

F. No. 1-1/2022-AER-ES
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
ES&E Division, AER Section

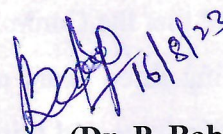
Room No.102, F-Wing,
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi -110 001
Dated: 16th August, 2023

Subject: Minutes of the 4th meeting of Research Advisory Committee (RAC) held on 19th July, 2023 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DA&FW-reg.

The undersigned is directed to **enclose** the minutes of 4th meeting of Research Advisory Committee (RAC) held under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DA&FW on 19th July, 2023 at 6:00 pm in Room No. 142, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi for necessary action.

This issues with approval of competent authority.

Encl. as above



(Dr. P. Babu)
Assistant Economic Adviser (AER)

Distribution: As per participation list

**MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) HELD
ON 19TH JULY, 2023 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SECRETARY, DA&FW**

The Fourth meeting of Research Advisory Committee (RAC) was held in person under the Chairmanship of Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary (DA&FW) on 19th July, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. in room no 142, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi for consideration and approval of research study proposals received for work plan 2023-24. The list of participants is at **Annexure-I**.

2. At the outset, Sr. ESA welcomed the chair, RAC members and other participants. The meeting began with a brief introductory note on the purpose of the RAC meeting and invited Member Secretary, RAC/Adviser (AER) to make a presentation on the Agro-Economic Research (AER) Scheme and new study proposals to be placed before RAC.

3. A detailed presentation was made by Adviser, AER on the agenda 4th RAC meeting, the working of AER Scheme and its objectives. Committee was also explained about mandate and composition of RAC.

4. Secretary, DA&FW enquired about the criteria for approval of study proposals. Adviser, AER clarified that the Committee may consider the study proposal if no similar study was conducted in the preceding three years under AER scheme, secondly if the proposal is on currently relevant agro-economic issue and thirdly, if it pertains to issue/(es) of special interest. Further, the Committee was also informed about status of studies allotted in the previous work plan. Out of 21 studies allocated in work 2021-2022, only 5 are pending, however, are nearing completion. For 2023-24 work plan, a total of 38 proposals have been received from various Divisions of DA&FW (6 Nos.), allied Ministries (9 Nos.), Agro-Economic Research Centres and Units (AERCs/Us) (23 Nos.) for consideration and approval of RAC. Adviser, AER thereafter, presented the new study proposals one by one covering title of the study, objectives, coverage/scope etc. for consideration of the RAC.

5. Secretary, DA&FW stressing on the importance of AER studies in policy formulation, emphasized that RAC needs to be organized annually and suggested to institutionalize the feedback/impact assessment of schemes. He also stressed that the studies by AERCs should throw insight into farmers perspectives on different aspects of schemes/agrarian issues.

6. Chairman, CACP emphasized that the focus area of research studies should be on performance evaluation of various schemes. The primary aim of these studies is to provide continuous feedback for assessing ground situation and for policy formulation/intervention. The study should undertake primary survey. It was pointed out that concurrent feedback/impact assessment of schemes is under progress.

7. During the meeting, it was suggested that the research study proposals may be on the following broad themes;

- Millets-farmers' perspective
- Crop insurance-RWBCIS
- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund
- Micro- irrigation

- e-NAM
- Price Support
- PM Kisan
- Credit issues of farmers
- Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)/Farmer's collectives

The study and its specific objective may be chosen within these broad themes. It was advised that AERCs/Us may be given flexibility to choose specific issues from the broad themes which are relevant for policymaking and implementation. RAC may also approve broad area of study and the detail of study proposal may be fine tuned and finalized in the Director's meeting.

8. A total of 11 research study proposals were approved by RAC and suggestions/comments on area coverage, scope, objectives etc. on specific proposals were offered by the Committee. Comments on study proposals placed before RAC are at **Annexure II**.
9. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of participants of the 4th meeting of Research Advisory Committee held on 19.06.2023**Participants from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and other allied Ministries:**

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| 1. Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, DA&FW.
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. | Chairman |
| 2. Shri Arun Kumar, Sr. ESA, E&S Division, DA&FW. | Member |
| 3. Shri Vijay Paul Sharma, Chairman, CACP, DA&FW. | Member |
| 4. Shri Rajender Parsad, Director, IASRI. | Member |
| 5. Prof. Brajesh Jha, Head, AER Unit, IEG, Delhi | Member |
| 6. Prof. Ranjan Ghosh, Chairperson, AER Unit, CMA, IIM Ahmedabad | Member |
| 7. Prof. Ramappa K. B, Professor and Head, AER Unit, ADRTC, ISEC Bengaluru. | Member |
| 8. Ms. Promodita Sathish, Adviser, E&S Division, DA&FW | Member Secretary |
| 9. Shri Anuj Kanwal, Commissioner, CADWM, Ministry of Jal Shakti. | Member representative |
| 10. Shri K.K. Srivastava, Director, Deptt. of Fertilisers | Member representative |
| 11. Shri Shiv Charan Meena, Research Officer (Agriculture),
NITI Aayog | Member representative |

Officers from Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

12. Dr. Ramesh Kumar Yadav, Joint Director, AER Section, E&S Division, DA&FW
13. Dr. Babu P., Asst. Economic Adviser, AER Section, E&S Division, DA&FW
14. Sh. L. Sanjoy Meitei, Economic Officer, AER Section, E&S Division, DA&FW
15. Sh. Vaibhav Gupta, Technical Assistant Economics, AER Section, E&S Division, DA&FW
16. Ms. Neha Arora, Technical Assistant Economics, AER Section, E&S Division, DA&FW
17. Sh. Navdeep Singh, JSO, AER Section, E&S Division, DA&FW

STUDY PROPOSAL WISE COMMENTS OF RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

S. No.	Study title	Proposed by	Themes/Domain
	Study proposed by Divisions of DA&FW		
1	Comparative advantage of price realization to the farmers on sale of their produce through competitive and innovative marketing channel vis-à-vis traditional channel in the State of Maharashtra	Agricultural Marketing, DA&FW	Agriculture Marketing
	Comments: Secretary, DA&FW enquired about the innovative aspects in the study. Prof. Ranjan Ghosh, Chairperson, CMA IIM-A, remarked that the online platform aspects may be incorporated in the study. It was recommended to take up the study with focus on potential benefits to farmers from innovative channels of marketing. The proposal was approved with above suggestion.		
2	Survey and Surveillance on Area, Production and Yield of Minor Millets, and two pseudo millets	NFSM Cell, Crops Division, DA&FW	Millets
	Comments: Prof. Vijay Paul Sharma, Chairman, CACP suggested that the study proposal seemed to be based on secondary data, and suggested to avoid such desk based studies. It was informed to the Committee that an impact assessment study on millets has been assigned to CMA in the recent past. The committee suggested to merge the proposal with proposals at Sl no. 13 & 37. The combined proposal may be taken up for study.		
3	Comprehensive impact assessment study for PMFBY/RWBCIS	Credit Division, DA&FW	Agricultural Insurance
	Comments:		

	It was discussed that though many studies have been undertaken on the topic of Crop Insurance/PMFBY, the Committee approved the proposal with the suggestion to take up this study specifically on Weather Based components.		
4	Role of extension in Diversification of Jhumming to Modern Farming, as an alternative way of livelihood of Tribal, in Tripura	Extension Division, DA&FW (Sh. AK Ray)	Tribal Issues
5	Mapping with respect to Mog and Notia Tribes-focussing on habitats, and displacement, health education and Housing etc. status in Tripura		
	Comments: The above two studies (at Sl. No. 4&5) were not relevant to the Department. Therefore, it was decided not to approve these two studies		
6	Performance evaluation of Soil Heath Card	Fert. Use Cell, INM Division, DA&FW, MoAFW	Soil Health
	Prof. Ramappa K.B., Head, AERU ADRTC ISEC informed that the draft report on similar study titled, ‘Impact Evaluation of Pilot Project ‘Development of Model Villages under Soil Health Card Scheme’’ is completed. Secretary, DA&FW suggested to share the study report with Ministry. Dr. Rajender Parsad, Director, IASRI suggested to look into the possible measures which may be taken up to improve card uptake. Chairman, CACP also suggested to incorporate findings/suggestions of earlier studies and to incorporate the reasons for low uptake of SHC. He also suggested taking up this study as part of concurrent evaluation and incorporating the views of INM Division, DA&FW, in selection of states. This was seconded by Chairperson, CMA IIM-A. The proposal was not approved. It was decided to take up the study as part of concurrent impact evaluation of the scheme.		
	Study proposed by Allied Ministries		
7	Cage culture in Indian reservoirs	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of	Fisheries
8	Dry fish technology		

9	Impact of Dry Fish Production and Marketing on Health and Socio-Economic Conditions of Tripura Tribal and Non-Tribal: An Untold Story	Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	
10	Analysis of frozen fish marketing		
11	Trout culture in Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh		
12	Socio Economic Transformation of Tripura Tribal through Composite Fish Farming Technology: A Critical Analysis		
	Comments: It was discussed that these study proposals are generic in nature. Accordingly, these proposals were not approved.		
13	Development of export standards for millet-based/value-added millet products	PLIS Division, Min. of Food Processing Industries	Millets
	Comments: The proposal is purely secondary data based and not relevant for separate study as such. It was suggested that suitable aspects of proposed study may be incorporated/merged in the study proposals on Millets at Sl. No. 2 &37. The combined proposal can be taken up for study.		
14	Impact of National Livestock Mission on Pig, Goat and Sheep farming of the tribals in Tripura	Deptt. Of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.	Animal Husbandary
	Comments: The study proposal is generic in nature and has no specific focus.The proposal was not approved.		
15	Variation in price of urea bags across states	Deptt. of Fertilisers, MoCF	Fertilizers

	<p>Comments:</p> <p>In view of the upcoming PM-PRANAM scheme, Secretary, DA&FW was of the view that the study proposal has to be very specific, like area of intervention for reducing urea usage, farmers' response on Nano-urea, impact of govt. intervention etc. Chairperson, CMA IIM-A emphasised that the unit of analysis should be farmer and not on fertiliser. The study proposal was not approved.</p>
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S. No.	Study title	Proposed by	Themes/Domain
	Study proposals from AER Centres and Units		
16	<p>An Empirical Study of Farming Communities Development in Aspirational Districts of India</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>Secretary, DA&FW stated that it is important to find out the impact of Government schemes in the aspirational districts because of their socio-economical backwardness. Study needs to focus on reasons for as to why farmers opt- out of certain schemes and measures to be taken by the Govt. to address these gaps. Chairman, CACP suggested that the study may be taken up for those schemes which have agriculture component. Secretary, DA&FW suggested to narrow down the objectives and to revise the proposal on the above lines. The Study was approved with the modifications as suggested by the Committee.</p>	<p>AERU ADRTC ISEC Bengaluru</p>	Aspirational District
17	The patterns of consumption expenditure in rural households of India: Poverty, Inequality and Mobility		Consumption Pattern

	Comments: The scope of the study is very broad. Hence, it was not approved .		
18	Rejuvenating fallow land: A Study of Karnataka state using GIS and Remote sensing Comments: Secretary, DA&FW remarked that there are vast pieces of fallow land esp. for rice, spread across states in the country. The study may be taken up but scope may be enhanced to the States of West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Jharkhand focusing on Rice crop-fallow lands. Further, ICRISAT's GIS data may be used for analysis if this corresponds with the field level data. The study was approved with the above suggestions and modifications .		Mechanisation and Technology
19	Minimum Support Price Policy as Driver of Major Food Grain Production and Marketed Surplus in India Comments: The study was not approved.		MSP
20	Evaluation of Implementation and Impact of Cluster Development Programme in Pilot Phase Comments: The proposal was not approved.	AERU ADRTC ISEC Bengaluru	Horticulture
21	Efficacy of storage structures in reducing the losses of agricultural commodities Comments: The study topic may not be relevant as of now. Not approved.		Supply Chain

22	Small Land-holders, their Agriculture and Migration	AER Unit IEG Delhi	Migration
	Comments: The area of study is in the Gangetic plains and there is a push to make it chemical free and towards natural farming. Approved with the suggestion to focus on farmers perspectives and on organic farming, chemical free agriculture etc.		
23	Impact of RashtriyaGokul Mission On Enhancing Milk Production & Income Generation with special focus on Beneficiaries of Gir Cow Induction Programme in Varanasi District of Uttar Pradesh	AERC Allahabad	Animal Husbandry
24	An Anlaysis of Supply Chain of Lac Marketing and Processing to Enhance Tribal Economy in Jharkhand	AERC Bhagalpur	Tribal Issues
25	Status and Prospects of Silk Industry in Bihar		Sericulture
26	Determinants of Productivity and Explore the Possibility of Export of Lentil from India: An Economic Analysis	AERC Jabalpur	Lentils
The studies from serial no. 23-26 were not approved as the subject matter of these may not be relevant as of now.			
27	Potential and Prospects of Kiwifruit Farming in Arunachal Pradesh – A Case Study	AERC Jorhat	Horticulture
	Comments: Many studies on the topic have been conducted in the recent past. The proposal was not approved.		
28	Kisan Credit Cards with special reference to Fisheries Sector in Assam	AERC Jorhat	Agriculture Credit/Fisheries
29	Assessment of the Progress of Kisan Credit Cards special references to Animal husbandry and Fishery sectors in Gujarat	AERC V V Nagar	Agri Credit/Animal Husbandry
	Comments: Chairman, CACP suggested to expand the coverage of the study to all India. Secretary, DA&FW remarked that the focus has been on the credit for this sector. Despite increase in finance under KCC, penetration in this sector is low. Hence, the above two		

	studies (at serial no. 28 &29) may be merged for a combined study, covering both fisheries & animal husbandry. The coordinated study may be conducted at all India level.		
30	Study of Natural Farming Crop Production in Gujarat: Status and Challenges	AERC V V Nagar	Natural Farming
	Comments: Chairman, CACP suggested that the scope of the study may be expanded to States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh along with Gujarat. Approved with a suggestion to expand the study to cover major areas of natural farming states such as Andhara Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh as well. Further, economics of natural farming and conventional farming as mentioned at Sl. no. 36 should also be merged with this study.		
31	A study into the economic viability, constraints and potential of oilseeds in crop diversification in Punjab	AERC Ludhiana	Oilseeds/Crop Diversification
32	Problems and prospects of Agri exporters in Maharashtra	AERC Pune	Agriculture Exports
	The coverage and scope of the study proposals at Sl. No. 31 & 32 are state-specific. Hence, these proposals were not approved.		
33	Socio-Economic Survey of an Affluent Village of Himachal Pradesh –A Case Study of Village Maraung in District Shimla	AERC Shimla	Tribal/Village
	Comments: The coverage and scope of the study proposal is village level. The proposal was not approved.		
34	Impact of Climate Change on the Livelihood of Agricultural Households of the Coastal Regions of West Bengal, Odisha and Andaman & Nicobar Islands	AERC Visva Bharati	Climate Change
	Comments: Secretary, DA&FW remarked that, the climate change in coastal region and its impact on the agriculture is very important and suggested that a comparative study of these States may be taken up. Approved with a suggestion to evaluate both National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) of ICAR and Nanaji Deshmukh Agricultural Sanjeevani Project (PoCRA) for large scale adoption.		
35.	Performance and perceptions of Rythu Bharosa Kendras in Andhra Pradesh	AERC Waltair	Farmer Welfare

	<p>Comments:</p> <p>Secretary, DA&FW suggested that the study proposal may be taken up with some changes in the objectives. Further, it was suggested that role of FPOs, cooperatives in providing quality inputs to the farmers may be analyzed. Approved with a suggestion to focus on mandate of farmers' collectives such as inputs, essential services, sales and procurement.</p>		
36	Economics of natural farming and conventional farming in Andhra Pradesh	AERC Waltair	Natural Farming
	<p>Comments:</p> <p>The study proposal may be merged with proposal on Study of Natural Farming Crop Production in Gujarat: Status and Challenges at Sl. no. 30.</p>		
37	Sustainability of Millets production and consumption of tribes in the amidst Eastern Ghats: A study in Alluri Seetha Rama Raju district, Andhra Pradesh	AERC Waltair	Millets
	<p>Comments:</p> <p>It was suggested that this study may be merged with the other studies on Millets at Sl no. 2 & 13.</p>		
38	An Analytical Study of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme	AERC Delhi	Agriculture Finance
	<p>Comments:</p> <p>Secretary, DA&FW suggested that the scheme is implemented across the country. The study may be taken up with expanded coverage at all India level. Chairman, CACP suggested to focus on the efficacy of the scheme on marginalized farmers. The proposal was approved with the above suggestions.</p>		