



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

119 F-Wing, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi-110 001
Dated: 10th June, 2021

Office Memorandum

Subject: Minutes of Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting held on 28th May, 2021 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DAC&FW-reg.

The undersigned is directed to inform that the 3rd meeting of RAC for setting up institute specific annual work-plan and targets for Agro-Economic Research Centres/Units (AERCs/Us) under the AER Scheme was held virtually on 28th May, 2021 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DAC&FW.

2. The RAC discussed and deliberated upon the Agenda of the meeting and finalized the study topics for the workplan 2021-22. The details of the meeting are **enclosed** herewith in the Minutes of Meeting (MoM).

Encl: as above

(Dr. Ramesh Yadav)
Assistant Economic Adviser (AER)

To,

1. Chairman, RAC.
2. All Members of RAC.
3. Member Secretary, RAC.

Email Distribution list:

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**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF RESEARCH ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (RAC) OF AERCs/Us HELD ON MAY 28TH, 2021**

The third meeting of Research Advisory Committee (RAC) was virtually conducted under the Chairmanship of Shri Sanjay Agarwal, Secretary (DAC&FW) on 28.05.2021 at 4 P.M. The mandate of the RAC is to assign research work, set targets for Agro Economics Research Centres/Units (AERCs/Us) and carry out performance-review periodically. The list of participants in the meeting is **at Annexure-I**.

2. The meeting began with a brief welcome note by Mr. B.L. Meena, Adviser (AER Division) and Member Secretary, RAC welcoming the Chairman, RAC and other participants of the meeting. The Member Secretary then invited Dr. P. Babu, Assistant Director (AER Division) to make a brief presentation on the AER Scheme and RAC. Dr. P. Babu presented before the Committee an overview of the AER Scheme and the RAC and its objectives. Further, Dr. Babu presented on the two Agenda points of the meeting.

- **Agenda Item No. 1: Review of Work Progress and Outcome of AERCs/Us**

Dr. P. Babu apprised the Committee about the status of the studies at hand and the studies completed by AER Network over the course of last two years for the Work Plan of 2019-20.

- **Agenda Item 2: Approval for new studies to be undertaken by AERCs/Us for the year 2021-22**

Dr. P. Babu then informed the Committee about the new study proposals received from various Divisions of DAC&FW, allied Ministries, AERC/Us and ICAR among others.

3. The Secretary (DAC&FW) stressed on the importance of Agro-economic Research studies in the arena of policy making.

4. The RAC approved in total 17 All-India and state-specific research topics for Work-Plan 2021- 22 after careful examination of the need, objectives and implementation avenues of all the proposed studies. Further, some study topics need to be referred to the concerned Divisions for comments/clarification/justification. The list of study proposal-wise comments by the RAC is placed **at Annexure II**.

5. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Annexure I

List of Participants at 3rd meeting of Research Advisory Committee

S. No.	Name	Designation/Organisation
1.	Shri Sanjay Agarwal	Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW), MoAFW, Government of India
2.	Prof. Vijay Paul Sharma	Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), DAC&FW
3.	Dr. Srabani Guha	Sr. Economic & Statistical Adviser (Sr. ESA), Directorate of Economics and Statistics, DAC&FW
4.	Ms. Debashree Mukherjee	Additional Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India
5.	Dr B.R.K. Pillai	Commissioner (Command Area Development and Water Management), Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India
6.	Mr. Rohit Kumar	JS (RE), Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi
7.	Dr. Neelam Patel	Senior Adviser, NITI Aayog
8.	Dr Rajender Parsad	Director, ICAR-IASRI, New Delhi
9.	Prof. Chandra Sekhara Rao Nuthalapathi	Head, AERU, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
10.	Prof. Poornima Verma	Chairperson, CMA, IIM Ahmedabad
	Mr. B.L. Meena	Member Secretary (RAC) and Adviser, AER Division, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, DAC&FW
11.	Dr. Ramesh Kumar Yadav	Assistant Economic Adviser, AER Division, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, DAC&FW
12.	Dr. P. Babu	Assistant Director, AER Division, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, DAC&FW
13.	Prof. C.S.C Sekhar	Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
14.	Prof. Brajesh Jha	Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
15.	Prof. Pramod Kumar	ISEC, Bengaluru
16.	Dr. Shilpy Nagalia	Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
17.	Dr. Rajeev Sharma	Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
18.	Mr. Harish Dutt	Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi

Other participants:

- (1) Heads and Officers-in-charge/ Representatives and Faculty Members of AERCs of Allahabad, Bhagalpur, Chennai, Delhi, Jabalpur, Jorhat, Ludhiana, Pune, Shimla, Vallabh Vidhyanagar and Viswabharati.
- (2) Officials from AER Division, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, DAC&FW, and other participants.

Annexure II

The List of study proposal wise comments of Research Advisory Committee

Proposal No.	Received from	Proposed title of the study	Status of the proposed study	Comments
01	Policy Division, DAC&FW	'Farmers Suicide: Causes and Policy Prescription in India'	To be referred back to the concerned Division with 2016-17 study	The Secretary, DACFW suggested that the earlier study on the same subject conducted by ISEC, Bengaluru in 2016-17 be shared with the Policy Division who would now revisit their study proposal based on the findings of the ISEC study.
02	M&T Division, DAC&FW	Assessment of Skill Development Gap for different Agro Climatic Zones in the area of Agricultural Mechanization	To be clubbed with Proposal no. 14.	
03	Oilseeds Division, DAC&FW	To Study movement, traceability and uses of imported palm oil in various sectors after arrival on various ports	Approved	Secretary, DACFW pointed out that the topic is relevant and approved the same to be taken up.
04	Oilseeds Division, DAC&FW	Consumption pattern of different edible oils in India	Approved	Secretary, DACFW pointed out that the topic is relevant, and approved the same to be taken up.
05	NFSM Cell, Crops & PHMF Division, DAC&FW	Study on successful performance of Myanmar in pulses production and export	Approved	Secretary, DACFW pointed out that the topic is relevant, and approved the same to be taken up.
06	CACP	Estimation of Coconut Processing, Transportation and Marketing Costs in India	Approved	Secretary, DACFW pointed out that the topic is relevant, and approved the same to

				be taken up.
07	Fert Use Cell/INM Division, DAC&FW	Impact Evaluation of Pilot Project Development of Model Villages under Soil Health Card Scheme implemented during 2019-20 across the country.	Approved	Secretary, DACFW pointed out, that the topic is relevant and approved the same to be taken up.
08	National Gender Resource Centre in Agriculture, Directorate of Extension, DAC&FW.	Impact evaluation study for Women's Access to Farm Machinery under Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)	Outside the purview of AERC	The AERCs have not done any studies of this nature and they may not have the necessary expertise to carry out studies like this.
09	National Gender Resource Centre in Agriculture, Directorate of Extension, DAC&FW	Gender budgeting in beneficiary oriented schemes of DAC&FW	Outside the purview of AERC	
10	Dairy Division, DAHD, Min. of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	Cost of milk production and gross return to milk producers	Refer back to concerned Division for justification.	Secretary, DACFW commented that since a similar study was conducted in the workplan 2016-17, it could be taken up in the meeting next month after the Department has justified the relevance of the study.
11	Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs,	Evaluation Study of "Decentralized Procurement (DCP) Scheme for procurement of wheat/ paddy under Minimum Support Price (MSP)" incorporating an indepth / deeper study to evolve strategy for crop diversification in Punjab and Haryana to oilseeds and	Approved	Secretary, DACFW pointed out, that the topic is relevant and approved the same to be taken up.

	Food and Public Distribution.	pulses.		
12	AERU-CMA, IIM-Ahmedabad	Farm Labour Migration in India: An Analysis of Factors influencing the migration and its Outcomes	Dropped	
13	AERU-CMA, IIM-Ahmedabad	Determinants of farmer's participation within Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), including Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)	Approved	Regarding the proposed coverage of the study, it was suggested by Secy., DACFW and Senior Adviser (Ag.), NITI Aayog that Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Bihar to be included, whereas, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh to be excluded. After some discussion on the proposed title of the study, it was decided the study title should be changed to BPKP replacing ZBNF.
14	AERU-CMA, IIM-Ahmedabad	Mechanization and Labour Saving Technologies for Women in Agriculture	Clubbed with Proposal No. 2	It was decided to club together the study proposal No. 2 with study proposal no. 14 and the revised objectives based on both the studies. CMA- IIM-A to conduct the study.
15	AERC Shimla	An Impact Study By Pre And Post COVID -19 On Agriculture, Employment And Other Allied Activities in Himachal Pradesh	Dropped	Secy, DACFW and some Member, RAC- Senior Adviser (Ag.), NITI Aayog opined that once the entire Covid phenomenon is over, the study could then be

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				commissioned.
16	AERC Shimla	Socio-economic resurvey of Kibber village in Lahual&Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.	Dropped	
17	AERC Shimla	An Economic Analysis Of Changing Trends And Variation In Productivity Of Major Food Grain Crops In Himachal Pradesh	Dropped	Purpose of the study not convincing enough.
18	AERTC ISEC Bengaluru	Repercussions Of Reverse Migration Due To Covid-19 Pandemic In Karnataka	Dropped for now	Secy. DACFW commented that the study to be deferred to 2022-23 and taken up for discussion in the next RAC meeting, when Covid-19 is over.
19	AREC Allahabad	Impact of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) Scheme on Farm Income of Beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh	Refer to the concerned Division	Secy. DACFW pointed that the proposal should be referred to Jt. Secy, Farmers Welfare, Division to incorporate their views and to confirm if a similar study has been undertaken or not.
20	AREC Ludhiana	Impact Evaluation of paddy stubble management practices in Punjab	Approved	Secy. DACFW commented that another objective, viz., the utilization of machinery distributed under the central government's CRM scheme, and Machinery aspects to be added to the proposed objectives of the study.
21	AREC Bhagalpur	Supply Chain of Makhana Marketing and Processing in Bihar	Approved	Secretary, DACFW Secretary, DACFW pointed out, that the

				topic is relevant and approved the same to be taken up.
22	AREC Pune	Role of Women in Agricultural Sector: Case of Maharashtra	Approved provided the focus is on 'women as farmers' rather than 'women as labour force'.	Secy, DACFW commented that the proposed focus of the study must be on 'women as farmers' rather than on women as labourers. The latter was thought to be too broad a subject which goes beyond the mandate of agriculture.
23	AERC Pune	An Economic Evaluation of Vegetable Crops Cultivation in Maharashtra	Dropped	
24	AERC Pune	Impact of Farm Ponds in the Agricultural Economy of Maharashtra.	Dropped	
25	AERC Delhi	Estimating and Bridging the Yield Gaps in Oilseeds for Atam Nirbhar Bharat	Approved	Secy. DACFW pointed out that the proposed title of the study being broadly fine, suggested that a few more objectives may be added after consultations with the Joint Secretary, Oilseeds Division, DACFW.
26	AERC Shimla	Present Scenario of Apple Economy in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir- A Comparative Study	Approved	Secretary, DACFW pointed it as an interesting and relevant topic to be studied. Also, Member,RAC- Sr. Adviser, NITI Aayog proposed that the state of Uttarakhand be included in the coverage of the study.

27	AERC Jorhat	Characterization of Technology Gaps in Rice Cultivation for Sustainable Production and Enhancement of Farm Income in Assam	Dropped	
28	AERC Jorhat	Fish Farming: An Empirical Study in Assam	Dropped	
29	AERC Jorhat	An appraisal of Agricultural Scenario of Arunachal Pradesh with Socio-economic overtones	Dropped	Too broad a topic
30	AREC VV Nagar	Castor Crop Cultivation in Gujarat: Problems, Prospects and Export Potential	Approved	Secretary, DACFW Secretary, DACFW pointed out, that the topic is relevant and approved the same to be taken up.
31	AREC VV Nagar	Tobacco Crop Cultivation in Gujarat: Problems and Alternatives	Dropped	
32	AERC VV Nagar	Cultivation of Medicine and Aromatic Plants in India with focus on Isabgol crop: Problems, Prospects and Export Potential (Gujarat and Rajasthan State)	Dropped	Secy. DACFW suggested proposing another study with a focus on Millets, rather than the current focus on medicinal and aromatic plants. He also suggested getting in touch with Min. of AYUSH for comments on any study that may already have been done on the subject.
33	AERTC ISEC Bengaluru	COVID-19 Implications for Indian Agriculture	Dropped	Secy. DACFW and Senior Adviser (Ag.), NITI Aayog opined that the study should be deferred to 2022-23 and taken up for discussion later, when Covid-19 is over. It was suggested that to

				conduct a study on such topic would be unsuitable right now when the pandemic is still ongoing.
34	AERTC ISEC Bengaluru	Land Titling and Agricultural Productivity A Consolidated All India Study	Approved	Secy. DACFW asked about the time line within which the study would be completed, to which Dr. Parmod Kumar, ISEC replied 9 months to a year. Further, Dr. Parmod Kumar also clarified on the need for land titling among others.
35	AERU IEG Delhi	Price and Volatility Linkages among Agricultural Commodities: Implications for small farmers	Dropped	Secy. DACFW pointed that the study conducted earlier must be referred to and the proposed topic be modified in light of the finding.
36	AERU IEG Delhi	Identification of nodal markets for price monitoring	Approved	Secretary, DACFW pointed out, that the topic is relevant and approved the same to be taken up.
37	AREC Jabalpur	Farmers Perception regarding Production and Marketing of Quality Seed Production in Madhya Pradesh	Approved	Secretary, DACFW pointed out, that the topic is relevant and approved the same to be taken up.
38	AERU IEG Delhi	Village Survey Study	Dropped	

While discussing Study Proposal No. 2 on ‘Assessment of Skill Development Gap for different Agro-Climatic Zones in the area of Agricultural Mechanization’, Additional Secretary, Department of Water Resources pointed out that the Water use efficiency aspect may be added in the study to which Secretary (DACFW) suggested to send a ToR for a separate study to be conducted by AERC/Us.

It was also discussed that since the Study Proposals received from ICAR were mainly for funding purpose for which there is no provision in the AERC Scheme of DES/DAC&FW, ICAR is to be informed about the existing provisions of allocating studies to AER Centre/Units and the method by which studies get conducted in AER Division, DES. In case, there is any particular study that is of relevance to both ICAR and DAC&FW, they may send an appropriate study proposal that will be considered at the next RAC meeting.

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