

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) of**  
**AERCs/Us HELD ON 27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019 IN INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC**  
**GROWTH, NEW DELHI**

The second meeting of the RAC was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Sanjay Aggarwal, Secretary (DAC&FW), on 27.02.2019 at 12:15 PM/04:30pm at the Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi. The mandate of the RAC is to assign research work, set targets for the AERUs/Cs and carry out performance-review periodically. The list of participants in the RAC meeting is at Annexure-I.

2. Dr. K.L. Prasad, Sr Economic & Statistical Adviser, DES placed the study proposals before the Secretary, DAC&FW. He informed the Secretary that the study proposals have been discussed in detail by RAC members separately earlier and approval and comment of the chairman on each was required.

3. The Secretary (DAC&FW) stressed on the need of proper planning and implementation of the workplan. The research proposals that is proposed should have a purpose of revamping the policy environment. He stressed on the need for incorporating the views from the concerned Divisions while carrying out studies and work towards building a 'Farmers database'.

4. Dr. Manoj Panda, Director IEG Delhi had earlier highlighted the importance of AERCs/Us in providing research inputs to the Ministry. He mentioned that there was a need for the system to respond to the changing needs of the society both from long term perspective and short term needs and thereby, emphasised the role of researchers in agriculture sector.

5. Prof. Vijay Paul Sharma, Chairman, CACP welcomed the comprehensive coverage of the study proposals in terms of the areas covered. He suggested that the study proposals should involve a quick assessment of the programmes based on short, medium and long term needs of government and policy suggestions be made. The committee members were requested to recommend proposals which are not in the list of received proposals, but are relevant in the present scenario.

6. Prof. Vasant Gandhi, Chairman, CMA-IIM Ahmedabad gave a brief presentation on performance of AERCs/Us in last few years and mentioned that the studies by AERCs/Us contribute to evaluation of policy/programmes in economical way and therefore improvement in the policy environment. He added that, AERCs serve as 'eyes and ears' of Ministries in the country by providing quick policy inputs. He also informed the members about the recently held Agro-Economic Research Conference which served as a confluence of all the AER Units/Centres from all over the country.

7. Member Secretary, Shri. P.C. Bodh briefed RAC that 62 studies were completed from the workplan of 2017-18, and 15 on-going studies are nearing completion. The RAC approved 26 new All-India and state-specific studies. The list of approved studies along with comments are placed at Annexure-II. Member Secretary briefed the Chairman and the members of RAC



that proposals finally placed for approval have come from Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, NITI Aayog, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers, from institute of repute like CMA, IIM-Ahmedabad and other AER Units and centres.

8. Meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.

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Shruti  
22/2/2019



**List of participants at 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Research Advisory Committee**

S. No.	Name of the Person	Designation/Organisation
1.	Shri. Sanjay Agarwal	Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India
2.	Prof. Vijay Paul Sharma	Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.
3.	ShriChhabilendraRoul	Secretary, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, ShastriBhawan, New Delhi.
4.	Dr. K.L. Prasad	Sr. Economic & Statistical Adviser (ESA), Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, KrishiBhawan, New Delhi.
5.	Ms. Gurveen Sidhu	Joint Secretary, Dept. of Fertilizers, GOI
6.	Mr. Anuj Kanwal	Director (R&D), Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, New Delhi.
7.	Dr. Suresh Pal	Director, National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi.
8.	Prof. Manoj Panda	Director, IEG, Delhi
9.	Prof. Vasant Gandhi	Chairperson, Centre for Management in Agriculture (CMA), Agriculture Economic Research Unit (AERU), IIM-Ahmadabad.
10.	Dr. Ramappa K.B.	Professor and Head, Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre (ADRTC), Agriculture Economic Research Unit (AERU), ISEC-Bengaluru.
11.	Prof. C.S.C. Sekhar	Head, Agriculture Economic Research Unit (AERU), Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Delhi.
12.	Dr. L. M. Bhar	Director, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Pusa, Delhi.
13.	Mr. P.C. Bodh	Member Secretary (RAC) and Adviser, Agro-Economic Research Division, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.
14.	Ms. Swati Singla	Assistant Economic Adviser, AER Division, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.
15.	Mr. Dharmendra Kumar	Representative of Chief Economic Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance
16.	Prof. BrajeshJha	IEG, Delhi
17.	Dr. SangeetaChakravarty	IEG, Delhi
18.	Prof. Chandrasekhar Rao	IEG, Delhi
19.	Prof. NilabjaGhosh	IEG, Delhi

**Other participants:**

Officials from AER Division, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, and staff/faculty from IEG, Delhi.



**List of approved studies and comments of Research Advisory Committee****Proposal 01: Impact evaluation study on Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).**

The study proposal was approved by RAC with the comment that it is to be merged with another study proposal, '**Improving Water Use & its Efficiency in India: The Impact of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) - Per Drop More Crop**'.

**Proposal 02: Organic Farming in India: Relevance, Problems and Constraints.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC with the following comments:

1. More centres may be involved other than the proposed one and the study to be coordinated by one of the AERUs.
2. The study should not be restricted to the region or state alone, but expanded to all India level or be undertaken agro-climatic zone wise.
3. Four commodities may be selected for value chain analysis.
4. Various issues like labeling, trust, certifications may be examined for the markets in organic agricultural products.

**Proposal 03: Future market for agricultural commodities in India.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC with the following conditions:

1. The study shall focus on price discovery and its volatility and how future markets will help in price policy reform.
2. Apart from looking at secondary data of spot and future prices, the study should have provisions for feedback from the market participants.
3. Directorate of Marketing & Inspection is doing a study on future markets, the possibility of merging the the two studies may be explored.

**Proposal 04: The extent of erosion into farm profitability due to market imperfections.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC with the following comments:

The study shall focus on farmer's income and evaluate how much transaction cost is involved. Primary data may be used for the same, as it will provide clearer picture of what farmers actually pay.

**Proposal 05: Village Survey Study.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC with the following comments:

1. These will be continuous studies to create a longitudinal panel dataset, to capture the socio-economic dynamics of the village.

*Susmita*



2. There should be a proper mix of advanced, developing and backward villages in the study coverage and should include villages of different regions, not just limited region.

**Proposal 06: Land titles and Agricultural Productivity: A Consolidated All India Study.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC with the suggestion to prioritise and narrow down the research objectives. The study may be undertaken only as a state specific study, rather than a coordinated one. The study may focus on database generation.

**Proposal 07: Understanding the performance and impact of Producer Companies (PCs)– Case studies across states and promoters in India.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC subject to the following conditions:

1. The study should focus on FPO policy, its impact and implementation in the country.
2. The study may focus on FPOs in general rather than being limited to Producer Companies. The recent experience of the FPOs may be studied, as to whether they are working or not, and assess the reasons for the same.

**Proposal 08: Impact evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS): Soil Health Card.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC with the suggestion to assess whether the message of Soil Health Card Scheme has been communicated to farmers or not, among other factors as part of impact evaluation of the scheme.

**Proposal 09: Impact Evaluation of Farm Debt Waiver Scheme on Farmers' Livelihood in Punjab.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC subject to the following conditions:

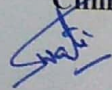
1. The study should include four states, i) Punjab, ii) either of Maharashtra or Uttar Pradesh iii) any two can be chosen from Rajasthan, Karnataka and West Bengal.

**Proposal 10: Assessment of Skill Gap for different Agro-Climatic Zones.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC subject to the following comments.

1. The title of the study may indicate farm mechanisation.
2. IASRI has also done a comprehensive study on the same subject. The findings of that study may be looked into and overlapping may be avoided.
3. The study may focus on custom hiring centres and assess whether the divide between small farmers and others has been bridged as a result.

**Proposal 11: Strategies to Bridge Yield Gap of Major Crops in Bundelkhand Agro-Climatic Region of Madhya Pradesh.**





The study proposal was approved by RAC with the suggestion to focus on complete Bundelkhand region falling in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

**Proposal 12: Status and Role of Women in Agriculture: Case of Maharashtra.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC with the comment to change the title and scope of the study to "Status, role and challenges of women in Agriculture: Strategies for remedies of challenge".

**Proposal 13: Socio Economic Transformation of Reang primitive tribal group through Rubber plantation in Tripura.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC with the suggestion to do a comparative data analysis pre and post adoption of Rubber Cultivation and to examine the impact on natural resources. The scope and title of the study may be expanded to 'Status, Challenges & Way Forward for Jhum Cultivation'.

**Proposal 14: Requirement and availability of cold chain for fruits and vegetables in the country.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC with the observation to merge the study proposal, 'Identifying Measures to Reduce Wastage in Supply Chain for Select Vegetables' with it.

**Proposal 15: Role of fruit and vegetable processing in enhancing income and employment of small and marginal farmers in West Bengal.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC with the suggestion to focus on the impact of different schemes on food processing and agriculture sector and to examine their reach to the farmers of West Bengal and assess the reasons for low reach..

**Proposal 16: Value chain analysis of sheep and goats in India.**

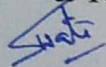
The study proposal was approved by RAC subject to the following conditions:

1. The study may be undertaken with the regionwise division of the country, viz Southern India, Eastern India etc and be coordinated by one of the State University or AERC.
2. The study may also focus on the DBT mechanism in the livestock sector.

**Proposal 17: Assessment of feed and fodder in all States/UTs.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC with the suggestion that primary data need to be collected and analysed in addition to the secondary data analysis for feed and fodder assessment.

**Proposal 18: Evaluation of Zero Budget Natural Farming initiatives in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana.**





The study proposal was approved by RAC as a state-specific study.

**Proposal 19: Impact of National Food Security Mission on Production and Productivity of Sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC with the suggestion to cover the state of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra under the study. The two sugarcane research institutes viz. Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research and National Sugar Institute along with IASRI may also be involved in the study.

**Proposal 20: Sugarcane Transportation Cost and Harvesting Cost.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC as a short time research project. However, RAC suggested to carefully select the states. From sugarcane perspective, there are two kinds of states: one where sugar mills are located and another where the farmer participation is involved. Therefore, the study needs to be done for states which cover both aspects respectively.

**Proposal 21: Seed mini-kits of pulses- its relevance and application/ distribution efficiency.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC with the comments to cover the seed mini-kits of all crops, rather than only pulses. The Commodity specific institutes of ICAR along with IASRI may be involved in the study.

**Proposal 22: Impact of Hail Protection Mechanism on Apple Crop in Himachal Pradesh-A Case Study of Shimla District.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC as a state-specific study.

**Proposal 23: Market analysis for Bamboo Products.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC as a coordinated study.

**Proposal 24: Electronic Agricultural Markets: reasons for non- off take- farmers' perspective.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC as a coordinated study with the suggestion to merge it with study titled, 'APMCs: Investigating Welfare Effects of Amending the APMC Act' proposed by CMA, IIM, Ahmadabad.

**Proposal 25: Assessment of ratio of different products/forms of Spices being marketed: Study based on Ginger and Turmeric.**

The study proposal was approved by RAC as a coordinated study.

**Proposal 26:**

This study proposal was placed before RAC by Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers in the meeting and was approved subsequently as a fast-track study. The study shall be

undertaken by CMA, IIM, Ahmadabad, once the complete proposal is received from the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers.

