

Agenda Item No.1
Minutes of the Advisory Body Meeting held on 26.05.2013

Meeting of the Advisory Body of Agro-Economic Research Centre, Jabalpur was held at 11.00 a.m. on 26-05-2013 in the meeting hall adjacent to the Hon. Vice Chancellor's chamber. List of Officers who attended the meeting is enclosed.

1.1 Dr. B.S. Bhandari, Adviser made a brief presentation about the genesis of the Agro-Economic Research Centres in the Country and mentioned that right from the very beginning it has been Government's intention that the AERCs should be governed by the rules and regulations of the respective Universities while Govt. can give grant for conducting the research studies on agro-economic issues. Pension and other retirement benefits of the staff of the Agro-Economic Research Centres is not the liability of Government of India. This has also been pronounced in a few judgments by the Allahabad High Court. The concerned Universities/ Institutions have to make provision for the retirement benefits for the staff of Agro-Economic Research Centres. In fact, a few AERCs have created pension funds through employee and employer contributions and are providing pension to the Staff of the AERC.

Vice Chancellor Prof. V.S. Tomar mentioned that after the implementation of the 6th Pay Commission, retirement benefits have become a huge liability, and the University is finding it difficult to bear it. The State Governments and the ICAR which are the funding agencies for agriculture universities are unlikely to accept this liability (salary and retirement benefits of AERCs) as the AERCs were not created with their approval. Further, the AERCs have been mainly working for the Ministry of Agriculture. Therefore, Government of India should provide salary and the retirement benefits to employees of the AERC, Jabalpur. In this connection Dr. P. K. Mishra suggested that the staff born under AERC setup before signing of MoU between Government of India and JNKVV (dated 1.4.1999), Government of India should provide retirement benefits to them. Dr. Bhandari clarified that prior to signing the MoUs there were no demands from any university for pension as the employees of the AERCs were governed by the terms of their establishment which provided for contributory provident fund. Dr. Choubey suggested to examine the procedure being followed by Population Research Centers (PRCs) for retirement benefits to their employees, which also runs on similar pattern of AERCs.

(Action: Registrar, JNKVV, Jabalpur)

1.2 Dr. Bhandari appreciated the work done by AERC during the first year of 12th Five Year Plan. However, he expressed concern about the poor performance of this centre during the 11th Five Year Plan. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor directed to constitute a disciplinary committee under Director Research Services to look into the pending studies and recommend suitable action against the person/s responsible for non completion of studies allotted to them within the stipulated time.

(Action : Director Research Services, JNKVV, Jabalpur)

1.3 Dr. Bhandari also suggested for giving teaching and consultancy responsibility to staff of the centre. However, the teaching and consultancy load should be decided keeping in view the research responsibilities of the various functionaries i.e. Director, Deputy Director and Research Officers.

(Action: Professor & Head, Deptt. of Agril. Eco. & F.M. JNKVV, Jabalpur)

1.4 Dr. Bhandari also mentioned that as per Ministry of Finance (Deptt. of Expenditure) Circular, if any post was lying vacant for more than one year, it stands abolished and can be filled up only with the approval of the Ministry of Finance. This requires a detailed note as to why the posts could not be filled up in time earlier and the justification for filling up them now. Vice Chancellor observed that such decisions should be taken in consultation with the universities/intuitions as no other funding agency like ICAR/State Government etc. will bear the liabilities of the AERC staff. Shri Rajesh Paliwal, Registrar, JNKVV also supported the Chairman's view in the light of the Ministry of Agriculture's recent communication regarding releasing grants in aid for research studies on competitive basis after the 12th Plan. He argued, why the Vishwa Vidyalaya should fill the vacant posts, when University will have to make arrangements for complete absorption of the staff of the AERC within university setup by the end of 12th Plan. In this regard Dr. B.S. Bhandari, Adviser urged to take up the matter of funding of the AERC with the State Governments and or the ICAR and forward their replies to the Govt. The Ministry of Agriculture will also take it up with the Deptt. of Higher Education/UGC and ICAR (with respect the AERC integrated with agricultural universities).

(Action : Registrar, JNKVV and Director, AERC Jabalpur)

1.5 Dr. S. S. Tomar, Director Research Services, JNKVV, Jabalpur said that after 2007-08 almost all the vacant posts of technical staff were filled but only due to non availability of reserved category candidates due to Roster some posts are lying vacant which can be filled up by advertisement for backlog provided by Ministry of Agriculture, GoI clarify the controversy created vide their letters D.O. No. 4-2/2012-RSC-EC dated 08.11.12, D.O. No. 4-2/2012-RSC-EC dated 26.02.13 and D.O. No. 4-2/2012-RSC-EC dated 30.4.13.

(Action : Economic Adviser, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, GoI)

1.6 Dr. H.O. Sharma presented the progress of AER Centre, Jabalpur and submitted his view that if a particular study is replicated in two states then it should be considered as two studies instead of one (M.P. and Chhattisgarh). Dr. Bhandari agreed for it.

(Action : Economic Adviser, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, GoI)

1.7 Dr. Choubey suggested that the size of sample should be more for evaluation studies and of the view that sample size must be increased for quality of the report. Shri B.S. Bhandari suggested for the evaluation studies should be based on various statistical and econometric tools. He also suggested that the quality research papers from the study reports should be published in refereed journals which have very good NAAS rating.

(Action : Director, AERC)

1.8 Dr. Bhandari also suggested for in house review of the project within University before submission to GoI. It should be presented before the technical advisory committee as mentioned in Para (XVIII) of MoU. He also suggested for presentation of Individual research scientist on last Friday of the month along with the scientist of Agricultural Economics on various issues.

(Action : Professor & Head, Deptt. of Agril. Eco. & F.M. JNKVV, Jabalpur/ Director, AERC, Jabalpur)

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.

Agenda Item No.2

Follow up action on the minutes/decisions taken in the Meeting of Advisory Body

Item	Minutes/s	Follow up taken
2.1	<p>Dr. B.S. Bhandari, Adviser made a brief presentation about the genesis of the Agro-Economic Research Centres in the Country and mentioned that right from the very beginning it has been Government's intention that the AERCs should be governed by the rules and regulations of the respective Universities while Govt. can give grant for conducting the research studies on agro-economic issues. Pension and other retirement benefits of the staff of the Agro-Economic Research Centres is not the liability of Government of India. This has also been pronounced in a few judgments by the Allahabad High Court. The concerned Universities/ Institutions have to make provision for the retirement benefits for the staff of Agro-Economic Research Centres. In fact, a few AERCs have created pension funds through employee and employer contributions and are providing pension to the Staff of the AERC. Vice Chancellor Prof. V.S. Tomar mentioned that after the implementation of the 6th Pay Commission, retirement benefits have become a huge liability, and the University is finding it difficult to bear it. The State</p>	<p>Retirement benefits and pension to employee of the AERCs has been examined and found that the employees of AERC JNKVV, Jabalpur getting the pension and retiral benefits under the self finance</p>

Governments and the ICAR which are the funding agencies for agriculture universities are unlikely to accept this liability (salary and retirement benefits of AERCs) as the AERCs were not created with their approval. Further, the AERCs have been mainly working for the Ministry of Agriculture. Therefore, Government of India should provide salary and the retirement benefits to employees of the AERC, Jabalpur. In this connection Dr. P. K. Mishra suggested that the staff born under AERC setup before signing of MoU between Government of India and JNKVV (dated 1.4.1999), Government of India should provide retirement benefits to them. Dr. Bhandari clarified that prior to signing the MoUs there were no demands from any university for pension as the employees of the AERCs were governed by the terms of their establishment which provided for contributory provident fund. Dr. Choubey suggested to examine the procedure being followed by Population Research Centers (PRCs) for retirement benefits to their employees, which also runs on similar pattern of AERCs.

scheme for the employees appointed before January 2005 whereas employees appointed after January 2005 the benefits will be accorded as per New Pension Scheme.

02.2	<p>Dr. Bhandari appreciated the work done by AERC during the first year of 12th Five Year Plan. However, he expressed concern about the poor performance of this centre during the 11th Five Year Plan. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor directed to constitute a disciplinary committee under Director Research Services to look into the pending studies and recommend suitable action against the person/s responsible for non completion of studies allotted to them within the stipulated time.</p>	<p>Disciplinary action has been taken against the persons responsible for non completion of the studies allotted to them and they were transferred from AERC, Jabalpur to Collage of Agriculture, Rewa, Waraseoni and Balaghat Campuses along with CR warning.</p>
02.3	<p>Dr. Bhandari also suggested for giving teaching and consultancy responsibility to staff of the centre. However, the teaching and consultancy load should be decided keeping in view the research responsibilities of the various functionaries i.e. Director, Deputy Director and Research Officers.</p>	<p>One UG and One PG Courses in each semester have been allotted to Director and Dy. Director of the centre.</p>
	<p>Dr. Bhandari also mentioned that as per Ministry of Finance (Deptt. of Expenditure) Circular, if any post was lying vacant for more than one year, it stands abolished and can be filled up only with the approval of the Ministry of Finance. This requires a detailed note as to why the posts could not be filled up in time earlier and the justification for filling up them now. Vice Chancellor observed that such decisions should be taken in consultation with the universities/intuitions as no other funding agency like ICAR/State Government etc. will bear the liabilities of the AERC staff. Shri Rajesh Paliwal, Registrar, JNKVV</p>	<p>The Registrar, JNKVV, Jabalpur wrote a letter (No. Estt.I/Misc-157 (II)/1313 dated 22.07.2013) to the Ministry that why the Vishwa Vidyalaya should fill the vacant posts, when University will have to make arrangements for complete absorption of the</p>

02.4	<p>also supported the Chairman's view in the light of the Ministry of Agriculture's recent communication regarding releasing grants in aid for research studies on competitive basis after the 12th Plan. He argued, why the Vishwa Vidyalaya should fill the vacant posts, when University will have to make arrangements for complete absorption of the staff of the AERC within university setup by the end of 12th Plan. In this regard Dr. B.S. Bhandari, Adviser urged to take up the matter of funding of the AERC with the State Governments and or the ICAR and forward their replies to the Govt. The Ministry of Agriculture will also take it up with the Deptt. of Higher Education/UGC and ICAR (with respect the AERC integrated with agricultural universities).</p>	<p>staff of the AERC within university setup by the end of 12th Plan. However, technical staff of the centre was filled up on contractual basis with prior permission from the Ministry.</p> <p>The Director Research Services, JNKVV, Jabalpur wrote a letter (No.DRS/1519 dated 28.10.2013) to the Assistant Director General (EQR) ICAR, New Delhi to finance AERCs particularly running under SAUs system.</p>
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02.5	Dr. S. S. Tomar, Director Research Services, JNKVV, Jabalpur said that after 2007-08 almost all the vacant posts of technical staff were filled but only due to non availability of reserved category candidates due to Roster some posts are lying vacant which can be filled up by advertisement for backlog provided by Ministry of Agriculture, GoI clarify the controversy created vide their letters D.O. No. 4-2/2012-RSC-EC dated 08.11.12, D.O. No. 4-2/2012-RSC-EC dated 26.02.13 and D.O. No. 4-2/2012-RSC-EC dated 30.4.13.	-
02.6	Dr. H.O. Sharma presented the progress of AER Centre, Jabalpur and submitted his view that if a particular study is replicated in two states then it should be considered as two studies instead of one (M.P. and Chhattisgarh). Dr. Bhandari agreed for it.	-
02.7	Dr. Choubey suggested that the size of sample should be more for evaluation studies and of the view that sample size must be increased for quality of the report. Shri B.S. Bhandari suggested for the evaluation studies should be based on various statistical and econometric tools. He also suggested that the quality research papers from the study reports should be published in refereed journals which have very good NAAS rating.	The various research papers of the studies completed by the centre are being published in the NAAS rated journals on continuous basis.

02.8	Dr. Bhandari also suggested for in house review of the project within University before submission to GoI. It should be presented before the technical advisory committee as mentioned in Para (XVIII) of MoU. He also suggested for presentation of Individual research scientist on last Friday of the month along with the scientist of Agricultural Economics on various issues.	The findings of the various studies completed during the year were presented in Research Review Meeting and also in individual Scientist presentation. The Individual Scientists used to present their research in Saturday Seminar.
02.9	The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.	--
