

F. No. 1-38/2014-RFS-III  
Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Department of Agriculture & Cooperation  
(RFS Division)

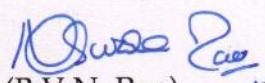
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

Dated: 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2017

Subject: Meeting to review the progress of pilot research projects implemented by various ICAR Institutes under NMSA.

The undersigned is directed to forward the minutes of the meeting to review the progress of pilot research projects sanctioned under NMSA held on 15.12.2017 at New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (RFS & NRM) for information and necessary action.

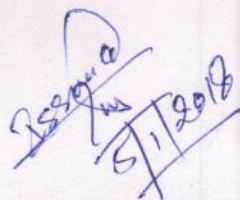
Encl: as above.

  
(B.V.N. Rao)  
Deputy Commissioner

Distribution:-

1. DDG, Agriculture (Extension) ICAR, Pusa, New Delhi
2. Director, Indian Institute Water Management (IIWM), Bhubaneswar
3. Director, ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna
4. Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming systems Research Modipuram, Meerut
5. Dr. K. Sammi Reddy, Director, ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad
6. Dr. Atmaram Mishra, Principal Scientist & PI, Indian Institute Water Management (IIWM), Bhubaneswar
7. Dr. M.P. Singh, Principal Scientist, ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming systems research Modipuram, Meerut
8. Dr. Md. Monobrullaha, Principal Scientist (Entomology) and PI, ICAR Research complex for Eastern region, Patna
9. Dr. Keshava, Principal Scientist & PI, Agriculture Extension Division, ICAR Pusa, New Delhi.
10. Dr. K. V. Rao, Principal Scientist & PI, CRIDA, Santosh Nagar, Hyderabad.

Copy to PS to JS (NRM/RFS).

  
5/1/2018



**Minutes of the meeting to review the progress of Pilot Research Projects funded under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).**

A meeting to review the progress of the implementation of Pilot Research Projects sanctioned under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) was held on 15.12.2017 under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (NRM/RFS) at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

Principal Investigators of all the five research projects sanctioned to various ICARs institutes attended the meeting. The list of officers who attended the meeting is annexed. Joint Secretary (NRM/RFS) welcomed the participants and desired active cooperation & support of the Research Institutions in effective implementation of NMSA. Project wise review was held to assess the status of the pilot/Research projects. The major decisions taken in the meeting are summarised as under:

**1. Efficient groundwater management for enhancing adaptive capacity to climate change in sugarcane based farming system in Muzaffarnagar:**

The project sanctioned to ICAR-Indian Institute of Water Management (IIWM), Bhubaneswar on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2015 for a period of 3 years. The total cost of the project is Rs. 459.00 lakh and so far an amount of Rs. 274.00 lakh has been released to institute in four instalments. Dr. Atmaram Mishra, Principal Scientist & Project Investigator made a detailed presentation on the status progress of the project. After detailed discussions on the progress of the project, Chairman made the following observations and Suggestions for appropriate action:

- It was observed that the work has only been undertaken in one village namely "Rasulpur Jattan", whereas, as per the approved project and agreement, two villages namely Rasulpur Jattan and Barawala were to be covered. The reason given was that for optimal use of resources, greater visibility, more intense scientific data collection and better scientific output can be more effectively achieved. Besides, the social issues in the village have made it unable to undertake work in Barwala. The project progress was being delayed because of lying pipelines through CPWD.
- In this regard, it was decided that the project should be implemented in two villages as per the approved proposal without any deviation. This had also been decided in the last progress review meeting & STC meeting of NMSA held on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 and 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, respectively. However, in case if any difficulty, in the implementation of research activities in Barawala village, the same may be sorted out in consultation with local institutions and agencies.
- Awareness programmes may be conducted within the selected villages to resolve the issues if any.
- In case, this village is to be changed due to some technical reasons, i.e. one village is required to be changed, that may be done in consultation with local institution & public representatives. This issue should be finalized immediately without any further delay and activities be undertaken in the second village so that overall target and objectives of the projects are not compromised.



- State Govt. may also be involved in the project so that the work done under the project could be managed & sustainable after the project period. Besides, State Govt may be asked to help the farmers who have been deprived from the benefits of project in the selected villages.
- The Quality of the nutrient content of compost produced under the project need to be tested for the benefit of the farming community.

## 2. **Updating the District Agricultural Contingency Plans:**

The project sanctioned to ICAR-CRIDA on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 for a period of 3 years and MoU was made during December 2016. The total cost of the project is Rs.344.668 lakh and so far an amount of Rs. 100.278 lakh has been released in two instalments. Dr. K.V.Rao, Principal Scientist & Project Investigator, ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad made a presentation on the status & progress of the project. Progress made so far under the project is as under:-

- Contingency cells at state agriculture universities were formed in 17 SAU/ Horticultural/Animal and Fishery Sciences Universities & MoU with 24 State Agriculture Universities (SAUs)/ Horticultural universities have been completed.
- Contingency Plans for 8 districts under the jurisdiction of Vasant Rao Naik Marthwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV) were completed and a publication has been brought out.
- Updated plans for Chhattisgarh district were submitted by the University for final vetting to CRIDA.
- Plans of 10 districts of Western Maharashtra (MPKV Rahuri jurisdiction), 10 districts of Saurashtra region in Gujarat (JAU, Junagadh jurisdiction), Tamil Nadu and Assam are in final stage of development.
- Plans for 4 districts of Rayalaseema, Prakasam and Nellore districts of Andhra Pradesh are in final stage of review by the university.

During the discussion Chairman advised that Climate Resilient Agroforestry models may also be promoted as contingency measure to maximize the farm returns for sustaining livelihood. The States/Districts should be made aware of this work and use these plans for field level implementation more vigorously.

## 3. **Development of Climate Resilient Farming System Models for Livelihood Improvement in East Champaran District of Bihar:**

The project sanctioned to ICAR-Regional Complex for Eastern Region, Patna on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 for a period of 3 years. The total cost of the project is Rs. 273.19 lakh and an amount of Rs.135.00 lakh has been released so far to institute as first instalment. Dr. Md. Monobrullah, Principal Scientist & Project Investigator made a presentation on the status & progress of the project. While reviewing the progress of the project, Chairman made the following observation and Suggestions for appropriate action:

- Training on fish farming may be provided to the farmers for better management practices. Besides, training on solar energy operated water pumping system may also be provided to farmers for better maintenance of the equipment.



- Plantation of tall plants may be encouraged, to minimize the plantation loss caused by the wild animals in the project area.
- Since aim of the project is Development of Climate Resilient Farming Systems and therefore suitable Climate resilient Practices should be developed under the project for livelihood improvement of the farmers in the project area. The impression from the discussions reflected a business as usual practices only. Besides, awareness programmes may be organized for district officers/extension workers/farmers to create awareness on climate resilient agriculture.
- The water harvesting structures constructed under the project should be connected with drip irrigation to enhance the water use efficiency.
- All the interventions of the project area should be carried out in the spirit of Integrated Farming System (IFS) for holistic development of the project area as a model which could be replicable to other areas too.

#### 4. **Establishment of Climate Resilient Integrated Farming System (IFS) demonstration units in KVKs:**

The project sanctioned to Agricultural Extension Division, ICAR on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 for a period of 1 years. The total cost of the project is Rs. 300.00 lakh and an amount of Rs. 150.00 lakh has been released so far as first instalment.

Dr. Keshava, Principal Scientist, Agricultural Extension Division, ICAR has explained the status & progress of the project.

- The progress is going on in 8 ATARI consisting of 100 KVKs within 29 States. Due to administrative reasons the work could not be started in 16 KVKs namely Bageshwar in State of Uttarakhand; Chandauli, Bulandshahar, Lalitpur, Lucknow, Pilibhit, Varanasi and Fatehpur in State of Uttar Pradesh; Darbhanga in State of Bihar; Port Blair in A&N Island; Ganjam-II, Sundargarh in State of Odisha; Gwalior, Dewas, Mandla and Ujjain in State of Madhya Pradesh.

While reviewing the progress of the project, Chairman expressed dissatisfaction and made the following observation and Suggestions for appropriate action:

- It was observed that the pace of implementation of the project is very slow and Agricultural Extension Division was advised that the time frame for completion of the project should be adhered to and all efforts be made to complete the project.
- Utilization Certificate from all ATARI should be submitted by the end of December, 2017. Besides, the work in the left out KVKs should be initiated without further delay.
- Visit to some KVKs to see the progress made should be arranged.
- Since the project is sanctioned for one year, ICAR-Agriculture Extension Division was advised to submit the proposal for extension to other KVKs, if required, for consideration of this Department.



**5. Development of Climate Resilient Sustainable Integrated Farming System Models for Optimizing Farm Productivity in Varanasi Dist. of Uttar Pradesh:**

The project sanctioned to ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 for a period of 3 years. The total cost of the project is Rs. 234.24 lakh and an amount of Rs. 50.00 lakh has been released so far as first instalment. Dr. M. P. Singh, Principal Scientist & Project Investigator made a presentation on the status & progress of the project. During the presentation, he was mentioned that the institute is executing the work in convergence mode with Banaras University (BHU) and ICAR-IVVR, Varanasi. However, BHU authority is demanding 10% institutional charges which is about 13.68 lakhs and requested this Department for approval and sanction for this amount.

While reviewing the progress of the project, Chairman made the following observation and Suggestions for appropriate action:

- It is observed that the pace of implementation of the project is slow and IIFSR was advised that the time frame for implementation of various activities should be adhered to and all efforts to be made to complete the project within stipulated time frame.
- Regarding demand for additional charges by the BHU, it may not be possible to sanction this additional amount at this stage as IFD has given its concurrence only on proposed activities. However, the project work in convergence mode with BHU may be continued and the required demand may be met from the amount available under various activities i.e. miscellaneous, need based work contract, contractual service, travelling allowances etc.

The next review meeting is planned to be held in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March, 2018 to review end of year progress.

It was emphasized that since these are research projects, there should be strong intent of infusing technology, showcase benefits there from to ever the non participating farmers so as to scale up these models into viable sustainable 'after project' continuation. The distinct agricultural contingency plans developed by CRIDA should be made use of in the climate resilient projects currently underway. Precision farming should be encouraged.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.



**List of Participants**

1. Dr. Alka Bhargava, Joint Secretary (NRM/RFS), DAC&FW-In Chair
2. Shri Pankaj Tayagi, Director (NRM/RFS), DAC&FW
3. Shri . B.V.N. Rao, Deputy Commissioner (RFS), DAC&FW
4. Dr. Manda Verma, Assistant Commissioner (CC), DAC&FW
5. Dr. Rashmi Saini, Senior Technical Assistant (RFS), DAC&FW
6. Dr. Divya, Consultant (CC), DAC&FW
7. Dr. Md. Monobrullah, Principal Scientist, ICAR-RCER, Patna, Bihar
8. Dr. Keshava, Principal Scientist, ICAR, Agriculture Extension Division, New Delhi.
9. Dr. K.V. Rao, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CRIDA, Hydreabad
10. Dr. Atmaram Mishra, ICAR-IIWM, Bhubneshwar
11. Dr. Chandra Bhanu, Scientist Co-PI, ICAR-IIFSR, Modipuram, Merrut
12. Dr. M.P. Singh, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIFSR, Modipuram, Meerut