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To

Maharaja Amrinder Singh Ji
Chief Minister Punjab.

Sub:- To seek financial assistance from United Nation's green climate fund for climate change in Punjab.

As all of us are aware of the fact that the Climate Change which started with the advent of industrial revolution in the middle of eighteenth century has gained a tremendous momentum with the unprecedented burning of fossil fuel which has further been catalysed by deforestation and burning of crop residues. This has resulted in abnormal increase in the temperature and emissions of Greenhouse gases (Mainly carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide along with nitrogen oxide sulphur dioxide etc) in the atmosphere bringing so many hazards for both Plant and Animal life which includes human beings also. Punjab is no exception as its Agriculture and human health has started feeling the pinch of this change. State will have to adopt many corrective measures to dilute these adverse effects of Climate Change and this will need a lot of financial resources which sometimes may not be possible for the state to generate. This may be possible and pragmatic if the state Government can seek needed fund from UN's Green Climate Fund (GCF). This fund was created by 194 countries who are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010, as a part of Convention's financial mechanism to help the developing countries to face the effects of the Climate Change. Major contributions to the fund have been made by developed economies and they have agreed to jointly mobilise 100 billion US dollars per year by 2020. The main aim of the fund is to bring down the atmospheric temperature to dilute the Global Warming. It was decided in the UNFCCC's Paris agreement in December 2015 that to hold Global Warming "Well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6F) over to the pre industrial levels and to strive for a limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius. It was also decided that by the second half of this century, there must be a balance between emissions from human activities such as energy production and farming and the amount that can be absorbed by carbon absorbing "Sinks" such as forests or storage technology. Green Development Fund (GCF) provides financial assistance to the developing countries mainly through two modes e.g. Mitigation and Adaptation. Under Mitigation the aid is provided to limit or reduce their Greenhouse gas emissions and under Adaptation states are assisted to make themselves adapt to the impacts of climate change. This assistance can be in the form of grants, loans, equity or guarantees. GCF is a legally independent institution with a fully independent secretariat headed by an executive secretary. Its secretariat is located at Songdo in South Korea.

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Fund has established a direct access modality so that national and sub national organisations can receive funding directly, rather than only via international intermediaries. GCF has established separate national implementing entity (NIE) for each country to scrutinise the proposals and plans submitted to it to seek financial assistance and NIE further submits them to GCF for approval. NIE also supervises its implementation. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been accredited by GCF as the national implementing entity for India

Punjab is one of the most deserved state to seek financial assistance from this fund. As all of us know that the burning of crop residue especially of the stubble of paddy has been playing havoc with the environment not only of the Punjab but also very adversely affecting its neighborhood. A study conducted by the National Remote Sensing Agency has indicated that paddy burning in Punjab contributed 261 gigs gram (1Gg=1000 Metric tonnes) of carbon monoxide, 19.8 Gg of nitrogen oxide and other gases in the atmosphere. Farmers burn the stubble to prepare ground for next crop and in process they damage soil quality and cause heavy pollution. Burning of the stubble can be prevented if it can be incorporated in the soil immediately, thus making it suitable for sowing the next crop without any delay or by using the implements like Happy Seeders which can sow the next crop in the standing stubble. Research can be intensified to develop more efficient technology to deal with this problem. There has been a massive deforestation in Punjab especially in the sub mountainous Kandi area which is considered as the most suitable for sprawling forests and the various orchards occupy just three percent of total agricultural land. Thus Punjab needs a massive drive for the plantation of both forests as well as of orchards in the state to reduce abnormal presence of the carbon in the atmosphere. UNFCCC is very particular and favourable to intensify a drive for forestation and their preservation and thus preventing deforestation. This is very clear and explicit from its intent that "Efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and forest conversation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks". It can be very safely pleaded that orchards are also plantations of plants which also absorb atmospheric carbon like forest trees and should be provided the financial assistance at par with forests. This will give a big boost to plantations of the orchards and will also help in the diversification of Agriculture in Punjab. On the basis of all these factors a proper report can be made to seek financial assistance from GCF under the head 'Mitigation'.

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On the basis of all these factors a proper report can be made to seek financial assistance from GCF under the head 'Mitigation'. Another head under which assistance can be provided is 'Adaptation' which is meant to adapt to the impacts of the Climate Change, taking into account the needs of those developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Emission of greenhouse gases especially from stubble burning has taken a big toll of human health in Punjab. Air Quality Index in the Punjab has passed the safe limit and varies between 201-300 which is considered as "very unhealthy" by the International Standards. According to Punjab Pollution board Air Quality index (AQI) reached 328 on Diwali day which is considered as "Hazardous". Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of United States declares Emergency if AQI exceeds 300 level. A survey conducted by a group of Doctors from Bathinda reveals that 84 percent of the people in Punjab, most of them in rural areas, have been hit by the stubble burning. They are showing signs of irritation in eyes, ear, throat and increase in the cough. Most of the particulate released by burning are smaller than 10 micrometer (Less than the diameter of a human hair) and can very easily enter the lungs causing heart problems. An authentic report can be prepared of this health hazard caused due to the emission of these greenhouse gases and help from GCF can be sought.

Private Sector can also seek financial assistance from GCF under category 'Private Sector facility' to help to dilute the impacts of Climate Change. State Government can persuade some Industrial Houses for this purposes and such Houses may also get benefit under 'Corporate Social Responsibility' scheme of the Central Government as they will be serving the 'General cause of Environment'.

You are requested to constitute a panel of experts to prepare a comprehensive plan detailing all the impacts of Climate Change and be submitted to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) which can further forward it to Green Climate Fund to seek the financial assistance.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,



Kulwant Singh,
President

Kissan Vikas Chamber, Punjab

Dated:- 13-12-2017