

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON PREPARATION OF DISTRICT AND BLOCK DEVELOPMENT PLANS HELD UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, PUNJAB ON 18.9.2007 IN COMMITTEE ROOM, CM OFFICE, CHANDIGARH

The list of dignitaries and officers that participated in the meeting is enclosed at Annexure A.

2. At the outset, SP welcomed Hon'ble CM and other participants in the meeting and stated that Hon'ble Chief Minister had desired that District Development Plans should be prepared for all districts of Punjab beginning with the 4 Border districts. Hon'ble CM had also asked GNDU, Amritsar to prepare a Block Development Plan for Valtoha Block of Tarn Taran district. He stated that an exercise had been undertaken in 1997-98 for preparing Block Plans for 24 Blocks in the State which had been done by GNDU, PU, PAU and Pbi University along with ESO (Planning Department), Chief Town Planner and CRRID. However, no follow up action on the implementation of these Block Plans took place in the intervening period. As a follow up to Hon'ble CM's orders, GNDU was asked to prepare a presentation of the work done by them on the Valtoha Block Plan as well as on the District Development Plan.

3. As per Hon'ble CM orders, GNDU team made a presentation of the work done by them for the Plan of Valtoha Block. After the presentation, worthy VC, PSPB observed that as per Planning Commission and GOI guidelines, the planning process must be participatory and decentralized. He averred that the Development Plan must incorporate three main concerns, viz. basic human development indicators; plan for infrastructure development of the area and a strategy for developing the productive sector, with major focus on available human as well as natural resources. While appreciating the hard work put in by the team of dedicated researchers of GNDU led by Dr. Balwinder Singh, he advised them to follow a more "bottoms-up" approach in the planning process as against any artificial foisting of ideas on the local community. He further suggested that proper proformae needed to be devised to statistically capture primary data on human development indicators as well as to validate the secondary data available with the University. He also

proposed for Hon'ble CM's consideration that the District Development Plan should necessarily be an amalgam of these Block Plans (once prepared) and should integrate them with similar plans developed by other components of local-self government, such as municipal bodies, given the imperatives of a district.

4. After considering the observations put forth by the Researchers as well as the representatives of CRRID and IDC, Hon'ble CM complimented the GNDU team for having painstakingly undertaken the preliminary work. He advised them to seek assistance from different line Departments, such as Agriculture, ESO, Health, Rural Development & Panchayats, etc for detailed assessment of both human and natural resources of the area as well as fashioning strategies for diversification of agriculture and economic growth in the predominantly rural area. He further asked them to carry out detailed surveys of the unemployed rural youth to determine their suitability and preference for different kinds of employment. Accordingly, a plan for skill development of the rural youth could be formulated at the Government level. He advised them to seek guidance from worthy VC, PSPB from time-to-time in order to have the benefit of his experience.

5. After discussion, the following decisions were taken by Hon'ble CM:

1. It was decided that the work on the pilot project of the Block Plan for Valtoha Block would be completed in 2 months time, i.e. by end November 2007. Worthy VC, PSPB would undertake a mid-term review in late October 2007 to assess the progress achieved.
2. After the preparation of a draft Block Plan, the same would be presented to Hon'ble CM for approval. The model (as approved) would be adapted for preparation of Block Plans for other Blocks of the Border Districts. Eventually, the entire 141 Blocks of the State would be covered through the process.
3. The exercise for the preparation of a District Development Plan would be undertaken after the completion of the Block-level planning exercise.
4. It was decided that the Government Schools identified in Valtoha Block during the survey of GNDU which were bereft of basic facilities such as fans, toilets for girls, drinking water, etc shall be provided funds by the

- Planning Department in consultation with the Education Department to have the basic amenities provided at the earliest. Deputy Commissioner, Tarn Taran would coordinate and have the same implemented within 3 months under his personal supervision.
5. The feasibility of extending out-reach services in the health sector in backward border areas such as the Valtoha block would be examined by the Department of Health in consultation with the Planning Department.
 6. The Department of Planning would direct the line Departments to provide necessary assistance to the GNDU team in collecting primary data. Deputy Commissioner, Tarn Taran would coordinate the entire work between the GNDU team and local departmental officials.
 7. A sum of Rs. 5.00 lacs would be released to GNDU, Amritsar by the Department of Planning for preparing the pilot Block Plan. Funds for a laptop computer for the Researchers would be provided to the University from the discretionary funds placed at the disposal of Hon'ble CM.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Government of Punjab
Department of Planning
(Agriculture Division)

Subject:- Minutes of the meeting on preparation of District Development Plans held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab on 18/9/2007 in Committee Room, CM Office, Chandigarh.

Kindly refer to the subject cited above.

2. Please find enclosed herewith the minutes of the meeting on preparation of District Development Plans held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab on 18/9/2007 in the Committee Room, CMO Chandigarh for information and necessary action.

Sd/-
Special Secretary Planning

To

- i. Principal Secretary, Finance, Punjab.
- ii. Principal Secretary, Local Government, Punjab.
- iii. The Vice Chancellor, GNDU, Amritsar.
- iv. The Vice Chancellor, Punjabi University, Patiala.
- v. The vice Chancellor, Punjab Agricultural University, Ldh.
- vi. Secretary Public Works, Punjab.
- vii. Secretary Rural Development, Punjab.
- viii. Secretary Housing & Urban Development, Punjab.
- ix. Director General CRRID.
- x. Director, IDC.
- xi. Prof. B.R. Batra, GRDSP, GNDU, Amritsar.
- xii. Sh. Balvinder Singh, GRDSP, GNDU, Amritsar.

U.O.No. 2/7/PSPB/RO(DDP)/2007/ Spl.

Dated:- 15/10/2007

Endst.No. 2/7/PSPB/RO(DDP)/2007/ Spl.

Dated:- 15/10/2007

A copy is forwarded to Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Punjab for kind information of Hon'ble Chief Minister please.

Sd/-
Special Secretary Planning

Endst.No. 2/7/PSPB/RO(DDP)/2007/ Spl.

Dated:- 15/10/2007

A copy is forwarded to PS/Finance Minister, Punjab for the kind information of Hon'ble FM please.

Sd/-
Special Secretary Planning

Endst.No. 2/7/PSPB/RO(DDP)/2007/ Spl.

Dated:- 15/10/2007

A copy is forwarded to PS/Vice Chairman, PSPB for the kind information of Hon'ble Vice Chairman, PSPB.

Sd/-
Special Secretary Planning

Endst.No. 2/7/PSPB/RO(DDP)/2007/ Spl.

Dated:- 15/10/2007

A copy is forwarded to Secretary/Chief Secretary, Punjab for the kind information of worthy Chief Secretary please.

Sd/-
Special Secretary Planning