

MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS' MEETING OF AERCs/Us HELD ON 27th AUGUST, 2021

The Directors' Meeting to allocate the studies among AER Centres/Units (AERCs/Us) for the work-plan of 2021-22 was conducted virtually under the Chairmanship of Sh. Lal Sanglur, Sr. Economic and Statistical Adviser, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, DA&FW, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare on 27th August 2021 at 11:30 A.M. The list of participants in the meeting is at **Annexure-I**.

2. The meeting began with a brief welcome note by Adviser (AER), welcoming the Chairman and other participants of the meeting. This was followed by a brief introduction of all the participants. The Adviser (AER) listed out the Agenda items of the meeting which were to review the study progress since 2017-18 and secondly, to allocate study/(ies) among AERCs/Us for the work plan of 2021-22.

3. In the meeting, it was decided to first take up the allocation of studies for the work plan 2021-22 among AERCs/Us .

(A) Agenda Item: Allocation of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) approved studies among AERCs/Us for the work plan of 2021-22

- i. Adviser (AER) informed that out of 83 study proposals received from different Ministries/Departments/Divisions/AERCs/Us, a total of 22 study proposals were approved by the Research Advisory Committee under Chairmanship of Secretary, DA&FW. It was further informed that all 22 study proposals (approved by RAC) were circulated to all stakeholders concerned which inter-alia include Department/Division concerned of the Ministries, AERCs/Us /IASRI for comments/suggestions. Numerous comments and various observations/suggestions have been received. All AERCs/Us were requested to look into the same and duly incorporate them while drafting the final proposal. The comments/views/suggestions, as received, to be shared with AERCs/Us.
- ii. AERUs like ISEC Bengaluru, CMA IIM Ahmedabad and IEG Delhi may have judicious approach while coordinating with different participating AER centres concerning study proposals which are being allocated to them, keeping in mind the purpose and objectives of the study. Prudently, the coverage, states, methodology may be decided by AER Units.
- iii. Adviser (AER) took-up all the 22 study proposals one by one and allocated each one of them to AERCs/Us with the direction that timelines as proposed by the Division/Deptt. of Ministries may be strictly adhered to. The allocation of the approved study proposals among AERCs/Us, along with the discussion on each of them is presented in table at **Annexure-II**.
- iv. All the respective AERCs/Us were requested to prepare and submit the final study proposal which inter-alia may include study objectives, methodology & scope/coverage and prepare the final study proposal.
- v. It was also informed that the contact details of Divisions/Departments of the concerned Ministries

would be shared with AERCs/Us for due incorporation of views of Division/Department/Ministries in the final study proposal.

- vi. Further, it was directed that the final study proposals are to be submitted by AERCs/Us to AER Division, DES, for approval **within two weeks' time from Directors' Meeting i.e. by 10th September, 2021.**

(B) Agenda Item: Review of study progress since 2017-18

- i. Adviser (AER) apprised about the performance of AERCs/Us with respect to the studies completed and pending studies with AER network from FY 2017-18 to 2021-22. Detailed review was carried out for each year since 2017-18 which inter-alia, included Centres/Unit-wise pending studies from previous work-plans, studies finalized by RAC, completed and pending.
- ii. A statement on pending studies (as on 24.08 2021) was also shared with AERC/Us. It was informed that a total of 09 studies were pending as on date. The status of each of the pending studies was reviewed one by one and AERCs/Us concerned were asked to mention the date of completion.
4. While reviewing the study progress, Sr. ESA observed/remarked the following:
- i. **Huge pendency of the studies with AERCs/Us at the end of each financial year for last 5-6 years-** Sr.ESA directed the AERCs/Us to complete the studies allocated to them in timely manner and strictly adhere to the timelines given, so that their relevance for the concerned subject Divisions/Ministries is maintained. Sr. ESA specifically emphasized on the current pendency with AERCs/Us and took a study-wise pendency issue with the concerned AERCs/Us (details at **Annexure-III**).
- ii. **Regular submission of Monthly and Quarterly Progress Reports-** Sr. ESA requested all AERCs/Us to submit the progress report on a monthly, as well as, Quarterly basis and report the same to Adviser, AER. Adviser (AER) to apprise Sr. ESA regarding the same on regular basis regarding progress of study reports.
- iii. **Monitoring the quality of research study allocated to AERCs/Us -** Sr. ESA expressed concern over not holding of Technical Advisory Committee meetings and Governing Body Meeting by AERCs/Us on a regular basis, and its adverse impact on the functioning of AERCs/Us, including quality and timely submission of studies. It was requested that all AERCs/Us to conduct these meetings regularly. Adviser (AER) suggested that AER Division, DES, DA&FW may be kept informed regarding holding of such meetings in future.
- iv. **Weekly study progress reports on current pending studies-**All the AERCs/Us may expedite their pending studies and submit Weekly Activity Status and Progress of the pending studies to the Adviser (AER) till their final submission.

5. Other points discussed in the meeting

- i. **Village survey studies:** The relevance of village survey studies was discussed for meeting overall objectives of the scheme. Prof Parmod Kumar stressed the need for village survey studies and elicited their importance as these studies are important for assessing ground-realities and to maintain a longitudinal-data over a period of time. It was pointed out that the need of review of such studies for their continuation in future.
- ii. **Continuation of AER scheme and AERCs/Us on account of pendency:** Sr. ESA expressed his concerns over continuation of scheme and AERCs/Us on account of pendency of studies and other related issues. Sr. ESA also informed that there are concerns regarding justification of scheme. He also informed about the idea of rationalization/merger of AER Centres and Units based on their performance and the same may be taken up with Secretary, DA&FW. Further, Sr. ESA requested for support from AERCs/Us for justification of scheme's continuation in the future.
- iii. **Staff related issues:** A few AERCs/Units like AERC Visva-Bharati, Waltair and Shimla expressed their concerns over staff and other related issues. Hon. Director, AERC Visva Bharati raised matter of over un-availability of staff in the Centre and requested the Ministry to look into the matter to resolve the issues/concerns. It was informed that a separate meeting to discuss the administrative/staff related issues would be convened in future to look in the matter.

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

Table1: List of participants of the Directors meeting

S.No.	Name	Designation / Organization
Participants from DES, DA&FW		
1.	Sh. Lal Sanglur	Sr. Economic & Statistical Adviser
2.	Dr. (Mrs.) Promodita Sathish	Adviser, AER Division
3.	Dr. Ramesh Kumar Yadav	Assistant Economic Adviser, AER Division
4.	Dr. P. Babu	Assistant Director, AER Division
5.	Officials from AER Division, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, DA&FW,and other participants.	
Participants from DA&FW		
Oil Seeds Division, DA&FW		
6.	Dr. B. K. Srivastava	Deputy Commissioner, Oilseeds Division.
INM Division, DA&FW		
7.	Sh. Gajendra Singh	Asstt. Dev. Officer (M), Fert Use Cell, INM Division, DA&FW
Farmers Welfare Division, DA&FW		
8.	Sh. A K Jha	Under Secretary
ICAR-IASRI, New Delhi		
9.	Dr. Rajender Parsad	Director, ICAR-IASRI, New Delhi
CACP, MoAFW		
10.	Sh Devendra Kumar Pandey	Adviser (Cost), CACP
Participants from DAH&D, MFAH&D		
11.	Dr. Dayanand Sawant	Assistant Commissioner, DAHD, Ministry of Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairying
12.	Sh. S. K. Kaushik	Technical Officer (DD), DA&HD, Min. of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
Participants from Department of Food and Public Distribution, MCAFP&D		
13.	Joint Director, DF&PD, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	
Participants from AER Centres/Units		
AER Unit, CMA, IIM-Ahmedabad		
14.	Prof. Vidya Vemireddy	Officiating Chairperson, CMA,IIM Ahmedabad
AER Unit, ADRTC, ISEC-Bengaluru		
15.	Prof. I. Maruthi	Head, AERU, ISEC-Bengaluru
16.	Prof. Parmod Kumar	ISEC, Bengaluru
AER Unit, IEG-Delhi		
17.	Prof. Chandra Sekhara Rao Nuthalapati	Head, AERU, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
18.	Prof. Brajesh Jha	Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
19.	Dr.Rajeev Sharma	Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
20.	Dr. Shilpy Nagalia	Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
21.	Sh. Harish Dutt	Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
22.	Dr. Sakshi Saini	Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
AERC, Allahabad		
23.	Sh. Javed Aktar	Coordinator, AERC, Allahabad
24.	Dr. H C Malaviya	Research Associate, AERC, Allahabad
25.	Dr. Haseeb Ahmed	Research Associate, AERC, Allahabad
AERC, Bhagalpur		
26.	Prof. Manindra Kumar Singh	Hony. Director, AERC, Bhagalpur
27.	Dr. Rajiv Kumar Sinha	AERC, Bhagalpur

28.	Dr. Rosline Kusum Marandi	AERC-Bhagalpur
29.	Sh. Rambalak Chodhary	AERC-Bhagalpur
AERC, Chennai		
30.	Prof. S. Chinnammai	Director-in-Charge, AERC, Chennai
31.	Dr. T. Priya	AERC, Chennai
32.	Sh G Mooventhan	AERC, Chennai
33.	Dr. R. Mani	AERC, Chennai
AERC, Delhi		
34.	Dr. P.K. Joshi	Hony. Director, AERC, Delhi
35.	Dr. Yogesh Bhatt	AERC, Delhi
AERC, Jabalpur		
36.	Dr. H.O. Sharma	Director, AERC, Jabalpur
37.	Dr. Deepak Rathi	AERC, Jabalpur
AERC, Jorhat		
38.	Dr. A. K. Das	Director, AERC, Jorhat
39.	Dr. Gautam Kakaty	AERC, Jorhat
AERC, Ludhiana		
40.	Dr. J. M. Singh	Director, AERC, Ludhiana
AERC, Pune		
41.	Prof. Sangeetha Sheroff	Officer-in-Charge, AERC, Pune
AERC, Shimla		
42.	Dr. Nisha Devi	AERC, Shimla
43.	Dr. Sujan Singh	AERC, Shimla
44.	Ms. Vamika Darhel	AERC, Shimla
AERC, Visva-Bharti		
45.	Prof. B.C. Roy	Hon. Director, AERC Visva-Bharti
AERC, VV Nagar		
46.	Dr. S.S. Kalamkar	Director & Professor, AERC-VV Nagar
47.	Dr. Hemant Sharma	Assistant Professor/Research Officer.
AERC, Waltair		
48.	Prof. H. Purushothan	Hon. Director, AERC-Waltair
49.	Dr. Krishna Mohan	Registrar, Andhra University
Others		
50.	Dr. Yaseen Ansari	

Table 2: Study allocation to AER Centres/Units for the Workplan of 2021-22. and study wise comments in Directors' Meeting

Proposal No.	Proposed Title of the Study	Proposal received from	Study allocated to	Remarks/Discussion/Comments
Study proposals from Divisions/Departments/allied Ministries (No. 01-10)				
1	'Farmers Suicide: Causes and Policy Prescription in India'	Policy Division, DA&FW.	ADRTC, ISEC, Bangalore	It was decided that the study to be awarded to ISEC Bengaluru, as the Unit completed the consolidated study earlier (2016-17). The heads of AERC Jabalpur and AERC Waltair requested their centres to be excluded from the coverage. However, it was discussed and decided that AER Unit ISEC Bengaluru would select the states in consultation with other participating centres and prepare a final study proposal considering the comments received from various stakeholders including Policy Division, DA&FW. ISEC Bengaluru expressed the willingness and assured to go ahead with the study.
2& 12 (clubbed-As approved by RAC)	Assessment of Skill Development Gap for different Agro-Climatic Zones in the area of Agricultural Mechanization and its impact on Women Farmers in Agriculture.	M&T Division, DA&FW (Proposal No. 2) + CMA IIM-A (Proposal No. 12)	CMA, IIM, Ahmedabad	Proposal No.2 & 12 were clubbed together as per the decision of RAC held in May 2021. CMA Ahmedabad suggested to propose the states for coverage on which Sr. ESA commented that the four states (Tamil Nadu, Gujarat. UP, Odisha) which were proposed by M &T Division, DA&FW need to be included in the coverage area, in addition to other relevant states.
3	To study movement, traceability and uses of imported palm oil in various sectors after arrival on various ports	Oilseeds Division, DA&FW	AERU, IEG, Delhi	Prof. Parmod Kumar raised the concern regarding Primary data issue to which Adviser, AER suggested that,instead, secondary data can be accessed from Deptt. of Commerce's website. It was informed that the study needs to be completed within 06 months from date of award, as requested by Oilseeds Division. AERU IEG Delhi had no comments to offer.
4	Consumption Pattern of Different Edible Oils in India	Oilseeds Division, DA&FW	AERU, IEG, Delhi	The study was allocated to AERU IEG Delhi with the timeline of 6 months from date of award.
5	Study on successful performance of Myanmar in pulses production and export	NFSM Cell, Crops & PHMF Division, DA&FW	CMA, IIMA-Ahmedabad	The Study was allocated to CMA IIM-Ahmedabad. Adviser, AER suggested that the revised name of the study may be 'Self Sufficiency in Pulses Production in India': Based on successful performance of pulse production and its export from Myanmar.

6	Estimation of Coconut Processing, Transportation and Marketing Costs in India	CACP, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare.	ADRTC, ISEC, Bengaluru	The study was allocated to ISEC Bengaluru keeping in view the production states of Coconut. The Agricultural Year July-June should be the time period of study.
7	Impact Evaluation of Pilot Project "Development of Model Villages under Soil Health Card Scheme" implemented during 2019-20 across the country.	Fert Use Cell/INM Division, DA&FW	ADRTC, ISEC, Bengaluru	Study to be submitted within 6 months. Dr. Anup Das, AERC Jorhat commented that as per the records, the demonstration programme for development of model villages under SHC scheme has been implemented in Assam in the current crop season (Kharif, 2021) only. Therefore, it was opined that it was too early to have an assessment for the state of Assam. On this, Adviser, AER remarked that it is up to ISEC Bengaluru to decide the coverage based on consultation. Prof. Parmod Kumar commented that the study being proposed to undertaken aimed at evaluating the Pilot Project, therefore, a study on All-India level might not be possible. Therefore, a suitable coverage in line with the objectives need to be arrived at and studied. The timeline of the study was decided at 06 months from date of award.
8	Cost of milk production and gross return to milk producers	Dairy Division, DAHD, Min. of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	AERC, V.V. Nagar	Adviser (AER) suggested to cover some states from Southern India too, as the earlier study was focused on Eastern India and Western India. It was decided that AERC, V.V. Nagar to decide coverage, however, Sr. ESA remarked that different districts may be covered. Further, the comments from Dairy Division, DAHD to be incorporated in the final study proposal.
9	Evaluation Study of "Decentralized Procurement (DCP) Scheme for procurement of wheat/paddy under Minimum Support Price (MSP)" incorporating an in-depth / deeper study to evolve strategy for crop diversification in Punjab and Haryana in oilseeds and pulses.	Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.	AERU, IEG, Delhi	The study was allocated to IEG Delhi.
10	Skill Gap in the area of Micro-irrigation	CADWM Division, Min. of Water Resources, RD & GR	CMA, IIM-Ahmedabad	The study was allocated to AERU CMA IIM-Ahmedabad keeping in view the earlier study done by the Unit on "Impact evaluation study on Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in 2019-20. Adviser, AER mentioned that the latter half of the objectives specifically focused on the study at hand which basically had skill gap and skill related manpower issue.

				Prof. Vidya Vemireddy, however, expressed concerns over unavailability of the last Project lead, Prof. Vasant Gandhi, due to his retirement. The concern was discussed in the meeting and based on the decision in the meeting, Prof. Vidya Vemireddy expressed her willingness to explore the study conducted by AERU CMA-IIM Ahmedabad. The study was allocated to AERU CMA-IIM Ahmedabad.
Study proposals from AER Centres/Units (No. 11-22)				
11	Determinants Of Farmer's Participation Within Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Including Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Padhati (BPKP)	AERU-CMA, IIM-Ahmedabad	CMA, IIM-Ahmedabad	Sh. B.C. Roy, Hon. Director, AERC, Visva-Bharati commented that the methodology may not be applicable to Sikkim as the state adopted the traditional method of farming, a cent percent organic state, not after implementation of PKVY but prior to it. Adviser AER specifically mentioned that best practices of Sikkim, the model village in Organic farming, may be covered/studied. The coverage of states was decided to be selected by AERU CMA IIM-Ahmedabad keeping in view the comments received from all stakeholders.
13	Impact of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) Scheme on Farm Income of Beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh	AERC Allahabad	AREC Allahabad	The state specific study was allocated to AERC Allahabad.
14	Impact Evaluation of paddy stubble management practices in Punjab	AERC Ludhiana	AREC Ludhiana	AERC Punjab was allocated the study. Dr. J.M Singh, Director, AERC Ludhiana suggested to include the state of Haryana and Western part of UP as the issue needed an integrated and comprehensive approach to be studied. The coverage was extended to include the states of Haryana and Western part of UP.
15	Supply Chain of Makhana Marketing and Processing in Bihar	AERC Bhagalpur	AREC Bhagalpur	Sh. Manindra Kumar Singh, Prof. & Hony. Director AERC Bhagalpur informed that a revised proposal has been submitted to AERC Jabalpur and requested AERC Jabalpur to furnish comments on the same for incorporation. The state specific study was allocated to AERC Bhagalpur.
16	Role of Women in Agricultural Sector: Case of Maharashtra	AERC Pune	AERC Pune	The state specific study was allocated to AERC Pune.
17	Estimating and Bridging the Yield Gaps in Oilseeds for Atam Nirbhar Bharat	AERC Delhi	AERC Delhi	The study was allocated to AERC Delhi. Sr. ESA suggested that this study proposal may be looked into along with study proposal no. 3 and 4, and may be jointly discussed with IEG Delhi for inputs/comments. However, the sample and coverage need to be different.

18	Present Scenario of Apple Economy in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand - A Comparative Study	AERC Shimla	AERC Shimla	The study was allocated to AERC Shimla. Dr. Nisha Devi, AERC Shimla mentioned that state of Uttarakhand may be difficult to cover. However, it was mentioned that the coverage as decided by RAC, which included the state of Uttarakhand need to be studied.
19	Castor Crop Cultivation in Gujarat: Problems, Prospects and Export Potential	AERC VV Nagar	AERC VV Nagar	The state specific was allocated to AERC VV Nagar.
20	Land Titling and Agricultural Productivity A Consolidated All India Study	AERTC ISEC Bengaluru	ISEC Bengaluru	The study was allocated to AERU ADRTC ISEC Bengaluru.
21	Identification of nodal markets for price monitoring	AERU, IEG Delhi	AERU, IEG Delhi	The study was allocated to AERU IEG Delhi. The details on the coverage of the study to be submitted by the IEG Delhi at the earliest.
22	Farmers Perception regarding Production and Marketing of Quality Seed Production in Madhya Pradesh	AERC Jabalpur	AERC Jabalpur	The state specific was allocated to AERC Jabalpur. Sr. ESA suggested to include Wheat, Gram and Soyabean in the scope of the study.

Table 3: Pending studies' details and comments from the Directors' Meeting

S.No.	Study title	AER Centre/Unit	Work-Plan	Scheduled time-line of completion	Status of pending Study	Delay (in Months)
1	Seed mini-kits of pulses and other crops- its relevance and application/ distribution efficiency (Consolidated Study)	ADRT, Bengaluru	2019-20	31 st March 2020	Pending (Drafting Stage)	16 Months
Sr. ESA inquired about the delay in submission of final study report to which Prof. Parmod Kumar expressed the concern over the studies allotted to ISEC Bengaluru both for the state of Karnataka and All India Coordinated studies. He also expressed concern that the nature of work requiring coordination with AERCs need time for submission of the studies. With regard to the study above in S. No. 1, Prof. Parmod Kumar assured that the study would be completed and final report be submitted within next 1-2 months.						
2	Assessing the impact of the e-NAM Initiative linking APMC Markets: Evidence from Villages	CMA IIM, Ahmedabad	2019-20	31 st December 2019	Pending (Drafting Stage)	19 Months
Acting Chairperson, CMA IIM-Ahmedabad assured to complete the study by September 2021.						
3	An investigation of policy environment for price support in pulses and oilseeds.	IEG , Delhi	2017-18	31 st May 2018	Pending (Analysis Stage)	38 Months
Sr. ESA specifically pointed out the excessive delay in completion of the study in S.No. 3 with directions to complete the study as soon as possible. Head, AERU IEG Delhi assured to complete the study by October 2021.						
4	Socio Economic Transformation of Reang primitive tribal group through Rubber plantation in Tripura	Jorhat	2019-20	31 st December 2019	Pending (Drafting Stage)	19 Months
Director, AERC Jorhat informed that the draft study has already been submitted to the Peer-reviewer (AERC Visva-Bharati). Hon. Director, AERC Visva Bharati informed that the peer reviewed study report would be furnished to AERC Jorhat in 15 days. AERC Jorhat assured to complete the study as soon as possible upon receiving of peer-review comments.						

5	The extent of erosion into farm profitability due to market imperfections in Andhra Pradesh	Waltair	2019-20	31 st December 2019	Pending (Analysis Stage)	19 Months
Hon. Director, AERC Waltair informed that the study faced delay due to Covid outbreak and the study would be completed by October 2021.						
6	Village Survey Study	Waltair	2019-20	30 th June 2020	Pending (Data Analysis Stage)	13 Months
Hon. Director, AERC Waltair informed that the study would be completed by October, 2021.						
7	Village Survey Study	ADRT, Bengaluru	2019-20	30 th June 2020	Pending (Analysis Stage)	13 Months
Prof. Parmod Kumar and Prof. Maruthi, Head, AERU, ADRTC ISEC Bengaluru assured that the final study report would be submitted in next couple of months. However, Prof. Parmod Kumar suggested that the aim with which the village survey/resurvey were undertaken was to create a longitudinal data on the Socio-economic characteristics of the villages overtime, and stressed that a separate study report need not be prepared, instead, a compilation of the dataset could be undertaken, and prepare a consolidated report. The final study report need to be completed in next 3 of months.						
8	Village Survey Study	Bhagalpur	2019-20	30 th June 2020	Pending (Peer review stage)	13 Months
Hon. Director, AERC Bhagalpur informed that the draft of the study at S.No. 8 has been sent for peer-review and the same would be submitted to the Ministry at the earliest post receiving the same from Peer-reviewer. The study need to be completed by Nov. 2021.						
9	Village Survey Study	Visva-Bharti	2019-20	30 th June 2020	Pending (Drafting Stage)	13 Months
Hon. Director, AERC Visva-Bharati informed that the study is facing delay due to staff shortage and assured to completed the only study with centre in couple of months time. The study need to be completed by Nov. 2021.						