

By Speed Post

F. No. 1-1/2012/ (AER)-ES
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture & Cooperation
Directorate of Economics & Statistics
(AER Division)

119, F Wing, Shastri Bhawan
4th October, 2013

Office Memorandum

Sub: Minutes of meeting of Coordination Committee for Organization of Studies (CCOS) held on 16th September, 2013 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A&C).

Please find enclosed herewith the minutes of the meeting of the Coordination Committee for Organization of Studies (CCOS) held on 16th September, 2013, regarding studies to be conducted by the AERCs during the next one year. A copy of presentation made during the meeting, a list of studies presently being conducted by the AERCs and a list of studies completed by the AERCs during the last five years are also attached for perusal.

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To

1. All Members of CCOS.
2. All Participants in the meeting.
3. All Divisional Heads in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

No. 1-1/2012/(AER)-ES
Ministry of Agriculture
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Subject: Minutes of the Coordination Committee for Organizing Studies (CCOS) on Research /evaluation studies to be conducted through AERCs/Us.

A meeting of the Coordination Committee for Organizing Studies (CCOS) on Research /evaluation studies conducted through AERCs/Us was held on 16th September, 2013 under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. A list of the participants is annexed.

A brief presentation was made by Adviser (AER) indicating the genesis of AERCs, the mandate of the CCOS, and Centre-wise and year-wise completion status of the studies awarded since 2007-08. A copy of the presentation is attached at Annex. While initiating the discussion, Secretary mentioned that there should be a system of review of the studies awarded/done in the past which should include, inter alia, the action taken on the reports after their presentation/submission to the Government/concerned Divisions and whether the key findings/recommendations/results have been absorbed. AERC Division should monitor the projects and ensure that the studies are completed within the stipulated time schedule. Further, the survey questionnaire should be designed carefully so that information / data on the intended variables are captured accurately to meet the objectives. The members of the CCOS and Divisional Heads were asked for their comments on the list of proposals placed before the Committee and other issues/topics which they may consider worth pursuing by the AERCs.

Dr. Ashok Gulati, Chairman, CACP mentioned that while there has been significant increase in the productivity and production of cotton, maize and pusa basmati rice in the last few years, in order to achieve a 4% rate of growth, higher emphasis to the horticulture and livestock sectors would be necessary. Production of animal feed and fodder also need to be looked into. Further, the emphasis should not only be on production and productivity but also on processing, marketing including international trade and reducing the post harvest losses/wastages. This needs to be examined in an open economy environment with low to moderate tariff rates.

Dr. J.S. Sandhu, Agriculture Commissioner, mentioned that the costs benefits of micro irrigation need to be looked into for its adoption at a wider scale.

Shri Sanjeev Chopra, JS(Horticulture) mentioned that the evaluation reports of the programmes/schemes of the Deptt. should be shared with the AERCs. Further, the studies/evaluations awarded to the Centers should be completed within a short period

of 3-6 months so as to take the findings/recommendations into policy formulation and mid-course correction to have a direct impact on the outcomes.

Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, JS (Credit) mentioned that the factors inhibiting the development of the agriculture sector, particularly credit widening and crops insurance coverage need to be examined.

Shri Shankar, Joint Commissioner (Fisheries) DAHD&F emphasized the need for a comprehensive study on the post harvest infrastructure facilities for the fisheries sector.

Sh. G. Bhujabal, Economic Adviser (Food Processing Industries) mentioned that the Deptt would like to entrust a study on the extent of losses/wastage in fruits and vegetables in Azadpur Mandi in Delhi.

Ms. Rajni Sibal, JS (Dairy Development, D/o AHD&F) desired that a comprehensive study on demand-supply and consumption of milk in the country and its cost effective procurement at farm gate be done.

Ms. Rani Kumudini, JS (Trade), DAC expressed the need for a comprehensive study on the relationship among farm harvest prices, wholesale prices, export prices and retail prices which was also supported by Dr. Radhakrishnan, EA(DCA).

Dr. N.K. Sahu, Economic Adviser (Rural Development) mentioned that impact of NREGA on the availability of agriculture labour and wage rates, its positive impact on the agricultural operations have been done by quite a few agencies in the past. However, if the Department of Agriculture so desires, they may do another study.

Ms. Vandana, Director, PP Division expressed the need for a study on crop loss due to diseases and pest attacks on plants.

Ms. Reena Saha, Director (Crops Division) mentioned that the studies should be intervention based to fine tune the policy and programmes. The hypothesis need to be more focused to make the studies application oriented.

Ms. Smriti Sharan, Director (Seeds) mentioned that the Division would like the quantity of farm saved seeds to be assessed in order to validate the seed replacement rates.

Dr. Anupam Barik, Addl. Commissioner (Crops) mentioned that the decline in area under oil seeds particularly castor and sun flower, and promotion of organic farming need to be studied.

Dr. K.U. Vishwanathan, DGM, NABARD mentioned that there was a need to give priority to post-harvest management, storage and marketing during the 12th Plan. It is observed that 80% of the agricultural credit is going for short term. There is a need to look into the investment/long term credit requirement of the agricultural sector, access of farmers to credit, credit-deepening and widening.

Sh. Raghav Chandra, AS&FA mentioned that the AERCs should perform as centers of excellence in agricultural research, provide policy inputs/briefs for which specific

AERCs could be tied up with specific Divisions in the Department of Agriculture for constant interaction.

Prof. Parmod Kumar, Agricultural Development and Rural Transformation Centre, Instt. for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore mentioned that coordinated studies involving more than one state and more than one Agro-Economic Research Centre invariably involve delays in completion of the study. Further, it has been observed that the Division concerned on whose behalf the studies are conducted do not provide the necessary data/information in time. Therefore, a close interaction between the AERCs and the Division concerned is necessary. The Directorate of Economics and Statistics has proposed a study on quantification of the proportion of Seed Feed and Wastage in various crops at state and All India level. This would require a large sample across India which is difficult to be done with the existing manpower and financial resources of the AERCs. The ADRT Centre - ISEC would be willing to undertake a study on the recommended doses of fertilizers – crop-wise and state-wise based on scientific norms, soil characteristics, irrigation status, cropping pattern etc. provided necessary data is made available by the agencies concerned.

Prof. Sukhpal Singh, Centre for Management of Agriculture, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad mentioned that they would be keen to do the studies on agricultural input marketing models and micro irrigation. The latter would cover four states.

JS (Cooperation), DAC expressed the need for a pan India study to identify the cooperatively developed, under-developed and least developed states. The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) will be willing to get associated with the study and provide the necessary information/data.

Prof. Manoj Panda, Director (IEG) expressed the need to study the year to year variation in agricultural growth, production and how to reduce it, the kind of crop diversification required at state level and linkages between trade and food inflation. It would be a good idea to link the AER Centres with specific tasks.

Sh. Narendra Bhooshan, JS (INM) mentioned the need to study the reasons as to why farmers were not going for soil tests and what would be the last mile solution. He also emphasized the need for a study on assessment of area and production under organic farming, particularly, under non-certification category. Further, after the implementation of model APMC act by the States, the status of marketing reforms, the relationship between marketing reforms and income/realization of the farmers and gaps in marketing infrastructure, need to be looked into. He further expressed the need for an assessment of use of farm machinery and its impact on agricultural production, productivity and income of the farmer.

Sh. R.K. Jain, Addl. Secretary mentioned that there was a need to shorten the duration of the study period to 4-5 months, too long a period loses the practical utility of the study. Further, the methodology adopted for each study should be thought of carefully.

Sh. A.K. Shrivastava, Addl. Secretary emphasized the need for studies on the recommended doses of fertilizers, collection of authentic information on pesticide consumption and the extent of farm saved seeds.

Sh. R. Jamuda, Addl. Secretary mentioned that the seeds replacement rate in case of pulses and oilseeds were far below than that of cereals. A study as to why farmers were not picking up the hybrid seeds for pulses and oilseeds and what needs to be done was recommended. Further, even though a large number of Kisan Credit Cards have been issued, there were bottlenecks to convert them into Smart Cards and to what extent it has helped in credit deepening and widening needs to be looked into.

Dr. B. Gangaiah, ESA mentioned that the evaluations have to be differentiated into formative evaluation and process evaluation. The former would involve field conduct/pilot testing before launching a programme/scheme whereas the latter examines how a scheme was implemented vis-à-vis its intended objectives. It is generally observed that quite a few of our schemes face implementation problems due to inadequate attention to the formative evaluation (or appraisal).

After the general discussion on the areas of priorities expressed by different Divisional Heads/Departments, the new study proposals received were gone through and the following decisions were taken:

RESEARCH/EVALUATION STUDIES APPROVED FOR 2013-14			
A. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation			
Sponsoring / Suggesting Agency	Sl. No.	Study Title	Decision of CCOS
Crops Division	1.	Impact Evaluation and Socio-economic Study of Bt. Cotton during 2012-13 for major cotton growing states since 2003.	Not approved Already being done by CMA, IMA.
Drought Monitoring Cell	2.	Efficacy of utilization of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) by Drought affected States: A Case study of six States that notified drought during Kharif-2012	Not approved.
INM Division	3.	Adoption of recommended doses of fertilizer on soil test basis by farmers.	Approved, Coordinator ISEC, Bangalore.
	4.	Collection and compilation of statistical data on area,	Not approved. Involves large sample

		production, certification and processed food production under organic farming, and production and marketing of organic inputs	size which is beyond the resources of AERCs. Division may get it done through its own funds.
Trade Division	5.	Relationship between wholesale prices, retail prices, and details of contributing factors for the price difference between the two for important commodities	Approved. S.No.5 & 6 to be combined in one study. IEG, Delhi.
	6.	The relationship between wholesale prices, export prices (FoB) and prices realized by the farmers.	
Plant Protection Division	7.	Evaluation of the Central Sector Plan Scheme "Strengthening and Modernization of Plant Quarantine Facilities in India".	Already given to AERC, Visva Bharati on payment basis.
Mechanization & Technology Division	8.	Assessment of farm power, machinery & manufacturing infrastructure & future needs of agriculture mechanization in India.	Not approved. Requires more focused objectives.
B. Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries,			
	9.	Impact assessment and evaluation of Central Sector Schemes like Central Sheep Breeding Farm, Hissar , Central Poultry Development Organizations	Approved.
	10.	Impact assessment and evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes - Conservation of Threatened Breeds of Livestock since last 10-35 years (SR Division)	Not approved.
	11.	Evaluation of economic losses due to Brucellosis and PPR on Livestock	Not approved. AERCs may not have the required expertise.

		Health & Disease control.	Deptt. may explore within the ICAR set up.
	12.	Evaluation and Assessment of economic losses on account of inadequate Post Harvest Infrastructure Facilities for Fisheries Sector in India(DD& Trade)	Approved
	13.	Demand, Supply and Consumption of milk and milk products during the 11 th Five year Plan and projections for 12 th Five year Plan and its cost effective procurement at farm gate.	Approved. IEG, Delhi
	14.	Comparative economics of sheep/ goat production vis-à-vis other animals in various agro-ecological Zones	Not approved.
	15.	Study on the economic losses from mastitis in cattle.	Not approved. AERCs may not have the required expertise. Deptt. may explore within the ICAR set up.
C. RESEARCH STUDIES PROPOSED BY AGRO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH (AER) CENTRES			
AERC-Allahabad	16.	Future Prospects of Grocery Retailing in Main Regions of Uttar Pradesh	Not approved.
	17.	Role of Agri- woman in agro-economic development, health management and social reform.	Not approved.
AERC-Ludhiana	18.	Possibilities and Constraints in Adoption of Alternative Crops to Paddy for Agricultural Diversification in Punjab and Haryana.	Approved. AERCs, Ludhiana (Coordinator) and Delhi.
AERC-Visva Bharati	19.	Factors involving development in marine Fisheries in Andaman and	Not approved.

		Nicobar Islands- a case study	
	20.	A Study on Productivity and Profitability in Eastern Himalayan Agriculture.	Not approved.
	21.	MGNREGS – An Impact-evaluation: inclusion or elite-capture?	Not approved. Ministry of RD has enlisted agencies for such evaluations.
AERC, ISEC, Bangalore	22.	Impact of Bhoochethana on the resource use efficiency, production and productivity of rainfed crops in Karnataka.	Not approved.
	23.	Impact of National Food Security Mission (NFSM) on Input use, Production, Productivity and Income, a Case Study in Karnataka in NFSM & non-NFSM districts	Approved.
CMA, IIM Ahmedabad	24.	Agro-input Marketing Models in India: Performance and potential	Approved.
	25.	Irrigation and Entrepreneurship: Status and Lessons for improvements and Expansion – covering four states.	Approved.
	26.	Coping with Climate Change: View from Below.	Not approved. IEG has done it earlier.
	27.	Impact of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy on Fertilizer Consumption Pattern, Prices and Agricultural Production (Coordinated study).	Not approved. Ernst and Young has done it.
D. RESEARCH STUDY PROPOSALS FROM AER Division, DES			
AER Div, DES	28.	Estimation of the Seeds, Feed, Wastage and Industrial Use of Food Grains and other	Approved. ISEC, Bangalore.

		Agricultural commodities in India.	
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The Committee felt that pan India studies involving large sample sizes should be done by the Divisions/Departments separately through the bidding process as AERCs do not have the required resources.

Secretary also desired that a list of studies conducted by AERCS during the last 5 years be circulated among the members of the CCOS and Divisional Heads. Further, the projects/studies in hand, the AERC involved and by when these would be completed, should be given to the Divisional Heads. The requirements of the Divisions in the Department of Agriculture and the expertise of the AERCs should be matched for a better interaction between them on a regular basis. The Divisions have to own the studies, monitor the progress, provide the necessary inputs/data/clarification to facilitate completion of studies in time and draw inputs from the findings and recommendations in policy formulation.

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

List of Participants

1. Shri Ashish Bahuguna, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation- Chairman
2. Dr. Ashok Gulati, Chairman, CACP Member
3. Dr. B. Gangaiah, ESA, DES, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.
4. Shri Sanjay Bhoosreddy, Joint Secretary, D/o AHD&F.
5. Shri G. Bhujabal, Economic Adviser, M/o Food Processing Industries.
6. Dr. N. K. Sahu, Economic Adviser, Ministry of Rural Development.
7. Dr. K. G. Radhakrishnan, Economic Adviser, D/o Consumer Affairs.
8. Prof. Manoj Panda, Director, Instt. of Economic Growth, Delhi.
9. Prof. Sukhpal Singh, CMA, IIM, Ahmedabad.
10. Dr. Pramod Kumar, Professor and Head, ADRTC, ISEC, Bangalore.
11. Dr. T. Rai, Scientist (SG), PIM, ICAR, Krishi Bhawan.
12. Dr. K. U. Vishwanathan, DGM, NABARD, Bombay.

Other Participants

1. Shri Raghav Chandra, Addl. Secretary & FA, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation
2. Shri A.K. Srivastava, Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation
3. Shri R.L. Jamuda, Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation
4. Shri D.K. Jain, Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation
5. Shri J.S. Sandhu, Horticulture Comm., Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.
6. Shri Sanjeev Chopra, JS, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.
7. Shri R.K. Singh, JS, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.
8. Ms Rani Kumudini, Joint Secretary, Agriculture.
9. Ms Rajni Sekhri Sibal, Joint Secretary, Dairy Development.
10. Shri Narendra Bhoosha, JS, DAC.
11. Dr. B. S. Bhandari, Adviser (AER), DES, DAC.
12. Dr. N. Chandrashekhar Rao, Professor and Head, AERC, IEG, Delhi.
13. Dr. V. K. Gaur, CMD, NSC.
14. Dr. Anupam Barik, Additional Commissioner, (Crops) DAC.
15. Shri Shankar L, Joint Commissioner (FY), DAHDF, Krishi Bhawan.
16. Shri Vinit Verma, Director (Coop), Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.
17. Ms Vandana, Director (PP), DAC.
18. Ms Reena Saha, Director (Crop), DAC.
19. Ms Smriti Sharan, Director (Seeds), DAC.
20. Shri Akhlesh Kamal, Director, DADF.
21. Shri Nagender Jatav, Deputy Economic Adviser (AER), DES
22. Shri Byasadev Naik, Economic Officer, AER.
23. Shri Madhukar Rajpoot, Sr. Statistical Officer, AER.
24. Shri Ajay Bhardwaj, Junior Statistical Officer, AER.

