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E-Mail

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Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Economics & Statistics Division
(AER Section)


119 F-Wing, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi-110 001
Dated: 14 June, 2023

**Subject: Minutes of meeting held on 8th June, 2023 under the Chairmanship of Secretary,
DA&FW with AERCs/Us-reg.**

The undersigned is directed to inform that an in-person meeting of Agro-Economic Research Centres/Units (AERCs/Us) was held on 08th June, 2023 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DA&FW. The list of participants is at **Annexure**.

2. Minutes of Meeting (MoM) is **enclosed** herewith for information and appropriate action.

Encl: as above


(Dr. Ramesh Yadav)
Joint Director (AER)

Distribution: All AERCs/Us

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SECRETARY
(DA&FW) WITH AER CENTRES / UNITS ON 08th JUNE 2023

At the outset, Shri Arun Kumar, Sr. ESA, E&S Division welcomed the Chair (Secretary, DA&FW) and participants from AERCs/Us. He outlined briefly the functioning of AERCs/Us and staff issues being faced by them. He also mentioned that expertise of AERCs/Us may be utilized in line with the needs and priorities of the Ministry. Thereafter, he requested the Chair to address the gathering.

2 Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, DA&FW extended a warm welcome to all the participants. He mentioned that the very purpose of the meeting is that the AERCs/Us play vital role on academics front as well as getting feedback from the field. These feedback are useful for efficient & effective implementation of the schemes and their midcourse correction. Secy (DA&FW) suggested for convening conferences, work-shops, seminar etc. annually with all stakeholders, including the representatives of State Government and Universities. He also suggested to bring out 2-3 page policy brief along with the study report. He also assured the participants that research institutions would be strengthened and the staffing issues of AERC/Us would be resolved at the earliest. Thereafter, he invited the AERC/Us participants to share their views/suggestions.

2.1 Dr. Ajit Ranade, Vice-chancellor, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics endorsed the views expressed by Secretary (DA&FW) and Sr. ESA. He emphasized on the New Education Policy on experiential learning. He further stated that AERC Pune would be celebrating 'Platinum Jubilee' in the year 2024, wherein a conference/meeting could be organized. Secretary, DA&FW agreed to the request for marking the occasion. He also suggested sharing the success stories/best practices from the ground.

2.2 Prof. Jayanti Kajale, Director, AERC Pune, GIPE briefly mentioned about the institute and insights into knowledge gained during the studies assigned by the Ministry. These serve as valuable inputs to the teaching and academia. She also shared the feedback on pilot survey conducted on the Agri Infrastructure Fund scheme and raised concerns about shortage of staff.

2.3 Prof. Brajesh Jha, Head, AER Unit, Institute of Economic Growth, Univ. of Delhi outlined the performance of the Unit from the last work plan. He informed that with regard to the concurrent evaluation project, the Unit has been assigned two schemes/programmes, viz. Agri. Marketing (ISAM) and e-NAM. He informed that a small pilot survey has been undertaken and suggested closed ended questions instead of open ended questions for the questionnaires.

2.4 Prof. Ranjan Ghosh, Chairperson, CMA IIM-Ahmedabad informed that CMA brings out the Agro-Economic Policy Briefs and Alerts alternatively every three months. Brief brings out the



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outcome of studies undertaken by AERCs/Us while Alert focuses on live agricultural issues and concerns. These are circulated to the PMO, Ministry of Agriculture and all stakeholders. He also informed about the publication of Agro-Economic Research outputs in well renowned academic journals and suggested that the same needs to be disseminated to a wider audience through social media such as LinkedIn, Twitter etc. The same may be re-tweeted at the Ministry level for better visibility and impact.

2.5 Prof. Ramappa K.B., Head, AER Unit, ADRTC, ISEC Bengaluru shared the findings of the pilot survey. He emphasized on the need for corrections with regard to extension services and creating awareness about the Schemes of the Ministry. Secretary, DA&FW suggested having Geo-referenced, time-stamped activities while delivering services for better monitoring and evaluation.

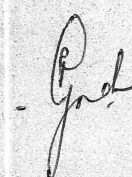
2.6 Prof. S.Chinnammai, AERC Chennai, University of Madras talked about the Centre and the academic output. She also informed about the recently held Governing Body Meeting at the Centre and the issues discussed therein. She also shared her concern on shortage of staff and payout to contractual staff at AERC Chennai. She also informed about the village surveys undertaken by the Centre over the years. Secretary, DA&FW also stressed on the relevance of assessing important changes that have occurred over time through longitudinal survey.

2.7 Prof. S.S. Kalamkar, Director, AERC V.V.Nagar briefed about the Centre's activities and the studies undertaken by the Centre. He also informed the participants about the praiseworthy remarks made by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for the Centre. He also raised the issue of shortage of staff along with nomenclature of posts in the AER Centre. Secretary, DA&FW suggested to re-look the nomenclature of posts / staff structure in line with contemporary needs.

2.8 Dr. Hari Om Sharma, Director, AERC Jabalpur and Dr. Deepak Rathi briefly mentioned about the Centre and its activities. They suggested that the manpower resources of the Cost Study scheme may be utilized for data collection.

2.9 Dr. J.M. Singh, Director, AERC Ludhiana, Punjab Agricultural University briefly touched upon work carried out by the Centre. He also informed that the Centre is involved in farmers training, teaching, research etc. and raised the staffing issues at the Centre. It was informed that AERC Ludhiana is involved in the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture and shared the findings of the pilot survey.

2.10 Shri Sreejit Roy, AERC Visva Bharati raised the staff shortage issues and highlighted the challenges posed by Climate Change in the areas of Sunderban region of West Bengal, parts of A&N Islands etc with a request to approve the study proposal submitted for consideration of the Research Advisory Committee.



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2.11 Prof. Parmjit, Hony. Director and Dr. Yogesh Bhatt, AERC Delhi briefly presented the study completed by the Centre. Dr. Yogesh Bhatt raised the staff shortage concern and requested for multi tasking staff in the Centre.

2.12 Dr. Javed Akhtar, Coordinator, AERC Allahabad raised the staffing concerns and various issues being faced by the Centre including transport facility, etc. He also shared the feedback of the pilot survey with respect to PM KISAN.

2.13 Dr. Rajeev Kumar Sinha, and Dr. Sanjay Kumar Jha, Hony. Director, AERC Bhagalpur requested for permission for at least two research staff for each project to be assigned to the Centre. The stagnation in service career of staff was also raised with special mention about the nomenclature and shortage of staff.

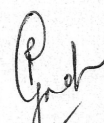
2.14 Prof. H Purushottam, Hony. Director, AERC Waltair opined about the need for better interaction among the AERC/Us network. He requested for provisioning of interns in AERC/Us. Hony. Director also suggested looking into the release of funds in time for proper utilization of funds allotted. J.D. (AER) informed that the delay is due to the Single Nodal Agency aspect in the PFMS facility and all out efforts are being taken to release the funds at the earliest.

2.15 Dr. A.K. Das, Hony Director, AERC Jorhat on the feedback of pilot survey mentioned that some of the components of the schemes are in duplication (eg. NMSA), hence, convergence is required. He also informed about the staff issues with the Centre with long pending vacancies. Sr. ESA enquired whether the deemed abolished posts if revived would be filled by the host University/ Institutions. Dr. Das informed that despite advertisements for posts, the Centre does not get the right candidates, hence, it remains vacant. V-C, GIPE suggested making contractual arrangements such as sabbatical/ lien may be allowed so that the posts don't fall under deemed abolished category, meanwhile the Centre can keep on advertising for filling-up the posts. Dr. Das stressed on the need for involving the state machinery while allocating the studies. A letter from the Ministry to Chief Secretary may be issued for facilitating survey research.

2.16 Dr. Nisha Devi, Research Investigator, AERC Shimla informed about the non-permanent Director at the Centre and staff shortage.

3. The following action points emerged during the meeting:

- i. Organise an annual conference with all stakeholders, including the representatives of State Government and Universities. (**Action: AERC/Us**)
- ii. Prepare a proposal for hosting / organizing seminar/workshops/capacity building programmes within/among AERC/Us and with stakeholders twice in a year for submission

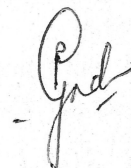


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to Ministry. (Action: AER Unit CMA IIM Ahmedabad).

- iii. To take up the issue of revival of the posts fallen under deemed abolished category and resolve the same within 2-3 months time. (Action: AER Section, E&S Division).
- iv. Clarification by the Ministry on nomenclature of posts in AER Centres/Units, TA, DA, etc. (Action: AER Section, E&S Division).
- v. Extending necessary support including authorization letters from Ministry to State Governments for facilitating the activities of AER Centre/Unit. (Action: AER Section, E&S Division).
- vi. To bring out 2-3 page policy briefs for dissemination among the stakeholder widely. (Action: AERC/Us)
- vii. Dissemination of the research outcome to a wider audience through social media for better visibility and impact. (Action: AERC/Us and E&S Division, DA&FW).
- viii. Formation of a Sub-Group Committee within AERC/Us network to monitor the progress of the feedback mechanism and evaluation of schemes. (Action: AER Units and AERC V.V.Nagar, and AER Section, E&S Division).
- ix. Sharing of the success stories/best practices from the ground. (Action: AERC/Us)
- x. Set up an Online Search Enabled Metadata option for accessing the research reports completed by the AER Centres and Units. (Action: AER Section, E&S Division, and NIC, DA&FW/DA (IT) Division, DA&FW).
- xi. A Conference would be organized during Platinum Jubilee Celebration of AERC, Pune in 2024. (Action: AERC, Pune)

4. Sr. ESA thanked all the participants for their active participation in discussions and suggestions. The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.



List of participants of the meeting of Secretary with AERCs/Us on 08.06.2023**I. Participants from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare:**

1.	Shri Manoj Ahuja	Secretary/Chairperson	DA&FW	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
2.	Shri Arun Kumar	Sr. ESA	E&S Division	DA&FW.
3.	Dr.Promodita Sathish	Adviser	AER Section	E&S Division DA&FW
4.	Dr. Ramesh Kumar Yadav	Joint Director	AER Section	E&S Division DA&FW
5.	Dr.Babu P.	Astt. Economic Adviser	AER Section	E&S Division DA&FW
6.	Sh. L. Sanjoy Meitie	Economic Officer	AER Section	E&S Division DA&FW
7.	Sh. Santosh	Economic Officer	AER Section	E&S Division DA&FW
8.	Sh. Jeewan Singh	Technical Assistant Economics	AER Section	E&S Division DA&FW
9.	Sh. Vaibhav Gupta	Technical Assistant Economics	AER Section	E&S Division DA&FW
10.	Sh. ShadabulHaque	JSO	AER Section	E&S Division DA&FW
11.	Ms. Neha Arora	Technical Assistant Economics	AER Section	E&S Division DA&FW
12.	Sh. Navdeep Sandhu	JSO	AER Section	E&S Division DA&FW
13.	Sh. Sachin Mittal	Technical Assistant (Hindi)	AER Section	E&S Division DA&FW
14.	Ms. Yogeshwari Tailor	Assistant Graph	AER Section	E&S Division DA&FW

II. Participants from the AERCs/Us and other organization:

S. No.	Name	Designation	AERUs/AERCs/Others
01	Prof. Ajit Ranade	Vice Chancellor	GIPE, Pune
02	Prof. Jayanti Kajale	Professor	AERC, Pune
03	Prof. BrajeshJha	Professor	AER Unit, IEG, Delhi
04	Prof. Ranjan Ghosh	Associate Professor, Chairperson	AER Unit, CMA, IIM Ahmedabad
05	Prof.. Ramappa K B	Professor and Head	AER Unit, ADRTC, ISEC Bengaluru
06	Prof. S. Chinnammai	Director i/c and Professor	AERC, Chennai
07	Prof. H. O. Sharma	Director	AERC, Jabalpur
08	Prof. S. S. Kalamkar	Director& Professor	AERC, VV Nagar
09	Prof. Paramjit	Director	AERC, Delhi
10	Prof. H. Purushotham	Hony. Director	AERC, Waltair
11	Prof. Jitender Mohan Singh	Director	AERC, Ludhiana
12	Dr. Javed Akhtar	Coordinator	AERC, Allahabad
13	Dr. Sanjay Kumar Jha	Hony. Director	AERC, Bhagalpur
14	Prof. A. K. Das	Hony. Director	AERC, Jorhat
15	Ms. Vamika Dahal	Research Fellow	AERC, Shimla
16	Sh. Sreejit Roy	Research Associate	AERC, VisvaBharati
17	Dr. Sanjay Kumar	Principal Agri. Economist	AERC, Ludhiana
18	Dr. D. Rathi	Dy. Director	AERC, Jabalpur
19	Dr. Yogesh Bhatt	Assistant Professor	AERC, Delhi

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20	Dr. Rajeev Kumar Sinha	Research Officer	AERC, Bhagalpur
21	Dr. GautamKakaty	Research Officer	AERC, Jorhat
22	Sh. KiranThete	Research Associate	CMA, IIM Ahmedabad
23	Dr. Tinku Paul	Research Associate	AERC, Allahabad
24	Sh. Hasib Ahmed	Research Associate	AERC, Allahabad
25	Dr. Kalpana Kapadia	Research Associate	AERC, VV Nagar
26	Sh. M. C. Makwana	Research Associate	AERC, VV Nagar
27	Dr. Nisha Devi	Research Investigator	AERC, Shimla
28	Dr. Sujan Singh	Research Investigator	AERC, Shimla
29	Sh. Md Asghar Ali	Section Officer	AERC, Delhi
30	Sh. ChamanLal	Office Superintendent	AERC, Shimla
31	Sh. Nityananda Maji	Office Superintendent	AERC, VisvaBharati
32	Sh. Mahesh Birwadkar	Account Assistant	AERC, Pune
33	Sh. Sudip Dutta	Under Secy.	DoRD
34	Dr. Shuaib Ahmed	Dy. Director, Eco. & Stat.	Planning Department, U.P.
35	Dr. Rajbir Singh	ADG (AAFCC), ICAR	NRM Division, ICAR
36	Dr. Prathibha A.	Economic Advisor	D/o Fertilizer, MoCF.
37	Sh. Pushendra Kumar	Research Officer	Planning Department, U.P.