

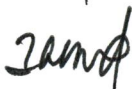
COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT
IN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND ADJOINING AREAS
17th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhagwan (STC Building)
Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-11001

F. No. A-110018/01/2021-CAQM 1054 DT

Dated: 10.10.2024

Subject: Implementation of the plans of action for prevention and control of Paddy Stubble Burning, targeting elimination in 2024 – effective enforcement mechanism reg.

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;




Direction No. 84

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;
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) were further updated for 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. WHEREAS, the Commission issued Statutory Direction No. 80 dated 11.04.2024 to the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar

Pradesh to effectively implement the respective action plans for 2024, in letter and spirit,

12. WHEREAS, the directions as above besides detailing the means of management of paddy stubble, *inter alia*, also called for the following enforcement and safeguarding measures towards complete elimination of paddy stubble burning:
 - i. Enhanced level of IEC/sensitisation activities.
 - ii. Timely deployment of Nodal/Cluster/Village level officers for strict surveillance and enforcement actions.
 - iii. 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.
13. WHEREAS, towards effective implementation of the plan of action for 2024, various consultative and review meetings have been held from time to time with all stakeholders concerned in the State Govt. of Punjab including the Dy. Commissioners of various districts of the State, including a review meeting with the DCs and State Level authorities on 18.09.2024 and 19.09.2024 respectively.
14. WHEREAS, during the various review meetings, the State Governments in Punjab and Haryana committed to targeting elimination of paddy residue burning practice;
15. WHEREAS, despite targeted elimination of fire counts during 2024, a total of 267 and 187 paddy residue burning events have been reported during the period from 15th September – 9th October, 2024, from the States of Punjab and Haryana respectively;



Direction No. 84

16. WHEREAS, the Commission from time to time during paddy harvesting season has called for immediately arresting this trend and initiate appropriate and effective enforcement mechanism, entrusting responsibility and accountability on the identified nodal officers for various villages / blocks and the supervisory officers;
17. WHEREAS, the Commission, on 25.09.2024 had directed for a detailed report from the State Governments of Punjab and Haryana regarding action taken to implement Direction No. 80 dated 12.04.2024 to ensure complete elimination of paddy stubble burning;
18. WHEREAS, effective implementation and enforcement of the action plans towards targeted elimination of paddy stubble burning does not seem to be forthcoming at the level of various agencies of the State Governments;
19. WHEREAS, the Act under Section 12(2)(xi) specifically empowers the CAQM to issue Directions to any person, officer or an authority who shall be bound to comply with such directions;
20. WHEREAS, Section 14 of the Act also stipulates that any non-compliance or contravention of any provisions of the Act, Rules, Directions or Orders issued by the Commission shall be an offence;
21. WHEREAS, the Commission has taken a serious note of the situation arising on account of number of paddy stubble burning incidences and has noted that due enforcement measures towards prevention of paddy stubble burning in the States of Punjab, Haryana and NCR areas of Uttar Pradesh need to be stepped up;
22. WHEREAS, through appropriate orders issued by the various State Governments, open burning of paddy and other agricultural stubble in the fields is already a prohibited activity;

23. NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred upon the Commission under Section 14(2), the Deputy Commissioners / District Collectors / District Magistrates in the States of Punjab, Haryana, NCR areas of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and in the NCT of Delhi are hereby authorized to file a complaint/ prosecution before jurisdictional judicial magistrate, in case of inaction in respect of officials, including nodal officers and supervisory officers at various levels and Station House Officers, responsible for effective enforcement towards ensuring elimination of paddy stubble burning in their respective jurisdiction.
24. The District administrations and the State Governments are expected to maintain constant and strict vigil towards elimination of paddy stubble burning.


(Arvind Nautiyal)
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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:

The Chairperson and all Members, CAQM.


(Arvind Nautiyal)