

Minutes of the Annual Technical Meeting of all Centres Heads of SLUSI on 5th & 6th April, 2018

A Annual Technical Meeting of the Head of the Offices of SLUSI was held on **5th & 6th April, 2018** at HQ office of SLUSI under the chairmanship of Shri Pankaj Tyagi, Director (NRM/RFS) & Chief Soil Survey Officer of Soil & Land Use Survey of India, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, New Delhi to review the technical and administrative matters with special emphasis on reviewing the progress of achievements made in respect of Physical Targets, monitoring of completed PMKSY projects and Soil Health Card (SHC) sampling allotted to different centres for the year 2017-18.

On 5th April, 2018 Shri Pankaj Tyagi, Chief Soil Survey Officer & Director (NRM/RFS), after welcomed all heads of office, opened up the discussion on newly initiated work of **monitoring and collating the work preparation of crop plan** in 7 completed projects under **PMKSY** and soil sampling & analysis for **Validation of Soil Health Card data**. In the second phase, the work of sampling has been completed in 13 states of country. He provided the guidance on systematic collection of information on irrigation potential created in every project and emphasised that the field party deputed should map, as to how much area actually getting water in total command created in red and green colour respectively along with information of soils classification and also should provide photographs along with location information of point. The field work also should map type of work left or not completed in each of the project. He also apprised the HOO that apart from mentioning lat-long information of points with state, district and village name, other information (in photograph) of nearest canal /distributary/channels. on samples. He stressed need for collection of the crop samples in field to estimate organic carbon through **Carbon sequestration and storage** (Terrestrial carbon sequestration) content in plant under various cropping pattern also needs to be assessed for each sample collected in field. He spells out need for increasing frequency of meeting to monitor the progress of centre, essentially required to assess the work done by centre to clear pendency soil survey reports along with physical targets of survey and mapping. He also stressed need for and instructed the HOO for **Geo tagging** of soil point and polygon information using appropriate model in near future. While taking review of pendency of soil survey reports he reminded the participant of agreed resolution of last meeting for complete elimination of pendency during this year to make SLUSI pendency free.

In the review of achievements of field targets of survey, he emphasises that target of field survey must be increased to bring efficiency in working of organization and to increase the area coverage at faster rate in DSS. He also apprised, that targets of consultancy services further increase the output of organization in terms of physical target achievements. But he warns all HOO that officers /officials while accomplishing task must focus on the quality of map and as today all data generation activities area being done in digital environment, providing real time information to the users. He also shared his feeling, that it is the prime duty of SLUSI to provide accurate and precise data essentially required for various soil and land management program and also to improve the performances and delivery of output on time.

He appeals all HOO to be vigilant in accomplishing the task of preparation of crop plan in completed PMKSY projects and in validation of Soil Health Card data as it is an opportunity for SLUSI to associate among the user state departments and fulfil the realistic need of farming communities. This work of soil sample collection should not hamper the targets allotted to the centres as this work shall be accomplished during non-field seasons. On the digitization of SLUSI he apprised that every activity of organization is shifted in digital environment and with the appointment of new AFOs in organization will boost the transformation as they are of new techno-savvy generation.

On 6th April 2018, **Chief Soil Survey Officer** welcomed the newly joined **Joint Secretary (RFS)** Dr. B. Kishore and apprised him of activities of SLUSI, such as development of Micro Watershed Atlas of country and work in Soil Health Card & crop plan preparation in PMKSY. The Joint Secretary appreciated the work of SLUSI has point out that all government department must work collectively to achieve or to make remarkable progress in agriculture development. He emphasized need for collaborating on the results and findings of survey work with state and district level government administration to achieve sustainable increase in crop production. He also put forward views mainly to focus attention on not to repeat work of soils and land data base generation as carried in other organization. In this regard, the CSSO apprised Joint Secretary regarding SLUSI's pioneering contribution in field of Watershed development planning right from its delineation and codification and also in work of Detailed Soil Survey and Soil Resource Mapping etc. The Joint Secretary, applauded the efforts resulted in earning of more than one crore earning as revenue generation in consultancy services and sale of data during 2017-18. He promised that all efforts will be made to create revolving funds for SLUSI to make organization self-reliant through diverting the revenue generated in consultancy services and sale of data.

The Centre Heads made their presentation of the achievements made in respect of physical targets allotted during the year 2017-18 on both 5th and 6th April 2018. The action plan for crop plan preparation under PMKSY, Soil Health Card data, soil laboratory investigation and cartography section year 2018-19 was also discussed in detail. The strategy for achieving soil survey targets, clearance of pending reports, development of seamless state-wise Micro-Watershed Atlas and short duration course/training programs for user departments were also discussed.

After an exhaustive discussion on technical and administrative issues, following action points were emerged in the meeting:

1. **In the review of the progress report for preparation of crop plan in the command areas of completed irrigation projects under PMKSY Mission.** It was decided and agreed upon by all HOO that in monitoring and collating the information in field work shall involves information of release of water, percent area covered to the total command created assessed through release of water, Progress for baseline survey area, Progress in preparation of crop plan. The CSSO advised all HOO to take photographs with latitude & longitude information of profile pit observation and canal/distributary status should also be furnished in the report.

(Actions: HQ & all Centres)

2. **In the review of progress of State wise Micro-Watershed Atlas of country.** CSSO has instructed to complete the work of generation of micro watershed atlas of J & K and Odisha by May-June, 2018. CSSO also sought the information on the proposed interventions can be planned sub /micro-watershed basis on current hydrologic information using Remote sensing data for entire state and instructed ASSO, HQ to take up the work at RSC, Noida for planning hydrologic intervention in states and also to prepare the seamless MWS atlas of country.

(Actions: HQ & RSC, Noida)

3. **With regard to aligning the activity of organization to sub-scheme of reclamation of problematic soils,** CSSO directed all HOO to contact the respective departmental heads in each state dealing in reclamation of problematic soils and to take up the work of detailed soil survey for **identification and mapping of area under salt affected, acidic and problematic soils.** He also told that SLUSI will act as nodal agency for identification of area and also will do monitoring work in the evaluation of measures taken to reclaim the problematic soils in all states of country. **He urged to take the work of assessment of problematic soils on priority basis in mission mode.**

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

4. All the HOO has agreed and decided to continue with strategy to take new project funded by user departments either for generation of database on soil & land uses or monitoring of state program on watershed. At present only Noida, Nagpur and Bengaluru centre doing project in consultancy mode. CSSO instructed all Centre Heads to take up the matter earnestly and make first move for contacting user dept. in the area under centres jurisdiction. The CSSO also assure full support and cooperation from headquarter.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

5. To provide boost to digital initiative the decision for **Geo-tagging of soil points & polygon information after digitization of soil survey report & maps and geo-referencing of digitized reports maps data has been accepted unanimously.** The work of selection of formats and model for uploading viz: NRSC and /or Gujarat or other suitable model has been assigned to Senior System Analyst with ASSO head quarter. Similarly, it was also agreed to complete the work of uploading micro-watersheds atlas of remaining states of country on SLUSI websites. The responsibility of uploading has given to Remote Sensing cell, Noida.

(Actions: RSC, Noida & HQ)

6. **It has also been agreed to build climate resilient agriculture through Terrestrial sequestration CO₂ involves the capture and storage of carbon dioxide by plants and the storage of carbon in soil.** As a measure of promoting and preserving Terrestrial carbon sequestration capacity associated with the land management practices of an existing plot of land. It has been decided to collect the samples from crop plants in each profile/mini pit observation point to develop the database on CO₂ sequestration potential for crop /plantation/forest species. The terrestrial sequestration is serving as a practically feasible and ecological viable technology that is being used to sequester carbon dioxide.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

7. **It was agreed to take up the work of Validation of Soil Health Card data in third phase in summer as per requirement of INM division. It has confirmed that the sampling and analysis of soils in thirteen states taken up in first two phases have been completed.** Head of the Offices must ensure all the norms being followed strictly in term of quality of field work and all necessary precaution to be taken care of in accomplishing every task of project.

(Actions: HQ and All Centres)

8. As measure of **increase efficiency and soil survey output** from field party, all heads of offices **agreed to increase the target for field work up to 50K hectare per party per month from April 2018.** All HOO was also agreed to correlate data interpretation with details of previous field work and also correlates the old soil and other ancillary data, before sending parties in field. Similarly, the head of office/review officer shall scrutinize the work of on screen pre-field interpretation and shall decides number of physiographies /observations required to be taken during field trip to decide period of stay of survey party in field and also about number of field parties to be deployed. **The same also be intimate to the head quarter in writing that the work of pre field interpretation has been thoroughly checked and the about number of physiographic units established of and mapping target.** It is also being advised to ensure all the norms being followed strictly in term of quality of field work, number of days of stay in the field, number of profiles studied etc.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

9. In efforts to **completely finish entire pendency of report of survey work in the organization during 2018-19.** The action plan of all the Heads of the centers were reviewed for clearing pendency of soil survey reports. CSSO has directed the SSO Ahmadabad and

Ranchi centre to personally report about steps taken for preparation of drafts of reports pending in centres by 15th April 2018 and also dispensed caution to personally devote time to finish off the report and also ask them to report about it in first week of May 2018 by personal presence. **In this respect CSSO has also lay an emphasis on increasing frequency of HOO meeting on regular basis.**

(Actions: HQ & all Centres)

10. It has also decided to carry on with decision agreed last year to organise one user's training at each centre to enhance the skilled technical man power and for updating of the knowledge of officers working in various user departments.

It is also observed that Nagpur and Hyderabad centre did not organized training during 2017-18 due to the constraint of time, as the both centre has over burdened with activities of Soil Health card and preparation of crop plan in PMKSY apart from accomplishing their routine target of field work and report publication during **year 2017-18**. CSSO stated that the training work should be taken as opportunity to highlight the SLUSI work in soil survey and land use planning.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

11. In the review of the soil laboratory action plan submitted by centres. The CSSO instructed the heads to step up the laboratory infrastructure to achieve the target of survey and for analysing the samples for validation of soil and plant analysis work.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

12. In the efforts to address the grievances of all officials serving in organization, all heads were agreed to conduct the meeting of grievance committee at every Centre and will communicate the details of meeting to head quarter regular basis in the form of minutes of meeting every.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

13. In order to provide the details of field area studied under soil health card, preparation of crop plan in PMKSY and also to improve the quality of reports as agreed in last annual meeting regarding purchase of camera for field parties. CSSO instructed all HOO to send the proposal for procurement up to 15th April 2018 and to make available digital cameras to field parties and will send photographs of landscape and profile studied there for field ground truthing work to headquarter.

In this regard CSSO has advised all heads to send the requirement of camera with present availability if any at centre, to headquarter immediately. Similarly, on the issue of CCTV cameras CSSO instructed the centre heads to send proposal for purchase of CCTV in their respective centre.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

14. **It has agreed and decided in annual meeting that cartography staff of all the centres shall complete the scanning & digitization of old DSS/RRS maps upto March, 2019.** CSSO has instructed the Senior System Analyst and ASSO, HQ to prepare a detailed action plan regarding pending scanning & digitization of old DSS/RRS reports/maps in two phases (i.e. from April, 2018 to September, 2018 and October, 2018 to March, 2019) and distribute the reports to each centre accordingly. The review of the centre wise progress of first phase will be taken in the first week of October, 2018. The CSSO also calls for improving the efficiency & work output of cartographic division.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

15. It has been decided & directed to heads of offices to maintain strict vigil on the movement, leave of field officials to stop any un toward incident in field during the field season and also advised to order the field official that ***“No leave will be granted to any official in the field except in case of emergency and to ensure that no official shall proceed on leave before his/her replacement arrived in field station”*** that too after with the due permission of Centre Head under intimation to HQ office. CSSO instructed all the Centre Heads not to entertain any official on field duty directly or indirectly.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

16. With respect to one vehicle transferred from Delhi to Ranchi centre, the CSSO directed the SSO Ranchi to get register the vehicle at Ranch Transport authority as the term of first registration has already lapse. SSO, HQ intimated SSO, Ranchi to write a letter to Transport authority, Delhi for NOC in this regard.

(Actions: Ranchi centre)

17. With respect to the pending audit paras withstanding at centres, CSSO has directed all heads of offices to take decision within frame work of financial rule in the same year to get it dropped and to ensure timely compliance of the paras raised in audit.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

18. With respect number of court cases pending and coming at various centres from the present or ex-staff/officials of the organization, CSSO has instructed the heads of offices to be more concerned with the legitimate rights and welfare of officials and try to sort out the matter through healthy discussion so as to provide healthy environment for work by the officials and officers as the part of one family.

(Actions: HQ and all Centres)

19. Against the auctioned vehicles in the Department, it has been decided to prepare and submitted proposal of fifteen (15) numbers of vehicles Mahindra Bolero made for smooth functioning of field work in the Department. It is known that Department is facing shortage of vehicles for field work. However, the proposal has already been submitted for the same in the Ministry for approval of Competent Authority, but Ministry informed that the proposal could not be materialised and considered in the last financial year i.e. 2017-18 and also advised to submit the fresh proposal in 2018-19 financial year to consider the necessity of the vehicles in the Department.

(Action: HQ & Ministry)

20. It has brought to the notice by all heads, that centres are facing the shortage of Computer Hardware's and Software's like GIS licenses to meet the demand for work of cartography and newly recruited field officials in field survey and mapping. Due to this, the work of cartographic section suffers during field season as license/ licenses available at centres are completely utilized for pre/ post field activities. Due to this, the centres not able to make use of cartographic officials efficiently and indented need for new high end desktops workstation. It was decided that all centres shall put up their demand for new computer hardware along with requisite softwares to head quarter at the earliest and can procure it after the approval of competent authority to take up the work of field and cartography section smoothly and complete it within stipulated time.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

21. As decided in last annual meeting that **every centre shall publish at least two papers in national/international journal** on the departmental activity so as to take up accomplishments of the organization on scientific platform and serve the country's scientific needs. In this regard, only head quarter & Kolkata centre have published scientific papers. CSSO instructed all centre heads to encourage all newly recruited technical officials to write scientific article.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

22. **It was decided to organize in-house training for newly appointed AFOs** to impart them the skills for using Space Technology application in Natural Resource Management.

(Action: HQ)

List of Participants

1. Dr. B. Kishore, Joint Secretary (RFS)
2. Sh. Pankaj Tyagi, Director (NRM/RFS) & Chief Soil Survey Officer
3. Dr. Munish Kumar Soil Survey Officer, HQ
4. Sh. R. L. Meena, Sr. Soil Survey Officer, Noida Centre
5. Sh. Ravindra Kulkarni, Soil Survey Officer, Nagpur & Hyderabad Centre
6. Dr. S. Roychowdhury, Soil Survey Officer, Kolkata Centre
7. Sh. Dinesh Patel, Soil Survey Officer, Ranchi Centre
8. Dr. S. P. Singh, Soil Survey Officer, Ahmedabad Centre
9. Sh. P.K. Laghate, Soil Survey Officer, Bengaluru centre
10. Dr. V. Ranga Rao, Senior System Analyst, Remote Sensing Cell, Noida
11. Sh. N.S. Gahlod, Assistant Soil Survey Officer, HQ