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**India Seeks Global Action to Achieve Higher Agriculture Production  
Shri Pawar Participates in G-20 Agriculture Ministers' Meet**

India has sought global action to achieve higher agriculture production to meet global food grain requirement. In the meeting of G-20 Agriculture Ministers held on 22nd and 23rd June at Paris, Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar stressed the need for concerted global action to achieve higher agriculture production in order to meet the growing demand of food grains.

The meeting was convened by the French Presidency, the current chair of G-20 countries in response to the growing concern about the food price volatility, particularly in the context of very high food prices in recent times and an assessment that the prices were likely to remain high.

Shri Pawar while endorsing the 'Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture' prepared by French Agriculture Ministry in consultation with the officials of the G-20 countries, said that adequate supply response to the growing demand of food grains was the most important measure to stabilize the food prices. He also welcomed the new initiative on 'Agriculture Market Information System' to be housed in FAO headquarters for developing early warning system. G-20 members agreed to share information on production, consumption, price, trade and stocks to build the information system.

It was also agreed by G-20 Agriculture Ministers to create a 'Rapid Response Forum' linked to the 'Committee on Food Security' in FAO. This forum would take note of the analytical reports produced by the Information System for needed follow up action. International Research Initiative for Wheat Development has been agreed. This initiative would be a coordination mechanism that would work closely with the National Research Bodies, CGIAR and private sector to give more focus to research for development of wheat crop in terms of collaboration among agencies for avoidance of duplication of efforts and supplementing the ongoing research work.

In addition, G-20 Ministers agreed to launch 'The Global Agricultural Geo-Monitoring Initiative' through an inter-governmental organization GEO (Group on Earth Observations) for better assessment of the crops. These measures have been suggested to be implemented from September this year. Apart from these initiatives, a number of other measures have also been suggested in the Action Plan which would be submitted for consideration of the leaders in the summit scheduled at Cannes in November this year.

On the sidelines of the G-20 meeting, Shri Pawar held bilateral meetings with the Agriculture Ministers of Canada and Australia to promote cooperation in Agriculture and Agro processing sectors.

MP:SB:CP: G-20 meet (24.6.2011)