



**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
(2010-2011)**

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2010-11)

**{Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/  
Recommendations contained in the Eighth Report  
of the Committee on Agriculture (2009-2010)}**

**NINETEENTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

March, 2011/Chaitra, 1933 (Saka)

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**[Action Taken by the Government on the  
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of the Committee on Agriculture (2009-2010)]**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 24.03.2011

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 25.03.2011



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

March, 2011/Chaitra, 1933 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2010-11)**

**Shri Basudeb Acharia - Chairman**

**MEMBERS**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Narayansingh Amlabe
3. Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba'
4. Shri Thangso Baite
5. Shri Jayant Chaudhary
6. Smt. Shruti Choudhary
7. Smt. Ashwamedh Devi
8. Shri Biren Singh Engti
9. Smt. Paramjit Kaur Gulshan
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13. Shri Surendra Singh Nagar
14. Shri Prabodh Panda
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16. Shri Vitthalbhai Hansrajbhai Radadiya
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28. Shri Upendra Kushwaha
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30. Shri Rajpal Singh Saini
31. Shri S. Thangavelu

## **SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri S. Bal Shekar - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Raj Shekhar Sharma - Joint Secretary
3. Shri P. C. Koul - Additional Director
4. Shri C. Vanlalruata - Under Secretary

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on Agriculture (2010-2011) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Nineteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Eighth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2010-11) pertaining to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

2. The Eighth Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2009-2010) on Demands for Grants (2010-11) pertaining to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 03 May, 2010. The Action Taken Replies on the Report were received on 29 July, 2010.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 22 March, 2011.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Eighth Report of the Committee is given in **Annexure.**

NEW DELHI;  
23 March, 2011  
02 Chaitra, 1933 (Saka)

BASUDEB ACHARIA  
*Chairman,*  
*Committee on Agriculture.*

## CHAPTER-I

### R E P O R T

This Report of the Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Eighth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Agriculture (2009-2010) on “Demands for Grants (2010-11) pertaining to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education)” which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 3 May 2010.

1.2 The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education) have furnished Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 10 Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report. These have been categorized as under:

- (i) Observations/Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government:

Recommendation Para Nos. 1.15, 1.16, 2.11, 2.13, 2.14 and 3.10

- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:

Recommendation Para Nos. NIL

- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which action taken replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Recommendation Para Nos. – 2.12. 3.11 and 3.12

- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited :

Recommendation Para No. 1.14

**1.3 The Committee trust that utmost importance would be given to implementation of the observations/recommendations accepted by the Government. In cases, where it is not possible for the Department to implement the recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter**



**should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that further Action Taken Notes on the Observations / Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and Final Action Taken Replies to the Recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report be furnished to them at an early date.**

1.4 The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of the Recommendations in the succeeding paragraphs.

**ALLOCATION OF FUNDS**  
**(Recommendation Para No. 1.14)**

1.5 Noting that inspite of their Recommendation in the Fourth Report on Demands for Grants 2009-10 to enhance the budget of Department of Agricultural Research and Education so as to enable them to tackle the problems of climate change growing soil infertility, declining natural resources, water scarcity, etc., which all required capital intensive solutions, DARE had not been given their due, even in Financial Year 2010-11 and almost 44% funds out of total allocation of Rs. 12023 crore had been left for the last year of the Plan, the Committee had recommended the Government to enhance the allocation for the Department to at least Rs. 4000 crore in the ongoing Fiscal, so that the funds left for the terminal year were evenly matched and the Department simultaneously, got much needed funds for developmental activity in 2010-11.

1.6 In their Action Taken Note, the Government have stated that the recommendation of the Committee is under discussion with the Planning Commission.

**1.7 The Committee note that the Department have taken up their instant recommendation with the Planning Commission and expect that the effort of the Department would have borne fruit. The Committee would like to be**

**apprised of the outcome of the efforts of the Department in this matter at the earliest.**

**CROP SCIENCE**  
**(Recommendation Para No. 2.11)**

1.8 Having found out that the expenditure of several Divisions of ICAR on the Non-Plan side was in excess of both the BE and RE allocations due to the odd and erroneous procedure of booking the expenditure incurred on the two Heads viz. 'Pension' and 'Loan Advances' in the expenditure of Division concerned and reflecting the BE/RE of the these Heads in the Budget of ICAR Headquarters, the Committee had, while expressing their disapproval of this patently wrong accounting practice in allocation of funds and their reflection in accounts, recommended its immediate discontinuation and also sought a detailed note from the Department as to how this method of accounting gained currency and at whose behest.

1.9 In response, the Department have stated in their Action Taken Note that the current procedure has been in vogue for the past several years. Disbursement of Pension to all the retiring employees in the ICAR was centralized at the ICAR Headquarters irrespective of the institutes from where the employee retired. Even though the disbursement of pension was decentralised subsequently in 1989, the requirements on account of payment of Pension continued to be included in the allocation for ICAR Hqrs. Similarly, the allocation for Loans and Advances has also been kept centralised with ICAR Hqrs since many years. The expenditure under these heads, however, at present is reflected against the Institute where they were actually booked in the books of accounts of ICAR.

1.10 The observations of the Committee on the present accounting/ budgetary practice of showing the allocation for Pension and Loans & Advances under ICAR Headquarters and the expenditure for the same under various divisions has been noted for compliance. Since the BE 2010-11 has already been finalised as per the existing procedure, required changes would be attempted at RE 2010-11 stage by way of necessary re-appropriation.

**1.11 The Committee note with satisfaction that at last the impropriety of the present system of accounting has dawned on the Department. They would like to apprised of the action taken in this matter in the RE 2010-11 and BE 2011-12 at the earliest.**

**ICAR HEADQUARTERS**  
**(Recommendation Para No.2.12)**

1.12 Noting the scaling down of BE 2009-10 of Rs. 30.00 crore on Plan side in the ICAR Headquarters Scheme to Rs.19.00 crore at RE stage and the actual spending upto January, 2010 being a lowly Rs. 1.52 crore, thereby leaving a major chunk of these funds viz. Rs.14.48 crore, for being spent in the last two months of the Financial Year and this leading to breach of quarter 4 and March Ceilings, the Committee considered this to be a very unprofessional way of financial management and exhorted the Department to plan their funds utilisation in a more evenly spread and proper manner so that a repeat of such excessive spending at the end of an Annual Plan was avoided.

1.13 The Department in their Action taken Note have stated that the BE 2009-10 (Plan) to ICAR headquarters was Rs.30 crore and the RE was Rs.17 crores against which the expenditure was Rs.14.60 crore on various sub heads. They have further informed that the expenditure on account of sub-head "Support to CGIAR system" is a committed liability and the grant to the tune of approx. Rs.10 crores under this sub-head could be released to CGIAR Centres only in the last quarter of the financial year as the utilization certificates from CGIAR Centres for the grants released in the previous year are generally received at that time only as most of these centres follow calendar and not financial year. Also the liability of Rs. 2 crores created in 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter under the sub-head "strengthening and modernization of ICAR headquarters" got fructified in the last quarter of the Financial Year for which the expenditure is booked in the month of February/March of the financial year. Therefore, the cash out flow is on the higher side in the last quarter than permitted under the instructions of the Ministry of Finance. Lastly, they have stated that the observation of the Committee for regularization of excess

expenditure of the last quarter/ March 2010 has been noted for compliance in future.

**1.14 The Committee are not at all convinced by the reply that the sub-head grant on account of 'Support to CGIAR System' could be released to CGIAR Centres only in the last quarter of the Financial Year as the utilization certificates for the grants released in the previous year are generally received at that time only. The fact that most of these Centres follow Calendar and not Financial Year cannot be cited as an *alibi* as the accounting procedures are meant to be adhered to at all cost, so that the Government is able to present a true and comprehensive picture on the monies spent to the Parliament. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department ought to immediately sort out this matter with CGIAR Centres with a view to find a lasting solution to this problem and ensure that the laid down accounting procedures are followed in letter and spirit. The Committee also desire that utilisation certificates from these CGIAR Centres should be submitted by them as soon as the quarterly grant is utilised and request for release of next quarter grants is forwarded.**

**RECRUITMENT OF SCIENTISTS**  
**(Recommendation Para No. 3.11)**

1.15 Concerned that the vacant posts of Scientists, Senior Scientists and Principal Scientists including Research Management Positions were affecting the functioning of ICAR institutions adversely, the Committee desired that the Department should evolve a well planned strategy for augmentation of high level human resources and while doing so give special consideration to the requirements of the North Eastern and Bundelkhand regions. The Committee also desired that to attract talent towards the ICAR institutions the Department should provide more

incentives alongwith a conducive and transparent work environment and career progression.

1.16 The Department in their Action Taken Note have stated that expeditious action has been initiated for filling up all the vacant positions in the scientific cadre. To evolve a well-planned strategy for augmentation and retention of the best scientific talent, a comprehensive proposal shall be forwarded after due internal deliberations, as early as possible.

**1.17 The Committee feel that the Department of Agricultural Research and Education have not accorded due importance to this important recommendation of the Committee for augmentation and as well as retention of the Human Resource at all ICAR Institutions. They, desire to be apprised of the details of expeditious action initiated by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education for filling up the vacant positions in scientific cadre and the number of vacant positions of scientists filled up on priority so far. The Committee also desire the proposal for augmentation retention of the best scientific talent in ICAR be evolved in a time bound manner, so as to check the brain drain from the various institutes of ICAR.**

**INCOME OF FARMERS**  
**(Recommendation Para No. 3.12)**

1.18 Being of the view that the present system of measuring growth of agriculture merely on the basis of foodgrain production figures is not a realistic indicator and that a fair assessment of the achievements and developments of the agriculture sector will only be complete when the carry home income of farmers is also factored in, the Committee had recommended the Department to work out some models with a view to generate some aggregate measure of farmers income so that necessary steps to initiate correctives are taken accordingly.

1.19 In their Action Taken Note the Department have stated that growth of agriculture in India is seen from a large no of indicators. These include disaggregate measures like foodgrain production and aggregated measures like value of sectoral output or value added in the sector at State and National Level. Out of all such measures net value added in agriculture is taken as indicator of income. However, this represents income for the sector which includes income that accrues to land (farmers) and labour in the form of wages. Carry home income of the farmer can be computed from net value added in agriculture as this value is estimated at farm gate price by Central Statistical Organization (CSO). This value is obtained by subtracting value of input from value of output and it is available at sectoral level for crop sector and livestock sector at National and State levels. Therefore, an estimate of carry home income of farmers at aggregate level can be prepared if data on wages paid to hired labour by farmer is available. This can be estimated by CSO.

**1.20 The Committee are happy to note that the carry home income of the farmers can be worked out by factoring in some of the data which is already available with the Government for other uses. They, therefore, direct the Department to take up the matter with the Central Statistical Organisation rather than merely pointing out who can perform this task on priority basis and revert to the Committee with a definite and workable solution.**

## **CHAPTER II**

### **Observations/Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government**

#### **MID-TERM APPRAISAL** **(Recommendation Para No. 1.15)**

The Committee note that the Mid-Term Appraisal Document of the Department was circulated by the Planning Commission on 26 February, 2010 for seeking comments. Apparently, the approved minutes will take some more time to reach the Department for implementation. The Committee feel that the Mid-Term Appraisal is an important mechanism to review the efficacy of Plan schemes and programmes and carry out necessary corrective measures accordingly. Due to the delay in conveying of the results of the MTA to the Department, this year, a valuable opportunity has been lost to carry out the requisite changes/modifications in the various Schemes of DARE/ICAR during the Annual Plan 2010-11. The Committee, therefore, recommend that with a view to maintain the immense importance of MTA in the system of assessment and evaluation, the exercise should be completed well in time so that the necessary midcourse corrections are carried out with due promptitude.

#### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT**

The draft Mid-Term Review appraisal document was circulated by the Planning Commission and comments had been called for on 26.2.2010. Once final report is received from the Planning Commission, the Committee will be duly apprised.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) O.M. No. 7(6)/2010, dated 29th July, 2010]

#### **MONTHLY EXPENDITURE PLAN** **(Recommendation Para No. 1.16)**

The Committee have considered the proposed Monthly Expenditure Plan of the Department for 2009-10 and the Actual Monthly Expenditure there against. They find huge disparities between the proposed expenditure and actual expenditure in

almost all months, which is a matter of concern. They, therefore, desire that henceforth the Department should workout a more realistic Monthly Expenditure Plan and also adhere to it in practice.

### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT**

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an autonomous body under the Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) and a major part of the budget allocated to DARE is released to ICAR as grant-in-aid for carrying out various activities assigned to the Department through its various constituent units numbering around one hundred and ten. It is submitted that while the MEP in respect of Demand No. 2 - DARE indicates the plan for drawl of funds from the PAO and its further release to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the figures shown in the table in Para 1.13 of the report are the figures of actual expenditure as per books of accounts of the ICAR units.

The observation of the Committee to prepare a realistic Monthly Expenditure Plan for Demand No. 2 – DARE and strict adherence to the same has been noted for compliance in future. Accordingly, attempts are being made in the current financial year itself to release funds as per MEP presented to Parliament along with Detailed Demand for Grants.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) O.M. No. 7(6)/2010, dated 29th July, 2010]

### **CROP SCIENCE** **(Recommendation Para No. 2.11)**

During the course of the examination of the Demands for Grants (2010-11) of DARE/ICAR, the Committee noted that the expenditure of the several Divisions of ICAR on the Non-Plan side was in excess of both the BE and RE allocations. On being queried, the Department informed the Committee that as per the budgetary/accounting system in vogue, the allocations to Divisions excluded the BE/RE in respect of 'Pension' and 'Loan and Advances' as the funds requirement in these two Heads is included in the BE/RE of ICAR Headquarters and it is distributed amongst the Divisions subsequently. Thus, while the expenditure incurred on these



two Heads is included in the expenditure of Divisions, the RE of these Heads is reflected in the Budget of ICAR Headquarters Scheme. Finding this odd and an erroneous accounting procedure, the Committee pursued the matter further during the Oral Evidence of the Department. Though initially, the representatives of the Department defended the strange procedure being followed, but on persistent queries agreed that it was a mistake. The Committee find it inexplicable as to how a professional government organization has been perpetuating a patently wrong accounting procedure in allocation of funds and their reflection in accounts. While recommending immediate discontinuation of this method of accounting amongst the various Divisions of ICAR and ICAR Headquarters, the Committee would also like to be furnished with a detailed note stating how this method of accounting gained currency in the first instance and at whose behest.

Coming to the physical achievements of the Scheme Crop Science, the Committee note with appreciation that during the last 5 years, ICAR have come up with seven rice varieties which are resistant to various abiotic stresses. Eight rice varieties are being released in 2010 for different agro-climatic situations and abiotic stresses. Apart from these, the drought resistant varieties like Vandana and Anjali, the water resistant submergence prone varieties *viz.* Varsahadhan and Swarna sub-1, the saline tolerant ones *viz.* Lunishree, Sonamani and Chandan have gained acceptance over large parts of areas affected with abiotic stresses. While these achievements are noteworthy, the Committee expect ICAR not to rest on its laurels and strive to develop more and more improved biotic and abiotic stress resistant varieties of various crops to cope up with the situation arising out of climate change, global warming, soil fertility depletion, water scarcity, etc.

### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT**

The current procedure has been in vogue for the past several years. Disbursement of Pension to all the retiring employees in the ICAR was centralized at the ICAR Headquarters irrespective of the institutes from where the employee retired. Even though the disbursement of pension was decentralised subsequently in 1989, the requirements on account of payment of Pension continued to be included in the allocation for ICAR Hqrs. Similarly, the allocation for Loans and

Advances has also been kept centralised with ICAR Hqrs since many years. The expenditure under these heads, however, at present is reflected against the Institute where they were actually booked in the books of accounts of ICAR.

The observations of the Committee on the present accounting/ budgetary practice of showing the allocation for Pension and Loans & Advances under ICAR Headquarters and the expenditure for the same under various divisions has been noted for compliance. Since the BE 2010-11 has already been finalised as per the existing procedure, required changes would be attempted at RE 2010-11 stage by way of necessary re-appropriation.

The Department has been on a continuum in the intense research towards development of crop varieties that could tolerate high amount of abiotic stresses such as salinity, drought and submergence along with incorporation of desirable resistance against major insect pests and diseases of crops such as rice, wheat, pulses and oilseeds. It is customary to identify crop varieties/ hybrids for notification only with desirable traits that endow them with adequate tolerance to abiotic and biotic stresses of the target agro-ecologies.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) O.M. No. 7(6)/2010, dated 29th July, 2010]

### **Comments of the Committee**

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.11 of Chapter I of this Report.

### **ICAR HEADQUARTERS** **(Recommendation Para No. 2.13)**

The Committee note with satisfaction that after two consecutive years of substantial underspending, the Department will be able to spend the entire RE 2009-10 allocation of Rs. 328.00 crore earmarked for Agriculture Extension Scheme. Here again, however, the Committee have an apprehension that since a sum of Rs. 211.49 crore only had been spent by the Department on the Scheme upto January, 2010, the Q-4 and March spending ceiling of 33% and 15%

respectively will be surely breached, which is not a happy state of affairs. The Committee, therefore, exhort the Department to improve upon its financial management on more professional lines so that the funds release is streamlined and in tune with the Modified Budget and Cash Management Scheme of the Ministry of Finance and Q-4/March spending ceiling breaches are avoided.

While on the aspect of Agricultural Extension, the Committee would like to state that though the non-filling of vacant positions, which are almost 36000, in the State Agricultural Extension networks has been one of the reasons for the substantial underspending in the first two years of the Eleventh Plan, the Department have not made any conscious efforts to tackle this acute shortage of manpower. Given the resource position of most of the States, the Committee feel that unless the Department take some initiative in the matter the situation will not change. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department should work out a centrally sponsored scheme for assisting the State Agricultural Extension Services on the lines of the Fish Farmers Development Agency (FFDA) Scheme operated by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries. Under the FFDA Scheme Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries continued to fund both the Plan and Non-Plan components of the Scheme expenditure, including salary and wages, for certain number of years till the Scheme become self-sustaining. The Committee further recommend that the Department should simultaneously ensure flow of adequate funds from the RKVY to the State Agricultural Extension Services network specifically for the purpose of augmenting personnel strength.

### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT**

The suggestion of the Committee to improve upon the financial management in tune with the Modified Budget and Cash Management Scheme of the Ministry of Finance during quarter-4 of the financial year has been noted for compliance as per availability of funds to the Council and its Agricultural Extension Division.

As observed by the Committee, the main extension system is operated by the State Governments, which is supported by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DoAC), Government of India, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme

“Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms”. Therefore, the suggestion of the committee for ensuring the adequate funds from RKVY to the State Agricultural Extension Services network specially for the purpose of augmenting personnel strength has been forwarded to the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DoAC).

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) O.M. No. 7(6)/2010, dated 29th July, 2010]

**INDO-US KNOWLEDGE INITIATIVE**  
**(Recommendation Para No. 2.14)**

The Indo-US Knowledge Initiative Scheme envisaged that matching grants would be received for the Scheme from the US side. There has been continuous low spending in the Scheme during all three years of the Eleventh Plan. On coming to know that this was mainly due to the non-availability of matching grants from the US side, the Committee had recommended in their Fourth Report that the matter be taken up with the US side through appropriate channels so that matching grants are contributed by them from 2009-10 itself, lest the Initiative is frittered away. In pursuance of the recommendation of the Committee, the Department took up the matter with USA. Due to lack of adequate response for funding, the Indo-US Knowledge Initiative has ended on 31 March, 2010. The Department have rightly taken the decision to not share with the USA, the outcome of the expenditure incurred by the Indian side. Since the Scheme had been in existence for three years of the Eleventh Plan, the Committee desire that a review of its implementation and achievements be conducted at the earliest and the Committee be apprised of the outcome of such a review within three months of presentation of this Report to the Parliament. The Committee would also like the Department to give a thought to still reflecting the Indo-US Knowledge Initiative as a Scheme in their Demands for Grants and showing allocations there against.

## **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT**

As desired by the committee, the review of implementation and achievements in respect of Indo-US knowledge Initiative is being conducted and the Committee will be apprised of the outcome as stipulated.

As the scheme has ended on 31.3.2010, the allocation shown against it will be utilized for other activities under International Cooperation.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) O.M. No. 7(6)/2010, dated 29th July, 2010]

## **FUNCTIONING OF KVKs** **(Recommendation Para No. 3.10)**

In the opinion of the Committee the network of KVKs has to play a pivotal role in the extension services in agricultural sector, in spite of the fact that they may be small fraction of the actual extension requirements of the Country. While the Department have been highlighting before the Committee the multitude of services being rendered by the KVKs, the grassroot common perception still is that the KVKs are not performing upto their potential. Keeping these contradictory positions in view the Committee feel that the performance of KVKs in regard to various activities including training, extension, demonstration, training by farmer trainers, distribution of minikits, regional seed productivity and quality data consolidation, block level training, etc., needs to be assessed and evaluated comprehensively and corrective action taken accordingly. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to get a review of the KVKs done at the earliest. The Committee would like to be apprised of the results of the review.

## **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT**

The main extension system is operated by the State Governments, which is mandated with dissemination of agricultural information and providing extension services on large scale to the farmers. In this regard the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) have of complementing the efforts of the State Governments through its mandated activities including on-farm testing and demonstration of technologies for assessing and demonstrating its production potential in the field, besides organizing

training of farmers and extension personnel to update their knowledge and skills. As indicated above distribution of minikits/ farm inputs and rendering other extension services come under the purview of line departments operating at district level under the State Governments. As regards review of KVK activities it is indicated that the Council has made a provision for the review of KVKs after every five years by a Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) comprising of the experts under the Chairmanship of an eminent Agricultural Scientist. Based on the recommendations of the last QRT and to strengthen the activities of KVKs, the Council has made provision for providing additional facilities including soil and water testing, plant health diagnostic and minimal agro-processing and e-linkage, besides demonstration units on rain water harvesting structure with micro-irrigation system, portable carp hatchery and integrated farming during XI Plan. The suggestion of the Committee for an early evaluation and review of KVKs has been noted for compliance.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) O.M. No. 7(6)/2010, dated 29th July, 2010]

### CHAPTER III

Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's action taken reply

-NIL-

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **Observations/Recommendations in respect of which action taken replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee**

#### **ICAR HEADQUARTERS** **(Recommendation Para No. 2.12)**

Apart from the excessive underspending on the Non-Plan side in the ICAR Headquarters Scheme due to the previously mentioned wrong accounting procedure followed in the *inter-se* allocations between ICAR Headquarters and the Subject Division, the Committee noted that on the Plan side the BE 2009-10 of Rs. 30.00 crore was scaled down to Rs. 19.00 crore at RE stage. The Actuals upto January, 2010 were a lowly Rs. 1.52 crore. Being queried on this count, the Department have assured the Committee that the expenditure during the year 2009-10 is going to be Rs. 17.00 crore. The Committee feel that while spending Rs. 17.00 crore out of the RE figure of Rs. 19.00 crore may be a comforting factor for the Department, the fact remains that a major chunk of these funds *viz.* Rs. 14.48 crore, which is many times more than the Q-4 ceiling of 33% of total allocation will be spent by the Department in the last two months of the Financial Year. The Committee consider this to be a very unprofessional way of financial management, apart from being violative of the Modified Budget and Cash Management Scheme of the Ministry of Finance. The Committee expect that, as assured by the Department in some other context previously, they would have approached the Ministry of Finance for regularization of excess expenditure in Q-4/March, 2010. The Committee also exhort the Department to plan their funds utilization in a more evenly spread and proper manner so that a repeat of such excessive spending at the end of an Annual Plan is avoided.

#### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT**

The BE 2009-10(Plan) to ICAR hqrs was Rs. 30 crore and the RE was Rs. 17 crores against which the expenditure was Rs. 14.60 crores.

The ICAR Hqrs. Scheme consists of the following sub heads:



1. Strengthening and modernization of ICAR Hqrs.
2. Publicity & Public Relations
3. Support to professional societies including (National Academy of Agricultural Sciences) NAAS
4. Support to (Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research) CGIAR System
5. Evaluation of Plan Scheme
6. Intellectual Property Right

It is submitted that the expenditure on account of sub-head "Support to CGIAR system" is a committed liability and the grant to the tune of approx. Rs. 10 crores under this sub-head could be released to CGIAR Centres only in the last quarter of the financial year as the utilization certificates from CGIAR Centres for the grants released in the previous year are generally received at that time only as most of these centres follow calendar and not financial year.

Further, the liability of Rs. 2 crores created in 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter under the sub-head "strengthening and modernization of ICAR headquarters" got fructified in the last quarter of the financial year for which the expenditure is booked in the month of February/ March of the financial year. Therefore, the cash out flow is on the higher side in the last quarter than permitted under the instructions of the Ministry of Finance.

The observation of the committee for regularization of excess expenditure of the last quarter/ March 2010 has been noted for compliance in future.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) O.M. No. 7(6)/2010, dated 29th July, 2010]

### **Comments of the Committee**

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.14 of Chapter I of this Report.

## **RECRUITMENT OF SCIENTISTS** **(Recommendation Para No. 3.11)**

The Committee are greatly concerned to note that as on date positions of 655 Scientists, 1010 Senior Scientists and 322 Principal Scientists including Research Management Positions are vacant. The Committee are sure that so many vacancies would definitely be affecting the functioning of ICAR institutions adversely. They, therefore, wonder how the Government expects the Council to deliver without even their personnel requirements being met. The Committee note that ICAR are recruiting 700-800 scientists. They recommend that while the recruitment of these many scientists be expedited, the remaining vacancies may also be filled-up on priority, so that the research and development activities in the agriculture sector are not adversely affected. As a lasting solution to this chronic problem, the Committee desire that the Department should evolve a well planned strategy for augmentation of high level human resources and submit the same to the Committee within three months of presentation of this Report to the Parliament. While evolving this strategy, special consideration may be given to the requirements of the North Eastern and Bundelkhand regions.

The Committee also take note of the various incentives being provided by ICAR to its scientists. The Committee, however, feel that if the best available talent is to be attracted towards the ICAR institutions, further incentivisation of the positions in ICAR institutions alongwith a conducive and transparent work environment and career progression, is a must.

## **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT**

Expeditious action has been initiated for filling up all the vacant positions in the scientific cadre. To evolve a well-planned strategy for augmentation and retention of the best scientific talent, a comprehensive proposal shall be forwarded after due internal deliberations, as early as possible.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) O.M. No. 7(6)/2010, dated 29th July, 2010]

## **Comments of the Committee**

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.17 of Chapter I of this Report.

### **INCOME OF FARMERS** **(Recommendation Para No. 3.12)**

The Committee feel that the present system of measuring growth of agriculture merely on the basis of food grain production figures is not a realistic indicator. They feel that unless the carry home income of farmers is also not factored in, a fair assessment of the achievements and development of the agriculture sector will not be complete. Unfortunately, however, as the Department have themselves admitted till date there is no direct aggregate measure of farmers' income in the Country. Keeping in view the urgent necessity to have such indices, the Committee recommend the Department to work out some models with a view to generate some aggregate measure of farmers income so that necessary steps to initiate correctives are taken accordingly.

### **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT**

Growth of agriculture in India is seen from a large no of indicators. These include disaggregate measures like foodgrain production and aggregated measures like value of sectoral output or value added in the sector at State and National Level.

Out of all such measures net value added in agriculture is taken as indicator of income. However, this represents income for the sector which includes income that accrues to land (farmers) and labour in the form of wages. Carry home income of the farmer can be computed from net value added in agriculture as this value is estimated at farm gate price by Central Statistical Organization (CSO). This value is obtained by subtracting value of input from value of output and it is available at sectoral level for crop sector and livestock sector at National and State levels.

Therefore, an estimate of carry home income of farmers at aggregate level can be prepared if data on wages paid to hired labour by farmer is available. This can be estimated by CSO.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) O.M. No. 7(6)/2010, dated 29th July, 2010]

### **Comments of the Committee**

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.20 of Chapter I of this Report.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited**

#### **ALLOCATION OF FUNDS** **(Recommendation Para NO. 1.14)**

The Committee are disappointed to note that in spite of their recommendation in their Fourth Report on DFG 2009-10 to the Government, to enhance the budget of DARE substantially, so as to enable them to tackle the problems of climate change growing soil infertility, declining natural resources, water scarcity, etc., which all require capital intensive solutions, DARE have not been given their due, even in Financial Year 2010-11. While a 26% hike in Plan allocation may sound impressive but seen in the context of the base of a couple of thousand crore rupees, it is insignificant. The situation becomes more galling when one sees it in the context of the overall allocations to the Department.

Out of the total allocation of Rs. 12023.00 crore for the Eleventh Plan, which the Committee consider inadequate in itself, the Department have been allocated/have spent a total of Rs. 6702.40 crore in the four years of the Plan. This leaves almost 44% funds for the last year of the Plan. The Committee doubt if the Department would be able to absorb this amount in the last year of the Plan. The Committee are one with the Department on the issue that this unimaginative drastic cut is going to affect several of their research activities which are critical to the growth and well being of agriculture in the Country.

They, therefore, recommend that the Government should enhance the allocation for the Department to at least Rs. 4000 crore in the ongoing Fiscal, so that the funds left for the terminal year are evenly matched and the Department get much needed funds for developmental activity this year.

## **REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT**

The recommendation of the Committee is under discussion with the Planning Commission.

[Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) O.M. No. 7(6)/2010, dated 29th July, 2010]

### **Comments of the Committee**

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.7 of Chapter I of this Report.

**NEW DELHI;**  
**22 March, 2011**  
**1 Chaitra, 1933 (Saka)**

**BASUDEB ACHARIA**  
***Chairman,***  
***Committee on Agriculture.***

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
(2010-11)**

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY- FIRST SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2011 from 1515 hours to 1700 hours in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

*Shri Basudeb Acharia* - *Chairman*

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Narayansingh Amlabe
3. Shri Jayant Chaudhary
4. Smt. Shruti Choudhary
5. Smt. Paramjit Kaur Gulshan
6. Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia
7. Shri Premdas
8. Shri Hukmadeo Narayan Yadav

**RAJYA SABHA**

9. Shri Shashi Bhusan Behera
10. Shri Narendra Budania
11. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi
12. Shri Vinay Katiyar
13. Shri Mohd. Ali Khan
14. Shri Upendra Kushwaha

**SECRETARIAT**

1. Shri P.V.L.N. Murthy - Director
2. Shri P.C. Koul - Additional Director

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members to the Sitting of the Committee. The Committee, thereafter, took up the following Draft Reports for consideration:

\* (i)      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

\* (ii)      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

(iii)      Action Taken Report on Observations/Recommendations contained in the Eighth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2010-2011) pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

\* (iv)      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

3. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the draft Reports without any modifications. The Committee then authorized the Chairman to finalise the above Draft Reports after getting them factually verified from the concerned Ministry/Department and present the same to the Parliament.

\*4      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

\*5      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

\*6      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

***The Committee then adjourned.***



## ANNEXURE

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

### ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE EIGHTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	10
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been Accepted by the Government	
	Para Nos. 1.15, 1.16, 2.11, 2.13, 2.14 and 3.10	
	Total	06
	Percentage	60%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee Do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Total	NIL
	Percentage	0%
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Para Nos. 2.12, 3.11 and 3.12	
	Total	3
	Percentage	30%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Para Nos. 1.14	
	Total	01
	Percentage	10%