



IIMA PRESS RELEASE 2009-10

Committee on Agriculture and Allied Sectors holds Regional Consultation Review Meeting at IIMA

IIMA, October 12, 2009: The Planning Commission, Govt. of India has constituted a Mid-Term Review (MTR) Committee on Agriculture and Allied Sectors for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2007-12) under the chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission. The committee has 12 members, comprising experts from International and National research institutes like International food policy research institutes, Indian Council for Agriculture Research and experts from the agribusiness sector.

Prof Vijay Paul Sharma, senior faculty from IIMA, who is a member of the committee, informed that the main objective is to review the performance of agricultural policies, plans and programmes during Eleventh Plan and suggest modifications, up scaling or discontinuation of ongoing programmes, policies and introduction of any new initiative along with financial implications. The review would be done through interaction/consultation with the departments concerned, States, NGOs and other stakeholders relating to agriculture and allied sectors.

A Regional Consultation for the Western and Central States (Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan) was held at IIMA on October 12, 2009. Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member Planning Commission and Mr. L. Rynjah, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission and about 50 senior officers from the western and central states participated in the deliberation.

Significant Points of the Regional Consultation Review Meeting

Most of the states were able to achieve the targets for the first two years of plan period but growth is likely to slow down in 2009-10 due to drought conditions and uneven distribution of rainfall. The state governments appreciated the contribution of centrally sponsored schemes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) and National Food Security Mission (NFSM). However, need for coordinated approach for agricultural development through involvement of concerned departments such as irrigation, rural development, watershed development, etc. was felt. To improve growth in agriculture, participants stressed the need for increasing investment in technology generation, extension, rural infrastructure, irrigation, post-harvest management, timely availability of farm inputs particularly seeds and fertilizers and tackling environmental issues. Prof. Abhijit Sen, member Planning Commission emphasized the need for new innovative and appropriate technologies, policy support and higher investment in agriculture to sustain food security.