

Advisory Body Meeting of Agro-Economic Research Centre, Jabalpur was held under the Chairmanship of Professor V. S. Tomar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, J.N.K.V.V., Jabalpur (M.P.) at 11.30 AM on 06-11-2014 in the seminar hall of the Directorate of Research Services. List of the participants is annexed.

At the outset, Chairman welcomed all the members of the Advisory Body, and requested Director AERC, Jabalpur, to make presentation on work progress and concerning issues of the Centre.

1.1 Dr. Sharma presented the progress of AER Centre, Jabalpur for the year 2013-14 and detailed report on different activities conducted successfully by the centre. He highlighted that the AER centres should be continued after the terminal year 12th Five year Plan by taking suitable policy decision by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

1.2 The Chairman asked to justify the importance of AERCs, when Ministry has already taken the decision that the Grant-in-aid to the Centre would be stopped after the terminal year of 12th Five Year Plan and research/ evaluation studies would be awarded on competitive bidding basis.

1.3 Dr. Sharma justified that AERCs are unique institutions with all India coverage and experience about 50 years. These AERCs provide feedback from micro and macro level to the policymakers at the regional and the national levels. If, this system is not supported by the GOI no other agency in the country can fill the gap in providing unbiased information from grassroots level to the government in a professional manner for evaluation of Central Sector Schemes for making changes in the policies for future course of action in the country. This loss will therefore, be incalculable and irreversible. It will cause great harm to the well established research network created for development of agriculture and rural economy of the country. The AERCs also contributed in shaping a large number of agricultural economists in this country by providing research skills and aptitude.

1.4 Shri Bodh showed concern about quality and timeliness of different research projects undertaken by the AERCs so far and justified basic idea of establishing a network of AERCs in India; AERCs association with the Universities to ensure credibility to their working; providing independent and academic feed back to the GOI for several decades and serves as its eyes and ears. He suggested the decision taken by the Government of India related to releasing grants in aid for research studies on competitive basis after the 12th Five Year Plan was an EFC decision. This point was debated in detail when AERC Director and many participants viewed that the decision should be reviewed to ensure that agricultural sector of the Central and State Governments get the rich agro-economic inputs for agricultural development, policy formulation and monitoring with the same priority and continuity as agricultural science & technology, and IT inputs get.

1.5 Dr. Mishra informed to the Advisory Body that the AER Centres have been reviewed thrice by different high level experts committees constituted by GoI : The Dantewala committee 1968; Podwal committee 1983-86 and recently Abhijit Sen committee 2006 had appreciated the work and recommended their continuation and strengthening in the country. He also informed the comments quoted by Dr. Mratuanjaya, Former Director, National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research in the report of the Technical Advisory Committee on evaluation on Agro-Economic Research Centre and Units, July 2006 that *"the existing mechanism of getting*

research studies conducted through the experienced hands in AER Centres is much better than the alternative outlet of getting the studies conducted through consultants/ NGOs – both quality and cost-wise.”

1.6 Shri Raghav Chandra, AS&FA, appreciated the performance of the centre and added that the financial grant should not be changed or amended since the Union Government has already taken the policy decision. Hence, he advised to Economic Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture, GOI to prepare a proposal including all the points justify for the centre for their continuation after 12th Five Plan in its present shape in the stipulated time so that timely amendments can be suggested to the Ministry of Agriculture to change the policy decision already taken by the Government of India. He also advised that the working of centre should be expanded for the development of agricultural and rural entrepreneurship and their extension activities by renaming as “CENTRE FOR AGRI-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND AGRO-ECONOMICS RESEARCH” so that these AER centres can play a catalytic role for development of agriculture and commodity market by making entrepreneurship environment at grass-root level in the country.

1.7 Shri Chandra also emphasized that, the quality of publications(reports / research papers) published by the AER Centres should be of excellent quality and relevant to the market as well as policy makers. He advise to hire services of consultants / professional editing house to improve the quality of the publications. He also underlined that all the AERCs should prepare monthly news letter including the information related to agricultural indicators, recent news, adoptable technology etc. and communicate it to higher officials of agriculture and allied departments of the state.

1.8 Dr. Rao suggested that Business Planning and Development Unit of the university can be merged with “CENTRE FOR AGRI-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND AGRO-ECONOMICS RESEARCH” as Shri Chandra strongly felt the need for such type of centres in the country.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Dr. N. K. Raghuwanshi, Prof. & Head, Deptt. of Agril Economics and Farm Management, JNKVV, Jabalpur to the Chair and all the Hon’ble members of Advisory Body of AERC, Jabalpur.

Annexure

List of Participants in the Advisory Body Meeting held on 06.11.2014

- Shri Raghav Chandra, Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, New Delhi
- Shri P.C. Bodh, Economic Adviser, Department of Agricultural and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, GoI, New Delhi
- Dr. S.K. Rao, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, JNKVV, Jabalpur (M.P.)
- Dr. S.S. Tomar, Director Research Services, JNKVV, Jabalpur (M.P.)

- Dr. P. K. Mishra, Director, Extension Services, JNKVV, Jabalpur
- Dr. G.S. Rajput, Director, Instructions, JNKVV, Jabalpur
- Dr. N. K. Pendse, Professor, Department of Economics, Rani Durgavati Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur.
- Dr. N. K. Raghuwanshi, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, JNKVV, Jabalpur (M.P.)
- Dr. R.M. Sahu, Principal Scientist, Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, JNKVV, Jabalpur (M.P.)
- Shri N. P. Singh, Comptroller, JNKVV, Jabalpur
- Dr. H.O. Sharma, Director, Agro-Economic Research Centre for Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, JNKVV, Jabalpur
- Dr. Deepak Rathi, Dy. Director, Agro-Economic Research Centre for Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, JNKVV, Jabalpur