involving legumes, etc. to improve the physical and nutrients status of the soil.

**6.5.4** All out efforts will be directed towards improving fertilizer use efficiency.

**6.5.5** Incentives will be provided to the farmers for recycling of crops residue in soil.

## **6.6 Promoting Organic farming**

**6.6.1** In view of the increased international trade in organic food and allied products, organic farming will be promoted in rainfed regions specially for crops, herbs, horticultural crops and livestock products having international demand. Technical support for registration and certification of organic produce/farming will be provided.

**6.6.2** Develop appropriate policy instruments for the farmers engaged in organic farming in rainfed areas such as: subsidized inputs, market information, certification of organic produce and proper marketing facilities etc.

**6.6.3** Efforts will be made to create awareness and capacity building of farmers regarding cultivation, harvesting, grading and standardization, certification and marketing of organic produce, including their value addition.

## **6.7. Integrated Pest Management and Good Agricultural Practices**

**6.7.1** Integrated Pest Management Centres will be created in every Zone for the study of behaviour and emergence of pests, diseases and weeds.

**6.7.2** The management of pests, diseases and weeds will be ensured through subsidized agro-chemicals, especially biological agents. The State policy will encourage needed incentives for organizing season-wise field schools on pest management of different crops and for organizing training camps at Panchayat level to train farmers for the use of bio-agents / bio-pesticides.

**6.7.3** Incentives will be provided to entrepreneurs/ agri-clinic ventures for production of bio-control agents and bio-pesticides.

**6.7.4** Residues in soil and agricultural products shall be minimized. A pesticide residue testing laboratory shall be created particularly for crops, fruits and vegetables. Agro-chemicals particularly pesticides will be recommended strictly as per registration by the GOI and as per the related label claim. Only those chemicals which have short duration effect on environment, and which have no residual effect on final produce, shall be promoted.

**6.7.5** Advisories will be issued to the farmers for good agricultural practices.

## **6.8. Farm Mechanization**

**6.8.1** All animal driven agricultural implements have been exempted from VAT. To motivate more use of such implements, payment of subsidy on purchase of such implements may be considered. Cultivators, particularly small & marginal farmers and farm women will be motivated and given improved farm tools for timely operations and to reduce labour cost as well as drudgery.

**6.8.2** A Production-cum-Testing Centre of improved tools/machines will be established in the State.

**6.8.3** Zero tillage machines, reapers, seed-cum-fertilizer drill, laser land levellers, baling machines, rotavator, grading equipments, solar dryer, small processing units, solar pump-sets, bio-gas and farm implements would be popularized as a matter of priority by providing sufficient incentives.

**6.8.4** For manpower training and capacity building in the field of farm mechanization, necessary workshops/ institutions will be established/ promoted.

## **6.9. Diversification**

**6.9.1** Overall diversification in agriculture would be promoted to ensure integrated farming system around crops, horticulture (including vegetables), livestock, backyard poultry, fisheries and also secondary agriculture related activities.

**6.9.2** Greater emphasis will be laid to popularize mixed farming/inter cropping, especially in the rainfed areas.

**6.9.3** Diversification of crops from more to less water requiring crops, especially low volume high

value crops will be encouraged. Farmers will be motivated to grow horticultural crops, medicinal & aromatic plants, seed spices, fodder crops, agro-forestry and livestock rearing. Since the State has comparative advantage in arid horticulture, cultivation of *Ber*, Pomegranate, *Bael*, *Aonla*, Datepalm, *Gonda*, *Ker*, *Sangari*, *Karonda* etc. will be promoted in arid and semi arid regions. Sericulture, bee keeping, mushroom production will also be encouraged.

**6.9.4** In order to economically empower the farmers, vegetable cultivation will be promoted in a big way which would also lead to generation of additional employment. To insulate farmers from price fluctuations, cold storage and cool chain will be promoted. In addition, processing and value addition and linking farmers with markets will receive high priority.

**6.9.5** Improved agricultural techniques especially protected cultivation (green houses, poly-houses, shed nets, low tunnels) will be promoted by providing adequate incentives and capacity building of farmers & agricultural extension workers will be carried out for effective dissemination of these improved agro techniques.

**6.9.6** Desert has peculiar fauna and flora. Medicinal plants found in this harsh climate need to be exploited for their medicinal value. Efforts will be made to characterize these specific plants for their commercial use as well as for conservation. The efforts will be aligned to the directives and provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 of the GOI as also with the activities of the State Biodiversity Board, which shall be made fully functional soon.

## **6.10. Support for Insurance**

**6.10.1** To protect farmers against crop losses, due to failure of monsoon or other natural calamities (floods, frost, hailstorm), National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and/or weather based insurance would be promoted throughout the State for all crops. Strategy to provide compensation for losses against natural calamities will be devised using village as a minimum unit rather than a block. Insurance will also be encouraged for livestock, especially for milch animals.

## **6.11 Extension Services**

**6.11.1** Special efforts will be made to revitalize the extension system in the public sector by recruitment of needed man power at village / Panchayat Samiti/ District Level. To ensure this adequate manpower support in form of Agriculture Supervisor and Assistant Agriculture Officers will be provided. Technological support for programmes of ATMA shall be provided by KVK and holistic delivery of technical knowledge, skill and expertise will be ensured.

**6.11.2** Vocational training to the farmers, farm women and the rural youth, practicing agriculture will be given a high priority for enhanced livelihoods and higher incomes. Special focus will be on finding technological solutions to the field problems through farmers' participatory mode.

**6.11.3** Along with crop management and protected cultivation, programme of animal husbandry, poultry, sheep-goat rearing, dairy, will be executed and training will be provided to farmers for this purpose.

**6.11.4** The pre-seasonal *Kharif* and *Rabi* training camps for dissemination of technology popularly known as Krishi Gyan Evam Aadan Shivir or Krishi Abhiyan, will be institutionalized in which besides Agriculture, horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Credit Institutions and University Scientists /KVKs will be actively involved for solution to the farmers' problems besides providing inputs like seeds and fertilizers at gram panchayat level.

**6.11.5** Establishment of the Kisan Seva Kendra at Panchayat level will be a major activity.

**6.11.6** Private sector will be encouraged to complement/supplement and work in partnership with public extension system. Media and communication system, including the use of cell phones shall be promoted under new extension regime. Additionally the input dealers will be provided knowledge about the new technologies for further dissemination of information to the farming community. For this, networking of all the sub-district level offices with the State head quarter will be ensured to serve farmers from all over the State and all the technical messages, advisories and market information will be disseminated on regular basis. Overall, the entire extension system will be revamped and energized.

**6.11.7** Establishment of farmers' schools and Rural Technology Centers at Panchayat level, Agri-clinics and agri-business enterprise by the agriculture graduates and MBA (Agri-Business) will be given importance. For enhancing small farm productivity and farm income, location

specific appropriate technologies and innovations would be up- scaled and extended to farmers. Knowledge empowerment of the farmers will be aimed through the use of ICT, mobile phone, and also through a dedicated TV channel on agriculture, which should exclusively cover agriculture and allied areas, including agro-processing, agri-business and rural development.

**6.11.8** Regular training/capacity building programmes for Agriculture Supervisors, Assistant Agriculture Officers and other Officer will be conducted to update technical know-how and skills in new technology both in agriculture and horticulture

## **6.12. Infrastructure Facilities and capital formation**

**6.12.1** Capital formation in agriculture will be encouraged both in public and private sector. Adequate facilities will be created for developing markets exclusively for farmers, with infrastructure such as roads, cold chain, warehousing etc. towards faster movement and safe storage of agriculture produce.

**6.12.2** The State will encourage installation of green houses on large scale for vegetable production.

**6.12.3** Credit availability will be ensured on the goods pledged under pledge loan scheme. Private sector will be encouraged to set up Agro-processing units in the State for which incentives and single window delivery will be ensured. While investments by the public sector will be increased, private sector will also be encouraged to create assets for capital formation in agriculture and rural sector.

**6.12.4** To generate employment opportunities in rural areas, incentive will be provided to unemployed agricultural graduates/Diploma holders/Paravets/Para-agriculturists/para-horticulturist for establishing small industries, cottage industries and agro-centres on the basis of need and availability of resources.

**6.12.5** Institutes for manpower training and R & D purposes will be established in western and south western Rajasthan and in other areas as felt necessary to capitalize on comparative advantage of the region for agro-processing and post-harvest management of agri-produce.

**6.12.6** Emphasis will be given to teaching of agriculture. To achieve this, beginning of agriculture as a subject may be considered at the secondary and higher secondary level, wherever adequate number of students are available. In villages, cooperative institutions will be strengthened / established for marketing and value addition of agriculture produce so as to generate more income to the small farmers.

**6.12.7** All efforts will be made to ensure that during the peak periods, the farmers get uninterrupted supply of electricity. Wherever 'diggies' / farm ponds are built on subsidy, the electricity connections will be provided expeditiously and on priority.

**6.12.8** The State enjoys a major share and export advantage in guar and several seed spices crops like coriander, fenugreek and cumin etc. associations in export business will be promoted for value addition and export of such agricultural produce.

**6.12.9** A communication network for all major 'mandies' will be established to provide useful market information to the farmers vis-à-vis exportable surplus, international marketing centers, prices, possible links etc.

**6.12.10** State crop credit refinance facilities will be established to ensure easy access of credit to farmers at lower interest rates.

**6.12.11** Incentives will be provided to develop Hariyali Market and other Agricultural Stores for easy access to agriculture inputs like seed, fertilizer, plant protection chemicals and improved implements by the farmers at a single point.

**6.12.12** Single window facility for testing of soil, water, seed, fertilizer, pesticide, and oil percentage in oilseed crops will be established at district level in a phased manner under Public Private Partnership.

### **6.13. Strengthening Agricultural Research and Education**

**6.13.1** State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), unlike traditional universities, have teaching, research and extension functions and are chiefly responsible for the development of new technologies, their assessment, refinement and dissemination. Hence, SAUs should be given required autonomy and should be fully supported financially for recruitment of the full faculty including for regional stations, and also for a state of the art infrastructure by the State Government. Some portion of Rural Development Fund, *Mandi* Cess or similar sources would be specifically earmarked to support agriculture universities, as is being done in the States of Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.

**6.13.2** Considering importance of agricultural research for inclusive growth and development, the State will accord highest priority and adequate additional resources will be allocated to State Agricultural Universities for promoting research work to ensure inclusive growth and development.

**6.13.3** State-specific agricultural research system will be revisited and re-oriented to achieve desired goals for sustainable agriculture. Currently, the agricultural research system is mainly dependent and directed by the All India Coordinated Programs of ICAR and other externally funded schemes. Hence, adequate financial support will be provided to the State Agriculture Universities for meeting their requirements for research, teaching and extension activities rather than completely relying on outside agencies. Up-scaling of technologies will be ensured for large scale adoption in crops, livestock, horticulture, fisheries, agro-forestry and agro-processing sectors of agriculture.

**6.13.4** Agricultural research on developing disease free, short duration, multi-purpose and stress tolerant varieties will receive high priority. Research on water and fertilizer use efficiency, non-conventional minor fruits and vegetable crops, along with conventional minor fruits and vegetable crops will be promoted. Development of hybrids especially in vegetable crops, pigeon pea and mustard will be strengthened. Validation of farmer-led innovations and Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) will be accorded high priority at SAUs, KVKs and ATCs. Special

emphasis will also be on research to develop new varieties of fodder crops.

**6.13.5** Universities will be provided support to organize diploma / paravet / para-agriculturist / para-horticulturist certificate courses for generating skilled middle level man power in the State.

**6.13.6** Global climate change is indeed a burning issue. Research support would be provided to take care of issues related to adaptation and climate change mitigation. A Centre on Climate Change and Abiotic Stress Management shall also be established.

**6.13.7** Support for value addition, agro- processing and proper storage of agri- produce will be specifically targeted. The State Government supported Centers on post-harvest management; processing and value addition will be created. In view of the tremendous role of biotechnology in productivity enhancement under biotic and abiotic stress, biotechnology research in the State shall be strengthened.

**6.13.8** In view of globalization in agriculture, both efficiency and resilience in agriculture will be the main goals of R & D in the State.

**6.13.9** For efficient up-scaling and technology dissemination, development of seed sector and water management public private partnership (PPP) will be encouraged and required enabling environment will be provided as matter of priority.

#### **6.14. Contingency Planning**

**6.14.1** The frequency and intensity of disasters such as droughts, floods, frost, etc. have increased

in the recent years. Effective and reliable information and communication systems, needed climate services, contingency planning and resources will be put in place and further strengthened.

**6.14.2** Using the remote sensing and GIS technologies, weather-based agro-advisories shall be given to the farmers on daily basis through internet/web-site and dedicated TV channel.

**6.14.3** Seed banks for drought tolerant and short duration crops will be established as a measure of contingency planning.

**6.14.4** Fodder banks will be established on the basis of animal population and frequency of famines experienced in different districts of the State.

**6.14.5** Special emphasis will be laid on fodder production and for conservation & development of pasture lands in the State.

#### **6.15. Marketing:**

**6.15.1** Department of Agriculture Marketing will be responsible to provide all marketing facilities to the farmers to get best returns for their agriculture produce. The Central Model Act for marketing will also be adopted by the State. Rajasthan Agriculture Produce Market Act, 1961 will be amended and contract farming, direct purchase, establishment of mandi yard through cooperative and private sector, single license and private E-Sub Market will be effectively implemented in the state. Weighing of agricultural produce at mandies will be ensured through electronic /digital balance.

**6.15.2** Information on competitive market prices will be made available to the farmers. Presently minimum support price (MSP) is not prescribed for several crops that are specific to the State. Government of India will be requested to declare MSPs for State specific crops like moth, guar, coriander, cumin, etc. in addition, GOI will be approached to distribute QPM maize, pearl millet and minor millets in the PDS system to improve nutritional security of the beneficiaries. Streamlining of purchase of crop produce at MSP will be done.

**6.15.3** A Bureau of Standards will be established at the State level to ensure easy accessibility to certification agency. Conducive environment will be created for the establishment of grading and standardization facilities in the agricultural produce markets with private sector participation.

**6.15.4** Strengthening and expansion of warehouses and cold chain management systems will be ensured.

**6.15.5** Formation of farmers / producers SHGs / CIGs for marketing of agriculture produce on line of MAHAGRAPES or MAHAMANGO in Maharashtra will be emphasized.

**6.15.6** Cooperative marketing system through GSS, KVSS, Rajfed etc. will be strengthened.

**6.15.7** Institutional mechanisms will be provided and facilities for export promotion will be created; particularly adhering to SPS regulations and standards by linking the efforts of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), groups and federations of industries, State Government and related R&D organizations.

**6.15.8** Strategic alliance with major super markets and mega markets will be made to cater to the needs of these markets for marketing of fresh produce. Use of unemployed rural man power, as also agriculture graduates, will be ensured in these endeavors.

**6.15.9** State Horticulture Co-operative Marketing Federation will be established to promote the export of horticultural products viz. fruits, vegetables, medicinal plants, seed spices, flowers etc.

**6.15.10** For the sale of certified organic agriculture produce, specific shops /sale points will be allotted to farmer groups, agricultural co-operative societies, agricultural organization, agriculture graduates at concessional rates in mandies and incentive will be provided for transportation and storage of certified organic agriculture produce.

**6.15.11** GOI will be approached for establishing Special Agri-Export Zone in the State for organic products, as well as, state specific crops.

## **6.16. Credit Support:**

**6.16.1** Availability of easy credit at lower interest rate for agriculture and allied sector will be ensured through Rural Banks, Co-operative Banks and village level Co-operative Societies as per the need of the farmers. Also the share of agriculture advances in the total advances by the Commercial Banks is to be made at par with the Co-operative Banks. Further, the share of investment credit is less as compared to short term loan, which will be enhanced. Credit support to the needy farmers to meet essential agriculture related requirements will be ensured. Credit

availability will also be ensured on the goods pledged under pledge loan scheme. Special monitoring of the efforts put in by the Banks to extend credit support to small/marginal/ landless farmers will be done.

**6.16.2** Loaning procedure will be simplified for timely availability of the loan along with provisions to mortgage a part of land for loan amount instead of mortgaging entire land of the Khatadari Account/farmer. Present limit of KCC will be increased on the basis of prevailing market rates of land.

**6.16.3** To protect the horticultural crops from wild animals the provision will be made for loan from banks and for subsidy on wire fencing / fencing under different schemes.

**6.16.4** For those making timely re-payments, subsidy in the form of a part of the loan amount will be provided to the farmers / farmer groups who have purchased tractors and other heavy farm machineries or built farm infrastructural facilities like rain water harvesting structures, wells/tube wells, godowns, irrigation channels, farm fencing etc. by taking loan.

### **6.17. Women Empowerment**

**6.17.1** Development and promotion of women friendly drudgery reducing implements, trainings for skill up-gradation, formation of SHGs of women, improved skills, credit linkages and their mobilization for economic empowerment will be targeted. Besides, incentives to women for undertaking education in agriculture discipline will be encouraged and promoted in a time bound manner. Special provisions and programme will be

prepared to encourage women participation in agricultural sector.

### **6.18. Sources of funding**

**6.18.1** The main sources of funding will be the State Government through its Department of Agriculture and Central Sector Schemes like those of Department of Agriculture & Co-operation, GOI, ICAR and others. In the Annual Plan 2014-15, 10% plan expenditure will be made on agriculture and allied activities. The expenditure will be reviewed from time to time and appropriately increased during current five year plan. A portion of funds from Rural Development Schemes and Cess on '*Mandi*' sales (at least 1 percent) shall also be made available for strategic action plans proposed and particularly for strengthening Agricultural Universities (AUs) through creation of a separate budget line. The Government will specifically launch some special mega-projects to implement this policy. The Government will also approach external funding agencies like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Global Environment Facility (GEF) etc. for projects related to agricultural development. For other location specific projects of relatively small magnitude, the Government may allocate the State and Central funds, along with those received from NABARD, DST, DBT etc. and may also dovetail the developmental activities with other related schemes such as MNREGA, NHM, RKVY, NFSM, BRGF etc. Incentives and enabling environment will also be provided to the Private Sector for increasing their long term investment through capital formation in agriculture.

## **7. THE THRUST OF THE POLICY:**

### **7.1 The thrust of this policy will be to serve as a vehicle to:**

**7.1.1** Align all related components of agricultural growth with fullest support of all concerned.

**7.1.2** Lead to increased farm systems' productivity yet maintaining agricultural sustainability.

**7.1.3** Promote secondary agriculture including on-farm and off-farm opportunities through value

chain and entrepreneurship development, thus creating gainful employment in rural and semi-urban areas.

**7.1.4** Make state agriculture globally competitive.

**7.1.5** Ensure conservation of natural resources and provide both healthy and safe environment.

**7.1.6** Bring an overall farm prosperity in Rajasthan State.

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