

**Minutes of the meeting on
'Open Burning of Agriculture Crop Residue in Northern India'
&
'Action Taken by NCR States on Directions by CPCB on prevention, control or abatement
of air pollution Delhi & NCR'**

The sixth review meeting to discuss the issues of open burning of agriculture crop residue and status of action taken on directions by CPCB on prevention, control or abatement of air pollution Delhi & NCR was held in CPCB, Parivesh Bhavan on July 19, 2017. The meeting was chaired by Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board. The list of participants is attached at Annexure-I.

Chairman, CPCB welcomed the participants and requested concerned officers from States of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi and other agencies to update on actions taken.

Haryana informed that regarding the actions taken on agriculture stubble burning, the SMS alert system, regular discussions, awareness among farmers, reward system to students upon reporting crop burning etc. shall start from August for the forthcoming crop burning season. However, due to limited machinery complete stoppage of stubble burning may be difficult. Regarding action taken on directions, Haryana has closed down all the brick kilns without zig-zac technology.

Punjab submitted that, district level committees have been constituted to implement the actions to control agriculture stubble burning, proposal of manufacture of super straw has been submitted and SMS alert system established through Punjab Remote Sensing Centre, which ensures reporting of incidences of stubble burning along with location coordinates to concerned officers for necessary action. Agriculture department of Punjab, suggested that, as an interim plan, the burning may be done in rotation, block-wise, under the supervision of the experts

Delhi requested that an expert panel may be constituted to check the calibration of the continuous ambient air quality monitoring instruments before the next season of stubble burning. Delhi Traffic Police submitted that the new parking policy has been implemented, website created for immediate public complaints. The Delhi traffic police is prepared for the graded action plan including odd-even or any direction from September onwards. They are working together with Police department on the problem of encroachment.

Uttar Pradesh stated that the challans being issued as per Hon'ble NGT Order. No major crop residue burning was reported in Ravi season (only 5-6 cases reported). A control room has also been established to register complaints regarding air pollution.

Following decisions were taken:

1. The actions for controlling agriculture stubble burning must be taken by concerned States in September itself in view of FIFA being held in October. A graded plan is required with timelines for actions to be implemented.
2. Alternative to stubble burning may be explored in consultation with consumers of stubble for fuel (such as NTPC) or for producing bioethanol (such as oil companies)
3. Concerned officials from all the four States may visit Punjab for first-hand information on implementation mechanisms set up by Punjab for combating stubble burning.
4. The proposal on demonstration of machineries to minimise stubble burning may be submitted by Punjab Agriculture University.
5. Calibration check of monitoring equipment may be conducted by expert panel before the next stubble burning season.
6. Special plan may be prepared and implemented by municipal corporations / State Boards for controlling issue of open garbage burning and watering of unpaved roads.

ATTENDENCE SHEET
'Open Burning of Agriculture Crop Residue in Northern India'
&
'Action Taken by NCR States on Directions by CPCB on prevention, control or abatement of air pollution
Delhi & NCR'

Dated: 19.07.2017

Time: 03.00 PM to .00 PM

Venue: 2nd Floor, Conference Hall, CPCB, Delhi

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