

COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT
IN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND ADJOINING AREAS
17th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhagwan (STC Building)
Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-11001

F. No. A-110018/01/2021-CAQM/6507-6517

Dated: 12.04.2024

Subject: Implementation and review of the updated/ revised plan of action for prevention and control of Paddy Stubble Burning in 2024


1. WHEREAS, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 3 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act 2021, has constituted the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (hereinafter referred to as the Commission);
2. WHEREAS, Under section 12(1) of the Act, the Commission has powers to take all such measures, issue directions, etc., as it deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the air in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas;
3. WHEREAS, Section 12 (1) of the Act, empowers the Commission to issue directions in writing to any person, officer, or any authority and such person, officer or authority shall be bound to comply with such directions;
4. WHEREAS, Paddy stubble burning is a matter of grave concern due to its impact on air quality in NCR and the Commission has been deliberating upon the issue in a series of meetings held with major stakeholders including with the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, GNCTD, State Pollution Control Boards of NCR states, Punjab and Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and knowledge institutions;
5. WHEREAS, the Commission through Direction dated 10.06.2021 had provided a Framework to the states concerned for control/elimination of crop residue burning and directed to draw up detailed state-specific action plans, based on the major contours of the Framework;

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6. WHEREAS, an advisory dated 28.07.2021 was issued from the Commission on effective *Ex-Situ* stubble management for Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh;
7. WHEREAS, the Commission through directions issued on 16.08.2021 had also advised the Government of NCR States, Government of NCT of Delhi and Government of Punjab to adopt the standard protocol developed by ISRO for the monitoring and reporting of the fire event using the Satellite data;
8. WHEREAS, the Government of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Government of NCT of Delhi had formulated the state specific action plans for prevention and control of paddy stubble burning during the paddy harvest season in 2021, 2022 and 2023;
9. WHEREAS, based on field experience and learnings during 2021, 2022 and 2023, the action plans for Punjab, Haryana and UP (NCR Districts) have been further revised and updated for the upcoming paddy harvest season during 2024;
10. WHEREAS, the salient features of the above noted updated action plans were presented by the representatives from Government of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh before the full Commission in its meetings held on 15th March, 2024 and the Commission approved the respective action plans;
11. Now, THEREFORE, in view of the compelling need to control air pollution from burning of paddy straw, the Commission hereby directs the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to effectively implement the respective revised action plans, in letter and spirit, to ensure complete elimination of paddy stubble burning during 2024, *inter-alia* focusing on the following:
 - i. Complete mapping of the identified means of management of paddy stubble (*in-situ* management through CRM machinery, Biodecomposer application etc., *ex-situ* management as fuel/feedstock) to cover all farms/farmers in the State.
 - ii. Review of availability and allocation of machines in CHCs/FPOs/Farm banks etc.
 - iii. Augmentation of the number of CHCs and ensuring availability of appropriate resources with them.

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- iv. Ensuring procurement of all identified new CRM machines by individuals/CHCs for the year 2024, well in advance, by July-August 2024.
 - v. Optimise and enhance utilization of machinery available with CHCs/FPOs/Farm Banks etc., focusing on supply of such machines to poor and marginal farmers.
 - vi. IT/Web based monitoring mechanism to be instituted for utilization of machines in CHCs/FPOs/Farm Banks etc, in addition to surveillance by Village/Block level teams/officers.
 - vii. Continuation and enhancement of IEC/Sensitisation activities to create awareness regarding the ill effects of stubble burning.
 - viii. Timely appointment and deputation of Nodal/Cluster/Village level officers for strict surveillance and enforcement actions.
 - ix. Mechanism for pin-pointing and inspection of the farms/areas where paddy straw is burnt, if any, as per standard ISRO protocol and ensuring red-entries/accountability in such farm records, including levying and realization of prescribed EC.
 - x. Conducting frequent reviews and close monitoring of implementation of the framework/state specific plan of action at various levels in the State Government/District Administration.
12. GNCT of Delhi and State Government of Rajasthan shall also make every effort towards totally eliminating paddy stubble burning incidents during the ensuing harvest season.
13. Status of the preparatory actions as per the timelines/milestones in the respective plan be reported to the Commission on a monthly basis.


(Arvind Nautiyal)

Member-Secretary

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To,

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, 6th Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat-1, Sector-1, Chandigarh-160001.

2. The Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, 4th Floor, Haryana Civil Secretariat, Sector-1, Chandigarh-160001.
3. The Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, 101, Lok Bhawan, U.P. Civil Secretariat, Vidhan Sabha Marg, Lucknow-226001.
4. The Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110001.
5. The Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, Government Secretariat, Jaipur-302005.

Copy to:

1. Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board.
2. Member Secretary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board.
3. Member Secretary, Uttar Pradesh State Pollution Control Board.
4. Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee.
5. Member Secretary, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board.

Copy also to:

The Chairperson and all Members, CAQM.


(Arvind Nautiyal)