

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
(2011-2012)**

**FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(2012-13)**

**THIRTY SECOND REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**APRIL, 2012 / VAISAKHA, 1934 (Saka)**

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(2011-2012)**

**(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

**(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS**

**(2012-13)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on	25.04.2012
Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on	26.04.2012



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**APRIL, 2012 / VAISAKHA, 1934 (Saka)**

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## CONTENTS

## PAGE

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE.....	
INTRODUCTION.....	
ABBREVIATIONS.....	.

### CHAPTER I      IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

### CHAPTER II      ANALYSIS OF DEMANDS

- (A)    Introductory
- (B)    Overview of Demands
- (C)    Funds Utilisation during Eleventh Plan
- (D)    Eleventh Plan Analysis
  - (i)    Physical Targets
  - (ii)   Financial Targets of Major Heads during Eleventh Plan  
for DARE/ ICAR
- (E)    Result Framework Document
- (F)    New Schemes in Eleventh Plan
- (G)    Unspent Balances
- (H)    Twelfth Plan
  - (i)    Formulation of Plan
  - (ii)   Schemes in the Twelfth Plan
  - (iii)   Outlay
  - (iv)   Administrative Approvals/Clearances
- (I)    Submission of Information to Parliament
  - (i)    Demand for Grants (2012-13)
  - (ii)   Crop Sciences
  - (iii)   Uniformity in Data
  - (iv)   Cut-off Date for Data
  - (v)    Indo-US Knowledge Initiative / Agricultural Cooperation
  - (vi)   National Herbarium of Cultivated Plants

## **CHAPTER III SECTORAL EVALUATION**

- (A) Crop Science
- (B) Horticulture
- (C) Agriculture Extension
  - (i) Allocation
  - (ii) Transfer of Technology
- (D) Agricultural Education
- (E) Economics, Statistics and Management
- (F) Agricultural Engineering
- (G) Animal Science
- (H) Vacancies in ICAR and its Institutes

## **ANNEXURES**

- I Network Institutions of ICAR
- II State Agricultural Universities
- III Eleventh Plan Allocations
- IV Performance of DARE in Result Framework Document
- V Letter by the Chairman to the Prime Minister dated February 3, 2012
- VI Scheme-wise proposed Outlay for Twelfth Plan and Scheme-wise proposed and Actual Outlays for Annual Plan 2012-13

## **APPENDICES**

- I Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> Sitting of the Committee held on 10 April, 2012.
- II Minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> Sitting of the Committee held on 11 April, 2012.
- III Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> Sitting of the Committee held on 23 April, 2012.

## COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2011-12)

Shri Basudeb Acharia - Chairman		
<u>MEMBERS</u>		
<u>LOK SABHA</u>		
2.		Shri Narayansingh Amlabe
3.		Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba'
4.		Shri Thangso Baite
5.		Smt. Shruti Choudhary
6.		Smt. Ashwamedh Devi
7.		Shri Biren Singh Engti
8.		Shri Anant Kumar Hegde
9.		Shri Deepender Singh Hooda
10.		Shri Sk. Nurul Islam
11.		Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia
12.		Shri Premdas
13.		Shri Surendra Singh Nagar
14.		Shri Devji M. Patel
15.		Shri Vitthalbhai Hansrajibhai Radadiya
16.		Shri Nripendra Nath Roy
17.		Shri Jagdish Thakor
18.		Shri Laxman Tudu
19.		Shri D. Venugopal
20.		Shri Hukmadeo Narayan Yadav
21.		Shri Ramakant Yadav
<u>RAJYA SABHA</u>		
22.		Shri Shashi Bhusan Behera
*23.		Vacant
\$24.		Vacant
25.		Shri A. Elavarasan
^26.		Vacant
27.		Shri Mohd. Ali Khan
28.		Shri Upendra Kushwaha
29.		Shri Bharatsinh Prabhatsinh Parmar
30.		Shri Rajpal Singh Saini
31.		Shri S. Thangavelu

\$ Vice Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi who ceased to be the Member of the Committee on his retirement from Rajya Sabha on 02 April, 2012.

^ Vice Shri Vinay Katiyar who ceased to be the Member of the Committee on his retirement from Rajya Sabha on 02 April, 2012.

\* Vice Shri Narendra Budania who ceased to be the Member of the Committee on his retirement from Rajya Sabha on 03 April, 2012.

## **SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                   |   |                     |
|----|-------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Deepak Mahna | - | Joint Secretary     |
| 2. | Shri P. C. Koul   | - | Additional Director |

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty-second Report on the Demands for Grants (2012-2013) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education).

2. The Committee under Rule 331E (1)(a) of the Rules of Procedure considered the Demands for Grants (2012-13) of the Department of Agricultural Research & Education which were laid in Lok Sabha on 27 March, 2012. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Department of Agricultural Research & Education, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Planning Commission at their Sitzings held on 10 and 11 April, 2012. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Department of Agricultural Research & Education, ICAR and Planning Commission for appearing before them and for furnishing the information they desired in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants of the Department.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 23 April, 2012.

4. For facility of reference, the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold at the end of each Chapter of the Report.

**NEW DELHI;**  
**23 April, 2012**  
**03 Vaisakha, 1934 (Saka)**

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



## **ABBREVIATIONS**

AICRP	All India Coordinated Research Project
ASRB	Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board
ATMA	Agricultural Technology Management Agency
BE	Budget Estimates
BPD	Business Planning and Development
C& AG	Comptroller & Auditor General
CCEA	Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
CICR	Central Institute of Cotton Research
CSIR	Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
CSWCR & TI	Central Soil & Water Conservation Research Training Institute
DARE	Department of Agricultural Research & Education
DBT	Department of Biotechnology
DKMA	Department of Knowledge Management in Agriculture
DRWA	Directorate of Research in Women in Agriculture
DST	Department of Science & Technology
EFC/SFC	Expenditure Finance Committee/ Standing Finance Committee
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
HPC	High Power Committee
HSADL	High Security Animal Disease Laboratory
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research
IGFRI	Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute
IPAI	Institute of Public Auditors of India
KVK	Krishi Vigyan Kendra

NAIP	National Agricultural Innovation Project
NARS	National Agriculture Research System
NBPGR	National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources
NDC	National Development Council
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIASM	National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management
NICRA	National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture
NPCC	National Project on Climate Change
NRM	National Resource Management
PDBC	Project Directorate of Biological Control
RE	Revised Estimates
RFD	Results-Framework Document
SAU	State Agricultural Universities
SMD	Subject Matter Division

## **CHAPTER – I**

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Twenty-third Report of the Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2011-12) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education) was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 29 August, 2011. The Report contained 13 Observations / Recommendations.

1.2 The Minister concerned is required to make Statement under Direction 73-A of Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha about the status of implementation of Recommendations contained in the Original Report of the Committee within six months of presentation of Report to the Parliament. However, a Statement under Direction 73-A in the context of the Twenty-third Report is yet to be made by the Minister of Agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture made the Statement under Direction 73-A in the context of the Eight Report more than 15 months after the presentation of the Report on 30 August, 2011. That too after this inordinate delay in making the Statement under Direction 73-A had not only been adversely commented upon by the Committee in their Twenty-third Report, the Department had also been directed to get the needful done in that very Session (Monsoon Session, 2011) of the Parliament.

1.3 On the basis of the Action Taken Notes received from the Department of Agricultural Research & Education in respect of the Twenty-third Report, the Committee presented their Twenty-ninth Report to Speaker, Lok Sabha on 16 February, 2012. The Report was subsequently presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 27 March, 2012. The Committee commented on the Action Taken Notes furnished by the Department in respect of Recommendations at Para Nos. 2.30, 2.31, 2.32, 3.22, 3.24, 3.26, 3.27, 3.28 and 3.29 of the Twenty-third Report. An analysis of the Action Taken Notes revealed

that the Government have accepted 54% Recommendations of the Committee. 38% Recommendations have not been accepted by the Government thus requiring reiteration. Replies in case of 8% Recommendations are of interim nature.

**1.4 The Committee are deeply concerned to note that the Minister of Agriculture is yet to make a Statement under Direction 73-A of Directions by Speaker, Lok Sabha in the context of Twenty-third Report of the Committee which was presented to the Parliament on 29 August, 2011. The Statement is to be mandatorily made within six months of the presentation of an Original Report to the Parliament. What is most perturbing, is that this repeated non-adherence to a Direction by Speaker, Lok Sabha has almost become a norm in spite of being adversely commented upon by the Committee in their Fourth and Twenty-third Reports. The Committee strongly deprecate this repeated failure of the Ministry to adhere to stipulations laid down in Direction 73-A. They also desire that the Statement in the context of the Twenty-third Report be made, without fail, during the second half of the ongoing Session itself.**

## **CHAPTER – II**

### **ANALYSIS OF DEMANDS**

#### **(A) INTRODUCTORY**

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research spearheads the National Agriculture Research System (NARS) in the Country. ICAR through its network of Institutions spread across India (**Annexure-I**) and the State Agricultural Universities (**Annexure-II**) are the main public sector agricultural research and development organizations in India. The research development activities of NARS and the public extension activities undertaken by their sister department viz. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and the Agriculture Departments of various State Governments constitute the delivery mechanism for dissemination of agricultural research, technology and knowledge within the Country.

2.2 ICAR has a wide network of Institutes spread throughout the Country, has well-established and time-tested institutional linkages with the State Agricultural Universities and other Departments of the Central and State Governments. ICAR is organized into eight Subject-Matter Divisions (SMDs), which are supported with a network of research Institutes/Schemes in their respective area of specialization, and have time-tested institutional linkages with the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) 13 and private organizations. In order to support this network, there are a number of multidisciplinary centres called *Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)* for assessment, refinement and demonstration of frontline technologies and training of farmers and rural entrepreneurs. ICAR's vast network of Institutes spread all over the Country, include of 45 Research Institutes, 4 to be Deemed Universities, 6 National Bureaux, 17 National Research Centres, 25 Directorates/ Project Directorates, 61 All India Coordinated Research Projects and 17 Network Projects. Besides, there are 51 State Agricultural Universities and 01 Central Agricultural University, 04 Central Agricultural Universities and 01 deemed to be University with Agriculture Faculty and 610 KVKs in all districts of the Country for assessment, refinement and demonstration of technology/ products.

The Committee have been informed that the primary role of the ICAR is to develop appropriate technologies, scientific infrastructure and human resources to address current and emerging agricultural development needs of the Country. The investment priorities form the backbone of plan fund allocations and identification of thrust areas through various schemes, targeting inclusive and sustainable agricultural growth. A co-ordinated research programme is part of a strategy which aims at a partnership mode with the national (SAUs), private R&D organizations, NGOs and international agricultural research institutions, mainly centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. Demand driven research is facilitated through key elements of decentralization of authority, participatory research planning and relevant technology transfer.

2.3 ICAR mandate broadly consists of the following Universities with following responsibilities :

- To plan, undertake, aid, promote and coordinate education, research and its application in agriculture, animal science, fisheries, agroforestry, home science and allied sciences.
- To act as a clearing-house for research and general information relating to agriculture, animal husbandry, fishery, agro-forestry, home science and allied sciences through its publications and information system and instituting and promoting transfer of technology programmes.
- To provide, undertake and promote consultancy services in the field of research, education, training and dissemination of information in agriculture, animal science, fisheries, agro-forestry, home science and other allied sciences.
- To look into the problems relating to broader areas of rural development concerning agriculture, including post-harvest technology by developing co-operative programmes with other organizations such as the Indian Council of Social Science Research, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Universities, etc.

**(B) OVERVIEW OF DEMANDS**

2.4 Demand No. 2 pertaining to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education for the year 2012-13 was presented to the Lok Sabha on 27 March, 2012.

The details of allocations proposed in Demand No. 2 are as under :-

**DEMAND No. 2**

**(Rs. in crore)**

	<b>Plan</b>	<b>Non Plan</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Revenue (Voted)</b>	3220.00	2172.00	5392.00
<b>Revenue (Charged)</b>	00	00	00
<b>Capital (Voted)</b>	00	00	00
<b>Capital (Charged)</b>	00	00	00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>5392.00</b>

It may be seen that a sum of Rs. 5392.00 crore has been allocated to the Department for 2012-13 which is incidentally the First Year of the Twelfth Plan. Out of this Rs. 3220.00 crore is on the Plan side in the Revenue Section and the balance Rs. 2172.00 crore is on Non-Plan side under the Revenue Section. There are no allocations for the Capital Section in either Plan or Non-Plan side.

2.5 It may be pertinent to mention here that during the year 2012-13, the Department had proposed an amount of Rs. 4719.68 crore to the Planning Commission against which an amount of Rs. 3220.00 crore has been allocated.

2.6 The details of Revised Estimates for the year 2011-12 and Budget Estimates for 2012-13 are given in the table below :-

(Rs. in crore)

	RE 2011-12		BE 2012-13	
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
<b>Revenue</b>	2858.54	2157.60	3220.00	2172.00
<b>Capital</b>	00	00	00	00

2.7 It may be seen that there is a hike of 12.65% in the BE of Rs. 3220.00 crore on the Plan side as compared to RE amount of Rs. 2858.54 crore of 2011-12. On the Non-Plan side the BE amount of Rs. 2172.00 crore for the ongoing Fiscal is merely 0.67% more than RE amount of Rs. 2157.60 crore in 2011-12.

### (C) FUNDS UTILISATION DURING ELEVENTH PLAN

2.8 The Table below indicates the allocations being sought by the Department year after year in the Eleventh Plan, the amounts actually released in the five years of the Plan out of Rs. 12023.00 crore earmarked for the Eleventh Plan of DARE/ICAR and the actual expenditure against the funds thus released:

(Rs. in crore)

(Years	Proposed	BE	RE	Expenditure
<b>2007-08</b>	1945.50	1620.00	1434.00	1317.19
<b>2008-09</b>	2646.79	1760.00	1760.00	1652.61
<b>2009-10</b>	4000.00	1760.00	1760.00	1711.00
<b>2010-11</b>	4000.00	2300.00	2521.75	2354.29
<b>2011-12</b>	4534.44	2800.00	2850.00	1654.58*
<b>Total</b>	<b>17126.73</b>	<b>10240.00</b>	<b>10325.75</b>	<b>8689.67</b>

*\*till January, 2012*

2.9 During the Eleventh Plan a sum of Rs. 12,023.00 crore had been allocated to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education however, a sum of



Rs. 10240.00 crore was actually allocated at BE stages and a sum of Rs. 10325.75 crore only (RE stages) has been actually released to them.

2.10 Out of this Rs. 10325.75 crore, the Department have been able to spend a sum of Rs. 8689.67 crore in the entire Plan (upto January, 2012). Leaving a huge balance of Rs. 1636.08 crore unspent in entirety with only two months of the Five Year Plan remaining to be accounted. The detailed break-up of annual allocation sought and actually made, sector-wise during the Eleventh Plan is indicated in **Annexure-III.**

#### **(D) ELEVENTH PLAN ANALYSIS**

2.11 The following details were furnished by DARE to the Committee in regard to targets fixed both in physical and financial terms by DARE/ICAR for various Major Heads' during the Eleventh Plan.

##### **(i) Physical Targets**

##### **Natural Resource Management**

Soil Characterization and Management; Watershed Management Management of Problem Soils; Integrated Nutrient Management; Integrated Water Management; Integrated Weed Management; Technology for Rainfed/Dryland Farming; Development of Integrated Farming System Model; Technology for Agro-forestry Interventions; Climate Resilient Agriculture; Resource Conservation Technologies; Technology for Strengthening NE Hill Agriculture; Technology for Strengthening Arid Agriculture; Development of Improved Agronomic Practices.

##### **Crop Science**

- Bio-resource management: Collection, characterization and evaluation of germplasm for desirable traits in mandate crops and bio-resources
- Bio-resource utilization: Basic/ applied and strategic research for crop improvement, crop production and crop health management in the field crops; Multi-location evaluation of new production/ and protection technologies; Development of varieties/ hybrids possessing resistance/ tolerance against biotic and abiotic stresses having high yield and quality; Development of breeding materials and technology for enhanced productivity of in field crops; Development of Integrated Pest Management

techniques for major insect- pests and diseases; Conducting on-farm technology demonstrations across various locations to disseminate latest technology to the farmers

- Production of breeders seed of field crops

## **Horticulture**

Enhancement of genetic resources through collection, conservation and do characterization, evaluation for use in development of cultivars for various horticultural crops. Genomics of potato; Production system management, development of technologies for various crops to enhance the productivity; the crop protection for insects/pests including development of diagnostics.

## **Animal Science**

- Development of database on animal genetic resource of the country; Registration of indigenous breed of livestock and poultry; Animal cloning
- Evaluation, characterization and conservation of important livestock and poultry breeds; Database on THI and physiological and biochemical parameters under different climatic conditions; Introgression on Fec B gene for better kidding rate; Establishment of DNA/semen/embryo bank
- Amelioration strategies for environmental pollutants in animal feeds and products; Development of Resource based region-specific feeding modules; Feed Block technology using locally available feed resources; Development of cost effective shelters to mitigate heat stress; Production of quality seed of pig and poultry
- Development of disease surveillance and forecasting modules; Development and validation of modern diagnostics for important animal diseases
- Value addition of milk and meat products and development of Functional foods / nutraceuticals; Production of clean meat from different livestock and poultry species and its value addition

## **Fisheries**

Updating of database on fishery resources, stocks and biodiversity from different aquatic eco-systems; Developing mariculture and seed production technology of food and ornamental fish species; Comprehensive fish health management to address the existing and emerging fish diseases; Development of technologies for production enhancement of reservoirs & wetlands; Protocols for seed production and culture technologies in different saline regime; Protocols for year-round breeding and seed production of carps and other diversified fish species; Efficient & cost effective feeds for nursery and grow out stages for finfish and shellfish species; Programmes on growth improvement of finfish & shell fish species through selective breeding; DNA Barcoding of fish genetic resources; Improvisation of fishing gears for diversified and conservation fishing; Fish possessing, product

development and value addition; Development of new Intelligent Packaging material for fish products

## **Engineering**

- Development of need-based farm equipment, farm implements and machinery; Development of processing and value addition technologies/equipments for different agro-produces
- Decision support system for design of rain water harvesting pond, and Farm machinery management for their optimum selection and matching with power source; Assessment of Post Harvest Losses of Crops /Commodities; Cost-Effective Ginning for Contaminant-free Cotton; Improvement and Quality Evaluation of Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Made-ups and Garments; Development of Technologies for Diversification of Jute Products (Woven/ Knitted); Enrichment and characterization of lac insect and host biodiversity including use of molecular tools; Lac production systems in plantation scale using highly potential hosts

## **Agricultural Education**

Strengthening and Development of Agricultural Universities; Establishment of new Niche Area of Excellence and continuing support to the existing ones; Establishment of new Experiential Learning units and provide support to the existing units; Strengthening of Library; Education Quality Assurance & Reforms; Modernization of Agricultural University Farms; Human Resource Development

## **Agriculture Extension**

### **Krishi Vigyan Kendra**

Demonstrations for Technology update; Training of Farmers and Extension Personnel; Production of seed and planting material

### **DRWA & AICRP on Home Science**

Testing of farm technologies and programme with gender perspective Development of drudgery reduction options; Empowerment of rural women

### **NAIP**

Establishment of Business Planning and Development (BPD) Units; Value chain on Research on production to consumption system; Sustained improvement in the incomes and well-being of farm families through selected technological interventions; Work in frontier areas of basic and strategic research like allele mining, genomics, bio-sensors, soil organic carbon dynamics, abiotic stress, cryo-preservation, climate change, off-season flowering and fruiting in mango, input use efficiency, ethnic and fermented foods.

2.12 When asked as to whether the various issues recommended for research and development by the National Farmers Commission had been taken care of during the Eleventh Plan and whether they had also been taken into consideration while formatting the Twelfth Plan, Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR stated during the course of Oral Evidence held on 11 April, 2012:

“Coming to the National Commission of Farmers, we have taken all those points that have been mentioned there. They had drawn our attention to the need for focussed research, as was mentioned by your kind self, the contemporary problems. Yesterday we had submitted that the scenario is so very different since the green revolution. Our problems today are the cultivable area is not increasing. It has remained static. In many cases, it is reducing. So it is in this context that we wanted to address different issues of insufficiency, diversification, optimising land and water resources. For example, today, in peri-urban agriculture, peri-urban horticulture, it is coming up because the cultivable land has remained same and static. So also the waste generated by habitats, by the cities and so on both solid and liquid waste. These are all coming into the picture. So it is mainly resource use efficiency in different forms, recycling of organic matter. Then a point had been made with regard to the bio-diversity utilisation. This is one thing we have also taken into account. It is subject to many stresses. Yesterday also we had mentioned about both abiotic and biotic stresses. We have the Bureaus of Plant Genetics, Animal Genetic, Fish Genetic, Insect, Microbes. These Bureaus are looking into all these. In fact the Insect Bureau, PDBC was upgraded as National Bureau of Agricultural Important Insects. So all these Bureaus together are addressing this aspect. Also, specifically we have got a National Agro Biodiversity Management Committee. That again has been reconstituted. So we are looking into not only exploration, collection, then further cataloguing, characterising these resources. All these are going on in a very systematic manner. Also bringing that material in some way to our breeding programmes, varietal development and all this; this is also happening. These are specific issues that had been brought out. Also a point had been made with regard to climate change. Yesterday I had submitted about our research approach to climate change. I would not go into further details. Then farm mechanisation had been indicated. We have gone into those. It is no more the green revolution, here basically it is to produce more from less land, land water and how to produce more. These points had been made. A point also had been made with regard to bringing real value of the produce to the farmers. That is the one concern. We have now talked of some value addition and processing in catchment areas. We attempted a few things in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. In the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan, all these have been given greater emphasis. The new synergies have to be brought together. That is where we have talked of consortia of platforms. About 20 items we have listed for ourselves. Again, the point that has been made was that in a given farm use all the resources, recycle all the resources. That is where any waste produced in the farm is to be recycled. The waste or water will

not go out of the farm. That is the basic concept of conservation agriculture was talked about. Then also the specific thing that we have addressed in the national agriculture innovation priorities basically is livelihood. That point had been made. We have taken it up as a very specific component in agriculture innovation priorities as sustainable rural livelihood. We are demonstrating different interventions in everything in crops in horticulture crops, in livestock, fisheries everything. Yesterday I had submitted to bring the real value of the commodities to the farmers. These have been done. These are with reference to the National Commission of Farmers Report”.

**(ii) Financial Targets of Major Heads during XI Plan for DARE/ ICAR**

**2.13 Sector-wise Revised Estimates for XIth Plan.**

**(in crores)**

S.No.	Division	YEAR					Total
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	
1	<b>Crop Science</b>	24050	29350	30400	36600	39277	<b>159677</b>
2	<b>Horticulture</b>	7560	9207	9800	12400	19120	<b>58087</b>
3	<b>ICAR-Headquarters</b>	2100	2650	1700	1790	12133	<b>20373</b>
4	<b>Agricultural Extension</b>	32050	31500	32800	63675	53764	<b>213789</b>
5	<b>Agricultural Education</b>	36100	38000	37200	46200	55800	<b>213300</b>
6	<b>Agricultural Economics &amp; Statistics</b>	400	400	300	300	300	<b>1700</b>
7	<b>Agricultural Engineering</b>	4000	4200	4300	5263	6940	<b>24703</b>
8	<b>NAIP</b>	8570	20700	27723	27000	17600	<b>101593</b>
9	<b>Natural Resource Management</b>	8910	10000	10200	12303	23409	<b>64822</b>
10	<b>Animal Science</b>	8000	9000	9200	11268	20153	<b>57621</b>
11	<b>Fisheries</b>	4000	4500	4500	6500	9400	<b>28900</b>
	<b>Indo-US Knowledge Initiatives</b>	590	600	400	---		<b>1590</b>
13	<b>National Fund for Basic &amp; Strategic Research</b>	1420	695	427	811	3800	<b>7153</b>

14	<b>CAU + DARE</b>	5650	9100	7050	8065	10101	<b>39966</b>
15	<b>National Initiative on Climate resilient in Agri.</b>	--	--	--	20000	13200	<b>33200</b>
16	<b>National Institute of Biotic Stress Management</b>	--	--	--	--	1.00	<b>1.00</b>
17	<b>Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology</b>	--	--	--	--	1.00	<b>1.00</b>
18	<b>CAU Bundelkhand</b>	--	--	--	--	1.00	<b>1.00</b>
	<b>Unspent Balance</b>		<b>6098*</b>				
<b>Total</b>		<b>143400</b>	<b>176000</b>	<b>176000</b>	<b>252175</b>	<b>285000</b>	<b>1032576</b>

\* Includes unspent balance of Rs. 10 crores of Crop Science Division; Rs. 50 crores of NAIP; Rs. 3.05 crores of NFBSFARA and an additional allocation of Rs. 2.07 crores of Horticulture Division

2.14 When asked about the Major Heads whose targets could not be achieved by the end of Plan period and the reasons, therefor, the Department stated that targets as envisaged have been achieved by and large, except that few of infrastructure could not be completed, few equipments could not be purchased which shall be done in the first year of XII Plan. Targets in relation to development of new cultivars and in other line departments the production technologies have been achieved, although the pace of development was slowed down in time frame.

2.15 The Committee asked the Department to furnish the details of all such slippages in completion of infrastructure and purchase of equipment that have taken place during the Eleventh Plan alongwith the new timelines and cost escalation details. In response the Department stated as stated earlier, that the targets as envisaged have been achieved by and large. However, the Department re-prioritized procurements under 'Works' & 'Equipment' keeping in view the financial allocations, but by giving precedence to priority programmes/schemes. All efforts will be made to complete the spillover works and equipments of XI plan

during the current financial year. The cost escalation will depend upon the prevailing cost index at the time.

The outlay proposed by the SMDs for the XI Plan was with a view to initiate schemes addressing need based areas. However, certain works could not be initiated, or had slippages, such as semen sexing, goat genome mapping, development of modern disease diagnostics and combo vaccines and their field validation; production of quality seed of pig, poultry and sheep; mitigation strategies for methane emission; Goat Seed Project, programs like Impact assessment of climate change on fisheries & aquaculture, adaptation and mitigation measures; Species & System diversification and intensification of culture practices in freshwater and brackishwater and utilization of inland saline soils for aquaculture and AICRP on Mariculture. As far as the cost escalation details are concerned, these will depend on BSR rates at time of construction, or equipment cost at time of purchase.

To a pointed query in the context of slowing down in time frame in relation to development of new cultivars and the production technologies, the Department informed the Committee that the targets in research are not quantifiable as they depend upon various factors. Prioritized targets were achieved and the first year of the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan would be enough to complete the spill over items. All efforts will be made during the plan period to fulfill the targets set for XII Plan. They further informed that the cost over runs will depend upon the prevailing cost index at the time as indicated in reply to Question 11 above.

**(E) RESULT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT (RFD)**

2.16 The Committee have been given to understand that the Performance Management Division of Cabinet Secretariat has initiated a mechanism for monitoring the progress of the work of various Departments. The details of performance of DARE/ICAR submitted to the Performance Management Division since 2009 onwards till date were sought by the Committee and are at **Annexure-IV.**

2.17 When queried about the feedback regarding their performance evaluation the Department informed the Committee that the Cabinet Secretary, vide D.O.No.P-11018/1/2010-PM dated 24.09.2012 has communicated the Department's performance against the commitments made in Results-Framework Document (RFD) for the year 2009-2010. The overall Composite Score of 95% of DARE was higher than the average composite score of 89.4% for all 59 Departments that were covered under Phase-I of the RFD policy. It was also mentioned that the performance of DARE was indeed commendable.

2.18 The said Communication of the Cabinet Secretary also mentions the following two points:

- (i) In this context, I would like to draw your attention to the following two tasks that require your personal attention. First, please ensure that the process of strategy formulation for your department is truly participatory and thoughtful. It should not be treated as just another requirement under the RFD. Rather, it should be viewed as an opportunity to rethink, reevaluate and re-imagine what your department does and how it does it.
- (ii) Second, if we are going to make a change in the perception about the Government by the common man, achieving results would not be enough – it is necessary but not a sufficient condition for making a significant difference in this regard. For turning around the way government is perceived, we will have to dramatically improve the interface of government departments with the general public. It is for this reason, the High Power Committee (HPC) on Government Performance decided to include Sevottam complaint Citizen's Charter and Grievance Redress Mechanism as mandatory requirements in all RFDs for the year 2010-11. Please ensure that these instruments are implemented in the true spirit and genuinely serve the purpose for which they are being implemented.



**(F) NEW SCHEMES IN ELEVENTH PLAN**

2.19 The National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management , Baramati is one of the major new schemes of DARE in the Eleventh Plan. When asked about the Head under which the Institute has been included in the Twelfth Plan, its present fund allocation and status the Department informed the Committee that the National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management, (NIASM), Baramati is a scheme under natural Resource Management Division of ICAR. The Scheme is proposed to be continued in XIIth Plan. A sum of Rs. 36.35 crores has been allocated to this scheme under BE 2012-13, out of the Plan allocation of Rs. 270.00 crores allocated to NRM Division.

During the fiscal 2011-12 the Department planned two new schemes viz. National Institute of Agriculture Biotechnology and National Institute of Biotic Stress Management. A sum of Rs. 30.00 crore and Rs. 20.00 crore respectively had been allocated for National Institute of Agriculture Biotechnology and National Institute of Biotic Stress Management during 2011-12.

2.20 To a query regarding the progress of these two Schemes, actual utilization of funds earmarked for them and the steps taken to operationalise for them and the steps taken to operationalise these Institutes the Department responded that the establishment of the new Schemes viz. (1) Indian Institute of Agricultural; Biotechnology, Ranchi and (2) National Institute of Biotic Stress Management, Raipur; has been recently approved, in a meeting held under the Chairmanship of Secretary(Expenditure), Ministry of Finance on March 2, 2012. Although the EFC of the two Institutes has been approved recently the actual work would start during the XII Plan period after getting necessary administrative approvals, from Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

2.21 Asked further as to whether any time has been frame fixed by the Department to obtained necessary administrative approval from Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, the Department stated that their target was to

submit note for approval of Cabinet / CCEA in the first quarter of financial year 2012-13.

**(G) UNSPENT BALANCES**

2.22 The Committee sought information about the unspent balance surrendered by DARE to the Government of India during each of the financial year of XIth Plan. In response the following information was furnished by the Department:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Rs. ( in Crores)</b>
2007-08	190.21
2008-09	101.20
2009-10	40.56
2010-11	48.50
2011-12	167.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>547.97</b>

Asked to enumerate the steps taken by the Department for strengthening/streamlining of their process it was stated that the Department are in the process of streamlining their accounting system by strengthening the internal controls as follows:

- (i) Internal audit to be carried out by professional bodies
- (ii) Implementing Accrual Accounting System and
- (iii) Implementation of Financial Management System

2.23 When asked further about these initiatives and how they were going to improve the accounting system in vogue in the Department submitted as follows:

**1. Internal Audit to be carried out by professional bodies**

The ICAR has its constituent units spread all over India. Till now, the internal audit of these units was being done internally by the inspection team of ICAR Hqrs. With a view to bring a professional approach for ensuring implementation of the accounting processes and to strengthen internal control systems for the utilization of funds in most efficient and effective manner, an initiative has been taken to outsource the job of internal audit

through professional bodies such as Institute of Public Auditors of India(IPAI) and C&AG empanelled Chartered Accountant Firms for carrying out the internal audit of the spending units of ICAR. The corrective measures/suggestions made in their reports will be implemented in DARE/ICAR for streamlining the system which will ultimately enhance the efficiency of the system. It would further ensure the statutory requirements and accurate maintenance of financial records.

## **2. Implementing Accrual Accounting System**

ICAR has adopted Accrual System of Accounting which captures all receipts and payments on realtime basis. The Accrual Accounting System adopted by ICAR is further being improved/ strengthened through implementation of an integrated ERP package for its headquarters and the units which will be based on double entry system in totality. It would help us achieve complete financial health of the the organization, namely accurate income & expenses, liabilities & assets position as on the closure date of financial year in the following financial statements:

- (i) Receipts & Payment A/c
- (ii) Income & Expenditure A/c
- (iii) Balance Sheet

## **3. Implementation of Financial Management System**

ICAR is in the process to putting in place a Centralised Financial Management Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) package through M/s IBM which would integrate the financial processes of ICAR Headquarters and that of its constituent units. This automation would help consistent monitoring of financial activities viz. Budgetary control, actual achievements, shortfall with reference to targets, accounting etc., and provide such accurate and realtime data for the purpose of precise decision making by the management as well as to the end users.

**(H) TWELFTH PLAN**

**(i) Formulation of Plan**

2.24 The Eleventh Plan Document was badly delayed. This had a cascading effect on planning and approvals mechanism. Resultantly, all schemes of the Plan suffered substantially due to the delays. The Committee had, therefore, in several of their previous Reports recommended that to avoid recurrence of such a situation in the Twelfth Plan, the Twelfth Plan Document be finalized by 31 December, 2011 so that the approved Schemes are conveyed to the implementing ministries/departments well before the commencement of the Plan on 1 April, 2012. Chairman, Committee on Agriculture had also addressed a letter to the Prime Minister on 3 February, 2012 requesting him to direct the authorities concerned to expedite the finalization of the Twelfth Plan (Annexure – V). The Committee, therefore, desired to know the present status of the Twelfth Plan Document and by when was it to be presented to the Parliament.

2.25 The Department in their written submission to the Committee stated that the draft Twelfth Plan document of DARE/ICAR was submitted to Planning Commission on 27 December, 2011 and extensive interactive meetings with the Working Groups and Steering Committee on Agriculture and allied sectors were held at Chennai, Bangaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi wherein DARE/ ICAR participated.

2.26 During the course of the Oral Evidence on 10 April, 2012, Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR submitted further:

“Then, we have submitted to the Planning Commission and the Working Group has also recommended a figure of something like Rs.55000 crore for the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan for the DARE and ICAR. Now, we are also looking for the final figures in the next two to three months and once we get that, our Plan for 12<sup>th</sup> Plan will be firmed up. As regards this year 2012-13, as I mentioned, some of the activities that were initiated in the last year from the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan, we are continuing them into this year. So, we have given priority to those items and see that we are addressing those core issues in this particular year of 2012-13”.

“Adding further he stated as you all know, this goes through a sea of appraisal agencies and appraisal process. For the record, for this Plan, the

12<sup>th</sup> Plan document of the DARE/ICAR has been submitted to the Planning Commission on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2011. That means, three months before we have taken care of it. That is why I said we have attended as many as 17 meetings, consultations have been done.

2.27 When asked if there was a stipulation of time for submitting proposals he clarified:

“Yes, Sir, when the Working Groups are formed. Thanks to the Planning Commission, two years ago the Working Groups had been formed and they have also submitted their reports. Concurrently the Department has also submitted their proposals. Now the Annual Plan for this year has been given. We have to get a correct picture about the kind of grant that we will have. I must submit here that we have had a complete round of discussions with the institutes with regard to the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan. Starting from last week of this month, till the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, we are again sitting with each of the institutes and the EFC documents are being readied. We are ready with the draft EFC documents for each of the institutes. That is what is going to be discussed between the 26<sup>th</sup> of this month and the 10<sup>th</sup> of May. This is the preparedness for the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan. As I mentioned about the Annual Plan, the ongoing activities have been taken over from the previous year with due deference to the prioritised work plan that we have to have only for this year”.

2.28 The Committee note that in all eleven Working Groups had been created on Agriculture by Planning Commission. The Committee desired to be apprised that the mandate of each of these Groups and the deadlines given to them for presenting their Reports to Planning Commission. They also wanted to be apprised about the dates when each of them presented their Report to Planning Commission and the present status of each of the Report.

In this context, they were informed that all eleven Working Groups had submitted their report by December, 2011. The working group recommendations are being used by the Steering Committee in their exercise. The Working Group reports are put on the Planning Commission website. In regard to its presentation the Parliament is concerned, it was stated that as per normal procedure the Plan Document is approved in the National Development Council (NDC) meeting after which it is presented in the Parliament.

2.29 The Committee then desired to know about the schedule including specific datelines for various stages of consideration and approvals of the Twelfth Plan Document till its presentation to the Parliament. In a written post-evidence

submission, they were informed that as regards schedule of planning process and approval by the NDC, guidance has been sought from the competent authority and it would be intimated in due course.

2.30 The Committee recall that in the past whenever there have been some problems or compelling reasons causing delay in finalization of Five Year Plans the planners and policy makers have implemented a Plan Holiday and taken recourse to Annual Plan for a particular year till such time the next Five Year Plan was in place. Therefore, in view of the news reports about the finalization of the Twelfth Plan being delayed by at least another six months, the Committee desired to know the views of the Planning Commission/Government as to whether it would be appropriate to let 2012-13 be taken as a stand alone Annual Plan and the Twelfth Plan may be started from next year and upto 2018. In another post-evidence submission they were informed that as regards schedule of planning process and approval by the NDC, guidance has been sought from the competent authority and it would be intimated in due course.

2.31 Elaborating further on the aspect of funds allocation during Eleventh Plan and for the Twelfth Plan it was stated that the Council had been making concerted efforts to get more funds through Annual Plans of XI Plan and the matter was taken up at the highest level in the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission every year. Adequate funding of National Agricultural Research System has always been emphasized at various fora like Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, which has always been recommending an allocation equivalent to at least 1% of AGDP. Apart from this the XII Plan Working Group on Agricultural Research and Education has recommended that at least a sum of Rs.55,000 crore should be provided for the various sectors, which in addition to the EAPs/World Bank Aided Projects like National Ag. Education Project & National Ag. Entrepreneurship Projects also include the funding under Extra-mural mode, Farmer Innovation, National Innovation, Public-Private Partnership, Inter-Department Platforms etc. The Working Group has also recommended to include Seed programme within this budget of Rs.2000 crore, a separate budget line for SAUs with an additional outlay of Rs.10,000 crores and budget for inter departmental platforms.

2.32 As mentioned previously in this Report, the Department had sought higher allocations year after year, however, the actual allocation has never matched their demand. During the course of the Oral Evidence on 10 April, 2012 when this matter was broached with the representative of the Planning Commission, he submitted:

“Good afternoon, Sir. I have noted your concerns, and I will carry it back to Member (Agriculture) about allocation to scientific departments, including, ICAR.

Nevertheless, I would like to bring it to your kind notice that if you see year- wise allocation during the Eleventh Plan, progressively it has been increasing. Our concern is also to provide adequate allocation to the scientific departments.

I must inform you that as compared to other development departments in the Ministry of Agriculture like DAC or Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, the allocation to ICAR -- personally, I must submit - is quite compatible in the Eleventh Plan as a whole.

You also mentioned about the criteria that the Planning Commission applies for allocation of resources. The first and foremost criterion is the department's absorption capacity; performance over a period of time is the second criteria; third is unspent balances and how the department is progressing on the new initiatives over a period of time. Last and not the least criterion, a very important criterion, is the overall resource allocation available with the Planning Commission.

As I mentioned, we are equally concerned about the hon. Committee's concern for higher allocation. We are moving towards that gradually, and I will communicate your concerns to Member (Agriculture) and Member (Science) in the Planning Commission”.

## **(ii) Schemes in the Twelfth Plan**

2.33 From the information furnished to Committee it is noted that DARE/ICAR has proposed 80 Schemes during the XII Plan. Of these, 76 schemes are in continuing nature and 4 new schemes are proposed. In addition, the National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) was Finance Minister's budget announcement in 2010-11 for two years i.e. 2010-11 and 2011-12 with an outlay of Rs. 350 crores. All of the schemes have been included in the XII Plan document and 4 new schemes will be taken up during XII Plan. The thrust areas/priorities for XII Plan are presented in the XII Plan documents submitted to the Planning Commission.

2.34 When asked to furnish the details of Challenge Programmes for Twelfth Five Year Plan and the strategy of DARE to meet these Challenges during the Plan period the Department informed through a written reply that the mission of ICAR is to facilitate the attainment of sustainability and growth of Indian Agriculture by interfacing agricultural research, higher education and frontline extension initiatives complemented with institutional, infrastructural and policy support in order to create efficient and effective science, harnessing tools.

2.35 In the context of the present scenario of climate change, our priority is with regard to abiotic stress management for improving soil health and minimization of soil and environment pollutants. The Council is proposing certain platforms in consortia mode such as Agri-Biodiversity management, Genomics, Seed (Planting material, propagules, semen), Hybrids, Conservation Agriculture, Water, Waste (Agro-waste, Municipal waste, Residues), Health Foods, Feed & Fodder, Fibre, Biofortification, Precision Farming, Farm mechanization, Energy, Nanotechnology, Agri-Incubators, Socio-economic dimensions etc. Moreover, investment to create infrastructure for phenotyping containment facility beside skill upgradation and human resource support is being emphasized for meeting these challenges.

2.36 It was further stated that in view of the focus on emerging issues the DARE has weeded out and reoriented some of the Schemes/Programmers during the Twelfth Five Year Plan. Queried about the details of Schemes/Programmers weeded out and reoriented, it was stated that the Schemes / Programmes proposed to be weeded out and reoriented during the Twelfth Five Year Plan are as under:

- Network on Economic Ornithology, Rodent Control, Agriculture Acarology and Network on White grubs and other Soil Arthropods proposed to be merged with AICRP on Biological Control of Insects and Weeds which will continue in XII Plan as AICRP on Integrated Management of Invertebrate Pests and Vertebrate Pests.
- AICRP on pearl millet, small millet, sorghum and underutilized crops to be merged into a single project/institute on Future Crops for Health Foods
- AICRP in Improvement of Feed resources and Nutrient Utilisation to be made as AICRP on Clinical Nutrition
- AICRP on pig to be made Mission Mode
- AICRP on Poultry to be made Mission Mode



- Network on Adapting Livestock to impending Climate Change through Shelter management will be closed
- Network project on R&D support for Process Upgradation of Indigenous Milk Products will be closed
- CSWCR&TI, Dehradun is proposed to be upgraded as Deemed University and will act as Centre of Excellence in the areas of Natural Resource and Watershed Management to provide technological support and training for the massive watershed management programme being in operation in the country.
- AICRP on *Salt Affected Soil* is proposed to be renamed as *Soil & Water Salinity* (including Coastal salinity).
- The AICRP on Ground Water Utilization is proposed to be merged with AICRP-Water Management and a separate AICRP on “Waste Water Utilization” is being proposed.
- Network Project on Climate Change (NPCC) is proposed to be merged with NICRA.
- ICAR Research Complex for Goa, is proposed to be upgraded as ICAR Research Complex for Western Region, Goa
- HSADL, Bhopal to be upgraded as a National Facility.

**(iii) Outlay**

2.37 The details of proposed outlay of the Department for all Major Heads during the Twelfth Plan and the annual Plan 2012-13 and the actual allocation for Annual Plan 2012-13 are as under:

(Rs. in crore)				
S. No.	Name of the Sector	XII Plan Proposed Outlay	Annual Plan 2012-13 Proposed	Annual Plan 2012-13 (BE)
1.	Crop Science	5770.70	670.70	460.00
2.	Horticulture	4900.00	360.30	240.00
3.	NRM	2178.61	342.40	277.00
4.	Agricultural Engineering	828.29	117.08	78.00
5.	Animal Science	6000.00	287.64	250.00
6.	Fisheries	1250.00	150.00	103.00
7.	Economics, Statistics & Management	370.42	45.21	5.00
8.	Agricultural Extension	10255.80	755.00	507.00
9.	Agricultural Education	12105.00	730.00	583.00
10.	CAU+DARE	1695.95	208.00	126.00
11.	ICAR Headquarters	515.83	142.15	200.00
12.	NAIP	422.60	130.87	131.00
13.	NFBSFARA	1000.00	85.26	80.00
14.	NICRA	1250.00	197.00	110.00
15.	<b>New Initiatives under process</b>			
i)	National Institute of Biotic	121.00	42.85	20.00

	Stress Management			
ii)	Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology	287.50	124.20	20.00
lii)	CAU, Bundelkhand	467.00	150.00	20.00
iv)	CAU, Barapani	250.00	100.00	
v)	CAU, Bihar	500.00	20.00	10.00
vi)	National Agricultural Education Project	2595.00	20.00	
vii)	National Agricultural Entrepreneurship Project	5000.00		
	<b>Total (ICAR+DARE)</b>	<b>57887.21*</b>	<b>4719.68**</b>	<b>3220.00***</b>

\* Including special grant of Rs.25.30 crores for SKUAST, Jammu.

\*\* Including special grant of Rs.18.88 crores for SKUAST, Jammu

\*\*\* Including special grant of Rs.98.75 crores for Kerala Veterinary & Animal Science University, Kerala

Detailed Scheme-wise proposed Outlay for Twelfth Plan and Proposed and Actual Outlays for the Annual Plan, 2012-13 are at **Annexure-VI**.

2.38 The Committee asked the Department to furnish the total Twelfth Plan Outlay of DARE along with percentage of share of Department of Agricultural Research and Education with regard to total Twelfth Plan Outlay of the country.

In response the Department informed the Committee that the total Twelfth Plan outlay of DARE is yet to be communicated by the Planning Commission.

2.39 When the representative of Planning Commission was queried about the delay in formulation of Twelfth Plan he stated during the further Oral Evidence on 11 April, 2012:

“Sir, as you have rightly mentioned and as the hon. Committee has noted, the formulation the plan process is fairly long drawn for example we initiated the formulation of 12<sup>th</sup> Plan and about a year before. Eleven working groups in agriculture and allied sectors were constituted like crop, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, natural resource management, agricultural resource and education which was another very important group, credit marketing extension, decentralised planning, etc.

Sir, by the end of January, we were able to obtain the final reports from the working groups. Once the working group report available then we take up that output to the Steering Committee. This time our Steering Committee has been headed by Professor Sen, Member Agriculture, who is also Member of the Financial Resources. The Steering Committee has interacted very intensively with the working group Chairs and Steering Committee had also seven or eight meetings at different locations. The draft report of this Steering Committee is ready. Similar exercise will happen in

other sectors also. When the Steering Committee reports and outcomes would be ready then we will go to the chapterisation process of the plan.

As was mentioned yesterday by me, this process of developing sectoral chapters and putting them into a plan document would take another couple of months more. As far as year 2012-13 is concerned, first year of the plan is concerned; we have made an enhanced allocation to agricultural sector and particularly to agricultural research and education. The outlay has been increased to the level of 15 per cent. If I add on some more announcements which we have made in the hon. Finance Minister's Budget Speech, then again the demand of Rs. 4,700 crore by the Department of Agriculture Research and Education, the allocation to the Department that is likely to be available for 2012-13 would be in order of Rs. 4,000 crore.

The figures would be like this. The base level allocation is Rs.3,220 crore, the allocation to the State Agricultural University programmes, as announced by the Finance Minister, is Rs.350 crore and Rs.200 crore for special initiatives.

As I mentioned also, for the benefit of the hon. Members, a very major programme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana is also providing support to the State Agricultural Universities, and annually it will account for about Rs.200 crore. So, Sir, if you add these three figures, the base allocation, the hon. Finance Minister's Budget speech and RKVY, the total allocation will come to approximately Rs.4,000 crore.

Sir, you expressed a concern on the planning process. We are in touch with the States. Our members are working on the chapters. Hopefully, Sir, by the end of June or early July we are going to have NDC where the Plan Document will be approved. Sir, again my submission here is that the Approach Paper will give a broad indication and direction to the Plan but not the money. Money will be reflected in the sectoral chapters which are under finalization.

So, Sir, my submission to the hon. Committee and to you, Sir, is that within a couple of months, we will be ready with the chapters on allocation. That will then give a very good reflection about what is coming to the share of DAC, DARE and the Department of Animal Husbandry as far as the Agriculture Ministry is concerned. But, Sir, your concern is noted. We will try to hasten the process. Again when it comes to all the sectors put together, all the Steering Committees put together, I must inform you that in the Planning Commission, the members in the sectors are working very hard and within a couple of months the Plan document will come to NDC".

2.40 It may be pertinent to mention here that while the formulation of the Eleventh Plan (2007-12) was beset with delays, its Mid-Term Appraisal also came out only in the middle of the Fourth Year of the Plan, thereby, leaving little scope for mid course corrections by the Ministries/Departments in various Schemes being implemented by them. During the course of the further Oral Evidence on 11 April,

2012 when this was pointed out to the representative of Planning Commission and he was asked to explain the reasons behind this inordinate in Mid Term Appraisal he stated:

‘Sir, about mid-term appraisal, I have noted your concern and I will carry back to my system’.

**(iv) Administrative Approvals/Clearances**

2.41 During the further Oral Evidence on 11 April, 2012 when Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR was asked about the implications of the delays in approval of Plan Outlay and subsequent delays in EFC/SFC approvals he stated:

“As submitted yesterday, in some plan periods, we had taken about one and a half years before the EFC and SFC were finalised, which definitely impacted the implementation of the programme. Before the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan started in December itself, we had submitted our proposals. Sir, this Plan, as is submitted in this document, we have communicated our proposals on 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 – seventy two plus four schemes plus four, all that is submitted. Now, we have also been impressing upon the Planning Commission that we need to have an early allocation so that we can start our programmes in right earnest.

As was mentioned by our colleague from the Planning Commission that by June, it seems, we will have a final indication and from our side, I would submit from the Department that we had detailed discussion and I yesterday from 26<sup>th</sup> April to 10<sup>th</sup> May, we have individual institute-wise discussion, division-wise discussion at the ICAR Headquarters where we will take a look at the draft proposal and from our side the EFC drafts would be ready even before the final allocation comes.

Our submission is that the moment the figures of EFC meetings is available, we would submit. But, as you are aware, this goes to the appraisal process and then it takes six weeks’ time. That is the minimum mandatory time that we have to give. That process is going on. But many a times the Planning Commission also has to fast-tracked certain programmes. There is a new Institute of Abiotic Stress Management. This time we have two more new institutes Biotic Stress Management and Biotechnology. Some of these have to be started immediately so we have to put them into a fast track process. We are ready. Anytime the figure comes within six months. I must six months because that involves that kind of process. Otherwise, on a continuous basis we can hold the EFC meetings. That means for 72 schemes, it will take continuous two and a half months to do it. Sir, within six months of the indication of the figure from the Planning Commission we would complete the EFC process this is the best that we can do in the current scenario”.

2.42 The Committee also noted that SFC/EFC approval for each of these Major Heads during Twelfth Plan are yet to take place, as the XII Plan outlay of the Department is yet to be communicated by the Planning Commission.

2.43 In view of the facts emerging out of the Oral Evidence on 10 and 11 April, 2012 the Committee were keen to know as to how would implementation of these Schemes commence in the ongoing year in the absence of EFC/SFC approvals? They also wanted to know as to whether the Department had been apprised by the Government as to when these approvals will be conveyed so that implementation of the Schemes and other requisite formalities are accordingly initiated by the Department.

2.44 In a written post-evidence submission the Department submitted the following in this regard:

(a) The XIIth Plan outlay (2012-17) for DARE/ICAR is yet to be communicated by the Planning Commission. Consequently, the formulation/clearance of XIIth Plan SFC/EFC is expected to take some more time. Thus, the Department has already issued the necessary instructions for utilization of funds during the Annual Plan 2012-13 in anticipation of approval of the XIIth Plan SFC/EFC observing the following conditions/criteria:-

- The 'Pay and Allowances', if any, which could not be paid during XIth Plan has to be given first priority during the year 2012-13. Recurring expenditure on pay & allowances, contingencies etc. under Plan be incurred as usual on existing basis following prescribed norms and procedures in this regard.
- No new item of construction should be undertaken (including those which were approved in XIth Plan and have not yet started) unless and until it is included and approved by the XIIth Plan SFC/EFC. However construction work which has already started should be got completed on Priority by earmarking adequate funds, in so far as possible within 2012-13 itself.

- In so far equipments approved in XIth Plan EFC are concerned and still necessary, be procured on Priority in the year 2012-13 itself.
- (b)** The formulation of XIIth Plan SFC/EFC proposals is a lengthy procedure and the Department has to follow the various formats/guidelines/instructions/procedures etc. as prescribed by Planning Commission / Ministry of Finance. The Expenditure Finance Committee proposals of all the schemes are being taken up for government approvals simultaneously. The same method was adopted at the beginning of XI Five Year Plan.

2.45 In the last Five Year Plan because of delays in planning and approvals the Ministries/Department could start implementation of the Schemes included in the Eleventh Plan in right earnest from Third Year onwards only. The Department were, therefore, specifically asked that in the eventuality of the planning and approvals getting delayed for the Twelfth Plan as well, what would be the cascading effects of such delays on the implementation of Schemes proposed in the Twelfth Plan. Illustratively, the Department were asked that if Plan is finalized some time during October/November this year, how much time would be required, thereafter, for other administrative approvals and formalities before the implementation of the Schemes begins.

2.46 The Department informed the Committee in a written reply that as stated earlier, the year 2012-13 will focus largely on finishing spill over works and continuing on-going schemes. Thus, new items will be affected by delays in the approval process. After approval of the XII Plan, EFC and other approvals can take between 6-18 months, on the average, about one year. Therefore, assuming plan approvals in October-November 2012, most approvals would be in place by Oct.-Nov. 2013. Consequently, new items that require up to about three to three-and-a-half years to complete will be finished within the XII Plan period while those requiring more time will spill over to the XIIIth Plan.

(I) **SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION TO PARLIAMENT**

(i) **Demand for Grants (2012-13)**

2.47 As stated previously in this Report, Demand No. 2 pertaining to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education was presented to the Lok Sabha on 27 March, 2012. During the course of the examination of the detailed Demands for Grants 2012-13, the Committee observed that the Budgetary Allocation of the Department under the Revenue Section has not been indicated at the very first page of the Demands for Grants. The break-up of the Revenue Section Allocation between Charged and Voted expenditure has also not been indicated.

(ii) **Crop Sciences**

2.48 In the Demand for Grants Scrutiny Document under the 'Sector-wise, Physical Performance during the Eleventh Plan', it has been *inter-alia* stated that 'during 2008-11, **493** varieties were released.

The break-up of varieties so released is as given below:

Sl. No.	Crop	No. of varieties
1.	Paddy	101
2.	Wheat	39
3.	Maize	33
4.	Coarse Grain	64
5.	Pulses	54
6.	Oilseeds	93
7.	Forage Crops	41
8.	Cotton	25
9.	Jute	7
10.	Mesta	1
11.	Sugar Cane	14
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>472</b>

It may be seen that the total adds to 472.

(iii) **Uniformity in Data**

2.49 Every year, the Department furnishes to the Committee several documents and materials for and in connection with the examination of their detailed Demands

for Grants. These include the Scrutiny Documents, Outcome Budget, Replies to the Lists of Points for Oral Evidence as also for the Post-Evidence Replies, etc.

2.50 The Committee during the course of examination have noted that the figures of expenditure for various Schemes of the Department in these documents and materials are indicated in different units. In some documents and materials the figures are quoted in lakh of rupees while in others they are quoted in crore of rupees. In the Detailed Demands for Grants, the figures as per approved format are quoted in thousand rupees.

**(iv) Cut-off Date for Data**

2.51 The cut-off dates upto which figures and data pertaining to the physical and financial performance of the various Schemes of DARE also vary from document to document. In fact there are variations in these cut-off dates within a particular document as well. At some places the performance indices are furnished upto 31 December, of the last years, which is the end of the third quarter of the Financial Year. At other, the performance indices as at January-end or February-end are furnished to the Committee.

**(v) Indo-US Knowledge Initiative / Agricultural Cooperation**

2.52 The Indo-US Knowledge Initiative Scheme was examined by the Committee on Agriculture (2009-10) while examining the Demand for Grants (2009-10) of Department of Agricultural Research and Education. It was found that under the Scheme, for which a sum of Rs. 50 crore was allocated only 22% funds i.e. Rs. 11.10 crore had been utilized in the first two years of the Eleventh Plan. The BE for the Third Year viz. 2009-10 was also merely Rs. 50 crore. The reason behind the gross under-utilisation of funds under the Scheme was due to the fact that the guidelines of the Scheme envisaged matching grants from the US side, which were not forthcoming. Thus, due to non-availability of funds from the US side, DARE also invested accordingly. Keeping the ground situation in view, the Committee in their Fourth Report, had with a view to ensure that the Initiative is not frittered away, recommended the Department to take up the matter with the US



side through appropriate channels to ensure that contribution of matching grants from them.

2.53 While examining the Demand for Grants of the Department for the year 2010-11 the Committee, however, found that a sum of Rs. 80 lakh had again been allocated for the year 2010-11. When queried in the matter the Department stated that *'as recommended by the Committee in the Fourth Report, non-availability of funds from the US side was taken up with USA, but due to the lack of an adequate response for funding, the Indo-Knowledge Initiative in Agriculture is going to end on 31 March, 2010. It may be mentioned that the outcome of the expenditure incurred by the Indian side were not and will not be shared with the USA. Rs. 80 lakh will be used for other activities in international cooperation during the course of 2010-11 of ICAR'.*

2.54 Taking cognizance of the action taken by the Department in pursuance of their previous recommendation, the Committee had in their Eight Report recommended further that since, before its closure, the Scheme had been in existence for three years of the Eleventh Plan a review of its implementation and achievements be conducted at the earliest and they be apprised of the outcome of such a review within three months of presentation of their Report to the Parliament.

2.55 The Government reiterated the position about the closure of Scheme on 31 March, 2010 in their Action Taken Notes on the Fourth Report of the Committee. The stated position of the Government was duly reflected in the Fifteenth Report of the Committee.

2.56 In their Action Taken Notes on the Eighth Report of the Committee the Government in pursuance of the Recommendation of the Committee stated that 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. It was further stated that as the Scheme has ended on 31 March, 2010, the allocation shown against it will be utilized for other activities under International Cooperation. The above action of the

Government was reflected in the Nineteenth Report of the Committee presented to Lok Sabha on 24 March, 2011 and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha a day later.

2.57 From the Demands Scrutiny Document it is noted that out of Rs. 80 lakh allocated in this Head no expenditure has been incurred during the year 2010-11. It is further noted that a sum of Rs. 200 lakh was also allocated for the Scheme during the next Fiscal i.e. 2011-12. No expenditure was incurred under this Scheme during 2011-12, as well. It is further observed that the Scheme also figures in the Scheme-wise XII Plan Outlay Proposed by the Department and Annual Plan 2012-13 (Page 228, Sl. No. 73) without any allocation being shown against it.

2.58 Similarly, the Scheme has also been reflected in the Outcome Budget (Page 199, sl. No. 73) 2012-13 of DARE under Scheme-wise BE 2012-13 (Plan).

**(vi) National Herbarium of Cultivated Plants**

2.59 It has been stated in the Outcome Budget (Page 86) that during 2010-11 a total of 316 herbarium specimens were added to the National Herbarium of Cultivated Plants taking the total holdings to **20300** plants.

A few pages later (Page 126) about the achievements during 2011-12 it has been stated that in the National Herbarium of Cultivated Plants 321 specimens were added, making specimen's holdings total to **20560**.

2.60 When asked to reconcile this difference in numbers added and total specimen on a year to year basis, the Department submitted that in Chapter IV, of the Outcome Budget 2012-13 on page 86, the figures/data/information given is upto March, 2011 while the information given on page 126 the data is upto September, 2011.

## **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SYSTEM**

2.61 The National Agricultural Research System has played a crucial role in the agriculture sector of the Country. Right from the late sixties, when it ensured a paradigm shift from import of foodgrains to self sufficiency through domestic foodgrains production upto the extant situation of a food secure nation, the contributions of NARS have been multi-faceted and highly commendable. While food security will continue to remain a constant challenge for NARS, the world, India not excluded, now faces more complex and graver challenges of global warming and climate change. The Committee are confident that NARS will show the way to the World comity of scientists to successfully tackle the twin challenges of global warming and climate change by developing appropriate mitigating strategies and technologies.

## **OVERVIEW OF DEMANDS**

2.62 The Committee note that as per Demand No. 2 pertaining to Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) a sum of Rs. 5392.00 crore has been allocated to the Department as BE 2012-13. Out of this a sum of Rs. 3220.00 crore has been allocated on the Plan side marking an increase of 12.65% over the RE figure of Rs. 2858.54 core of the Fiscal gone by. This Plan allocation of Rs. 3220.00 crore is against the Department's proposal of Rs. 4719.68 crore. The Annual Plan Outlay of the Department is also to be seen in the context of the Total Outlay of Rs. 57887.00 crore plus proposed by the Department for the Twelfth Five Year Plan. The entire Plan Outlay is in the Revenue Section. On the Non-Plan side

the Department have been allocated a sum of Rs. 2172.00 crore as BE 2012-13. This is merely 0.67% higher than the RE figure of last year of Rs. 2157.60 crore. The Committee note with a great sense of disappointment that the story of the yesteryears has been repeated by the Planners and the Government in the matter of allocation of funds to DARE during this year also. The compelling fact that DARE has to now venture far beyond the task of food security into the uncharted realms of global warming, climate change, etc., which will require capital intensive solutions, seems to have been given a go by by the Planners and the Government. Both of them have also singularly failed to understand that these being formative years of developing mitigating strategies and technologies for the emerging challenges, funds in requisite measures need to be infused into NARS on a top priority basis. Any dithering or delay would not only delay evolution of these strategies and development of technologies but would also be against long term national interest. The Committee, therefore, recommend that allocations to the Department in the ongoing Fiscal be enhanced substantially at the RE stage by when, hopefully EFC/SFC approvals alongwith the formalization of Twelfth Plan Outlay will be in bag. The Committee would also like to advise the Department that they should also rework their requirements for the present year, keeping in view the Schemes for which EFC/SFC approvals will be forthcoming in the next few months. The Committee strongly feel that the proposed Outlay of Rs. 4719.68 crore is not in consonance with the overall Outlay proposed by the Department for the Twelfth Plan viz. Rs. 57887.00 crore as it is not even 10% of the Outlay proposed by DARE for the Twelfth Five Year Plan. They, therefore, expect

the Department to revisit their financial requirements for the ongoing Fiscal based on doable Schemes and submit justifiable fund requirements at the RE stage so as to ensure that the first year of Twelfth Plan is positively different from the first year of the Eleventh Plan in so far as achievements are concerned.

### **FUNDS UTILISATION DURING ELEVENTH PLAN**

2.63 The Committee observe that a sum of Rs. 12023.00 crore was allocated to DARE for the Eleventh Plan against an amount of Rs. 17126.73 crore proposed by the Department. The actual allocation at RE stage has, however, been Rs. 10325.75 crore only. Out of the allocated amount, the Department have been able to spend a sum of Rs. 8689.67 crore only upto January, 2012. That leaves just last two months of the Eleventh Five Year Plan to be accounted. Coming to the last year of the Eleventh Plan viz. 2011-12, the Committee find a sum of Rs. 2850.00 crore was allocated to the Department. They have been able to spend an amount of Rs. 1654.58 crore only upto January, 2012. On The face of it, the financial performance of DARE during the Eleventh Plan as a whole and in the Annual Plan 2011-12 leaves a lot to be desired. However, as the subsequent narrative will prove, there are a few extraneous reasons, apart from the implementation performance of the Department that have contributed to the under-utilization of funds during the Eleventh Plan and Annual Plan 2011-12. In fact, the initial delay in formulation of the Eleventh Plan and consequent delays in EFC/SFC approvals all had a cascading effect on the funds release schedule during the entire Eleventh Plan. All these were a major contributory factor towards

undermining the implementation of various Schemes of the Ministries/Departments including DARE. However, the Department can also not escape blame to the extent that they should have made the best use of whatever funds were being made available to them during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The Committee hope that during the Twelfth Plan there will not be recurrence of what happened in the Eleventh Plan, both in the planning and approvals and the implementation proper of the Schemes.

#### **ELEVENTH PLAN ANALYSIS**

2.64 The Committee note with satisfaction that the Department have been able to achieve, by and large, the targets envisaged for the Eleventh Plan. However, they are concerned to observe that in spite of the Department prioritizing procurements and programmes, few infrastructure projects could not be completed and a few equipment could not be purchased. Apart from this, development of new cultivars and production technologies also got slowed down, in so far as time lines are concerned. Though the Department could not provide the Committee the exact magnitude of cost and time overruns due to these slippages, it is a foregone conclusion that apart from loosing in time there would definitely be cost-escalation in all such cases in future. The Committee, therefore, desire that, as assured by DARE, all these pending Schemes and works be carried out with utmost promptitude during the first year of the Twelfth Plan itself.

## **RESULT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT (RFD)**

**2.65** The Committee observe that with a view to monitor the performance of various Departments the Cabinet Secretariat has evolved a mechanism viz. Result Framework Document (RFD). The Committee are happy to note that based on their performance against the commitments made by them in RFD for the year 2009-10 DARE have secured a composite score of 95%. What is even more commendable is the fact that this overall score of DARE was higher than the average composite score of 89.4% for all the 59 Departments that were evaluated under Phase I of RFD policy. While appreciating the achievement of the Department, the Committee would also like to point out to them that while communicating the outcome of RFD to them the Cabinet Secretariat has also sought action on two issues from the Department. One, the process of strategy formulation of the Department is truly participative and thoughtful and two Sevottam Compliant Citizen's Charter and Grievance Redressal Mechanism. The Committee expect the Department to continue their good work on this front as well so that these two stipulations of Cabinet Secretariat are met at the earliest and in right earnest. They would also like to be apprised of the achievements of the Department and also their evaluation by the Cabinet Secretariat on these two issues.

## **NEW SCHEMES IN ELEVENTH PLAN**

**2.66** During the Eleventh Five Year Plan the National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management, Baramati was included as a new Scheme. The Committee have in their previous Reports recommended, time and again, for expeditious setting-up of the Institute in view of the pressing imperative of

abiotic stress management in agriculture and allied sectors. However, the full operationalisation of the Institute appears to be a distant possibility. The Committee note that for the year 2012-13 a sum of Rs. 36.35 crore has been earmarked for the Scheme. The Committee are of the firm opinion that the Institute can play a pivotal role in cutting edge research and development of technologies for mitigation of abiotic stress, hence it should be established and operationalised on a war footing basis. For this purpose, the Department should immediately draw a road-map with well laid down time lines and also ensure that they are strictly followed. The said road-map should also be submitted to the Committee for their information.

2.67 Apart from the National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management, Baramati, the Department also planned two more new Schemes National Institute of Agriculture Biotechnology, Ranchi and National Institute of Biotic Stress Management, Raipur during 2011-12. A sum of Rs. 30.00 crore and Rs. 20.00 crore respectively was earmarked for these two Institutes during 2011-12. The Committee find that the establishment of the two Institutes has been approved on 2 March, 2012. The Department intends to submit the note for approval to the Cabinet/CCEA in the first quarter of the current Fiscal. Agriculture biotechnology and biotic stress management are frontier science areas in which a lot of ground needs to be covered by the Country. It is, therefore, but essential that these two Institutes are established post haste. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department not only stick to their promised deadline but also complete the remaining formalities on top priority basis so that these Institutes become a reality within minimum possible time.



## **UNSPENT BALANCES**

2.68 The Committee are concerned to note that the Department have surrendered unspent balances to the Government of India in each of the year of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. These unspent balances amount to a hefty Rs. 548.00 odd crore at the end of the Eleventh Plan. While sums of Rs. 190.21 crore in the First Year of the Plan and Rs. 101.20 crore in the second year are understandable, as the Department did not have timely clearances/approvals for various Schemes, the unspent balance of Rs. 167.50 crore in the Final Year of the Plan is inexplicable and this appears to be due to inept handling of finances by the Department. The Committee further note that with a view to streamlining their accounting system the Department have strengthened their internal control. Accordingly, now their internal audit would be carried out by professional bodies. For this purpose, the job of internal audit which was, hitherto, being done by the inspection team of ICAR Headquarters, is being outsourced through professional bodies such as Institute of Public Auditors of India and C&AG empanelled chartered accountant firms. Apart from this measure, ICAR has adopted Accrual System of Accounting which captures all receipts and payments on real-time basis. It is also putting in place a Centralised Financial Management Enterprise Resource Package (ERP) to integrate the financial processes of ICAR Headquarters and its constituent units. Once in place, this mechanism would ensure consistent monitoring of financial activities viz. budgetary control, actual achievements, shortfalls with reference to targets, accounting, etc. and provide accurate and real-time data for the purpose of decision making by the management as well as the end users. The Committee feel

that this laudable initiative of ICAR to improve its accounting system has not come a day soon. Delays in accounting, lack of timely feedback and inputs have been the bane of the accounting system in vogue in the Government and its agencies for decades together now. If successfully implemented the initiative of ICAR has all the potential to change the accounting system in vogue into an accurate and real-time system which not only facilitates better control by management but will also usher the much needed transparency for the benefit of the end users. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend ICAR to put in place the Accrual Accounting System alongwith ERP package without any further loss of time so that its implementation commences from this very Financial year. Keeping in view the immense possibilities offered by the system adopted by ICAR, the Committee would like the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to evaluate this system thoroughly with a view to implement it in other Ministries/Departments/Agencies as well. For this purpose, the Committee would like DARE to forward a detailed note on the accounting system and ERP package being implemented by ICAR to both these Ministries alongwith the Recommendation of the Committee. The results of the evaluation may also be furnished by DARE to the Committee for their information.

## **TWELFTH PLAN**

### **(i) Formulation of Plan**

2.69 As is well know now, the delay in finalization of the Eleventh Plan, the consequent delays in approvals and clearances had a cascading effect on

the implementation of the Schemes of various Ministries and Departments. Resultantly, the developmental process too suffered. To avoid a recurrence of the same during the Twelfth Plan, the Committee have in several of their previous Reports recommended that the Twelfth Plan Document be finalized by 31 December, 2011, so that approved Schemes and Outlays are conveyed to the Ministries/Departments well before the commencement of the Plan on 1 April, 2012. The Chairman of the Committee had also addressed the concern of the Committee in regard to the delay in finalization of the Twelfth Plan in his letter dated 3 February, 2012 to the Prime Minister and sought his intervention in the matter in his capacity as Chairman of the Planning Commission. The Committee find that the Department submitted draft Twelfth Plan Document of DARE/ICAR to Planning Commission on 27 December, 2011. This was done after going through a detailed appraisal process by several appraisal agencies. The Planning Commission had also constituted eleven working groups for agriculture more than two years back for the purpose. While DARE proposed an allocation of Rs. 57887.00 odd crore for Twelfth Plan, the working group of Planning Commission has also recommended about Rs. 55000.00 crore for DARE/ICAR. The Reports of all the eleven working groups have been submitted to Planning Commission by December, 2011. The Committee have been given to understand that the recommendations of these working groups are being used by the concerned Steering Committee in their exercise. Once the respective Steering Committees are through with their exercises the chapterisation of Plan Document would commence. The allocations to various Ministries/Departments will be known once the chapters on various sectors are

completed. The Committee during their current examination tried time and again to ascertain from the Planning Commission the time schedule in regard to the approval of the Plan Document by NDC and its subsequent presentation to the Parliament. During the course of the Oral Evidence on 11 April, 2012 the representative of Planning Commission hinted at the possibility of the Twelfth Plan Document being placed before NDC during June or July this year. As everything hinges on the timely conveying of outlays to the Ministries and Departments, the Committee desired to be apprised about the specific datelines for various stages of consideration and approvals of the Twelfth Plan Document till its presentation to the Parliament. The Committee were in response informed that *'as regards schedule of planning process and approval by NDC, guidance has been sought from the competent authority and it would be intimated in due course'*. Incidentally, when in view of the uncertainty surrounding the finalization of Twelfth Plan Document, the Committee sought the views of the Government and the Planning Commission on the desirability of having 2012-13 as a stand alone Annual Plan and the Twelfth Plan commencing from 2013-14 onwards on the lines of similar Plan holidays in the past, this very reply, though totally out of context, was repeated. Similarly, when the Committee desired to know about the reasons due to which the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Eleventh Plan was brought out after inordinate delay in the middle of Fourth Year of the Plan, thereby, rendering it infructuous, in so far as, the mid course correction is concerned, the representative of Planning Commission stated during the Oral Evidence on 11 April, 2012 *"Sir, about Mid-Term Appraisal, I have noted your concern and I will carry back to my system"*. Due to such vague, incoherent,

out of context and evasive inputs the Committee are not in a position to Report to the Parliament on these vital issues, which is a very serious matter. The Committee, therefore, are of the opinion that not only the planning process but the planning machinery also requires to be reviewed by an appropriate authority to assess its capability to plan efficiently, effectively and professionally and in tandem with the ever evolving dynamics and typical requirements of a developing economy where time is of essence. The Committee feel that unless this task is attended to with utmost priority the aim of the Government of 'faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth' may just remain restricted to the cover page of the Approach Paper of the Twelfth Plan.

(ii) Schemes in the Twelfth Plan

2.70 The Committee note that DARE/ICAR have proposed 80 Schemes for implementation during the Twelfth Plan. While 76 of them are of continuing nature, four are new proposals. In addition, the National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture which was announced by the Finance Minister in the Budget of 2010-11 for a period of two years will also be carried on. The Committee further note that Abiotic Stress Management, Agri-Biodiversity management, Genomics, Seed (Planting material, propagules, semen), Hybrids, Conservation Agriculture, Water, Waste (Agro-waste, Municipal waste, Residues), Health Foods, Feed & Fodder, Fibre, Bio-fortification, Precision Farming, Farm mechanization, Energy, Nanotechnology, Agri-Incubators, Socio-economic dimensions etc. are the major areas to be attended to by the DARE/ICAR during the Twelfth Plan. With their focus on

these emerging issues, DARE/ICAR have weeded out and reoriented some of the Schemes/Programmes of the Eleventh Plan. The Committee are, however, apprehensive that with the present uncertainty about the timely availability, as also the quantum of financial resources, the Department's good intentions of implementing such a huge basket of Schemes will face a lot many glitches and problems. The Committee, therefore, feel that it would be in the interest of the Department to work out *inter-se* prioritization of their Schemes, so that the pace of implementation continues unhindered.

(iii) Administrative Approvals/Clearances

2.71 The delay in communication of the Twelfth Plan Outlay will have a chain-reaction and also delay the subsequent processes like EFC/SFC approvals of various Schemes. Going by the submission of the Planning Commission that NDC may consider the Twelfth Plan Document in June/July this year, the Committee had sought the views of the Department regarding the likely dates of EFC/SFC approvals, thereafter, in a likely scenario of Plan Outlay approval reaching them in October/November, this year. The Committee are perturbed to know that since EFC and other approvals can take between 6 to 18 months, on the average about one year, it would be October/November, 2013 by when most of the approvals would be obtained. Consequently, items that require upto three to three and a half years will be finished within the Twelfth Plan period while those requiring more time will spill over the Thirteenth Plan. The scenario, as such, is reminiscent of what happened during the Eleventh Plan. The Committee are of the considered opinion that like the planning mechanism and the planning process, the

system of administrative approvals/clearances also needs to be urgently revisited so as to make it quick and compact. The present system of approvals taking anything between 6 to 18 months is not at all in consonance of the dynamics of the developmental process of today. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take initiative on this crucial issue at the highest level in the Government with a view to simplify and shorten this prolonged procedure. The Committee will appreciate a quick feedback in the matter.

### **SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION TO PARLIAMENT**

2.72 During the course of the examination of Demands for Grants 2012-13 of Department of Agricultural Research and Education the Committee noticed some shortcomings in the facts and figures submitted to them. Besides, they also felt that the format of information furnished needs to be changed to make it more user friendly and compatible with the requirements of examination.

### **DEMANDS FOR GRANTS - 2012-13**

2.73 The Committee noted that Demand No. 2 pertaining to the Department did not reflect the total Budgetary Allocation of the Department under the Revenue Section on the very first page of the Demands. Moreover, the break-up of Revenue Section Allocation between Charged and Voted expenditure was also not reflected there. It may be pertinent to mention here that the entire allocation of Rs. 5392.00 crore of the Department is in the Revenue Section. Be it printer's devil or oversight, the Committee find this lapse an

indefensible one and hope that the Government would be careful, while presenting documents to the Parliament, in future.

### **CROP SCIENCE**

2.74 This is another instance when information has been furnished to the Committee in a perfunctory manner. Instead of furnishing information about Physical Performance under Crop Science Division for the entire Eleventh Plan, figures for the period 2008-10 only were furnished to the Committee. Furthermore, while the Department indicated that 493 varieties were released during this period, the numbers when added came to 472 only. The Committee expect that such instances would not recur in future.

### **UNIFORMITY IN DATA**

2.75 The Committee note that the Department have been furnishing figures relating to allocation and expenditure for various Schemes of the Department in different documents and materials in different units. In some documents and materials these figures are quoted in lakh rupees while in others they are quoted in crore rupees. Such variations in units makes evaluation and comparisons of related indices impractical. Given the highly time bound nature of examination of the Demands for Grants and their Reporting to the Parliament and the practical ease in evaluation and comparison the Committee desire that, henceforth, the unit of figures in all documents and materials to be furnished to them by the Department, save the detailed



Demands for Grants of the Department, should invariably be crore rupees. The figures in the detailed Demands for Grants may continue to be, as per approved format, in thousand rupees.

#### **CUT OFF DATE FOR DATA**

2.76 Like the variations in the units, in which the figures are quoted by the Department in various documents furnished to the Committee, the cut-off dates of different data also vary. In most of the cases data as on 31 December, 2011 has been furnished while in others, data as on 29 February, 2012 has been furnished to the Committee. Due to this cut-off mismatch, evaluation and comparison become a casualty. In a different context, the Committee have been given to understand by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, that the Ministry of Finance guidelines for preparation of Outcome Budget 2012-13 required the information on physical performance of the Schemes be furnished upto 31 December, 2011 in the context of Fiscal 2011-12. The Committee are of the firm opinion that this cut-off is not in consonance with the existing data generation, feedback, monitoring and reporting systems. They, therefore, desire that the data cut-off date for information being submitted to the Committee for and in connection with the examination of Demands for Grants should be February end. This will not only facilitate maximal evaluation of the physical and financial performance of the Department in the year gone by but will also be a step towards real time reporting of the these matters to the Parliament, which the Committee are, very confident, is achievable in near future with the help

of the present IT enabled data generation, monitoring, reporting and feedback systems. Furthermore, submission of data as on end-February for the next Demands for Grants would also be a test of the efficacy of the Accrual Accounting System and ERP package that has been put in place by ICAR to streamline and strengthen its financial management.

#### **INDO-US KNOWLEDGE INITIATIVE/AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION**

2.77 The Indo-US Knowledge Initiative was a Scheme under the Eleventh Plan. There had been gross under utilization under the Scheme during first two years of the Plan (just 22% of the allocation). On being apprised that the poor utilization of funds was due to matching grants not forthcoming from the US side, the Committee had in their Fourth Report recommended that the matter be taken up with the US side to ensure contribution of matching grants. During the course of examination of the Demands for Grants 2010-11 of the Department, the Committee again noticed a sum of Rs. 80 lakh allocated for the Initiative. On being queried in the matter, the Department informed the Committee that due to lack of adequate response from the US side the Scheme had ended on 31 March, 2010. They had also informed the Committee that the outcome of the expenditure incurred by the Indian side were not and will not be shared with USA and the sum of Rs. 80 lakh will be utilized for other activities in international cooperation during 2010-11. The stated position of the Department has been duly reflected in the Eighth and Nineteenth Reports of the Committee. However, while scrutinizing the Demands for Grants 2012-13 and related documents the Committee find that no monies were spent from this amount of Rs. 80 lakh. They also note that

even during 2011-12 a sum of Rs. 200 lakh has been allocated for the Scheme. No expenditure has, however, been incurred from this amount. The Committee further note that the Scheme also figures in the Scheme-wise Plan Outlay proposed by the Department and Annual Plan 2012-13. It has also been included in the Outcome Budget of 2012-13 of the Department. No allocations have been shown against the Scheme at all these places. The Committee really find it inexplicable as to why in spite of the Committee repeatedly highlighting the deficiencies of the Scheme and finally the Scheme having been terminated on 31 March, 2010, funds have continued to be allocated even in successive fiscals, year after year. The alibi of the Department that the funds allocated in the year immediately after the termination of the Scheme on 31 March, 2010 will be used to fund other international cooperation activities also does not cut ice as no funds were spent on any activity during 2010-11 from this Head. In any case, the Department have a separate Head for International Cooperation and related activities. The allocation of Rs. 200 lakh for the Scheme during 2011-12 as also the Scheme being included in 2012-13 defies all logic. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department may submit a detailed explanatory note on this entire sequence of events including reasons therefor and their ramifications to the Committee on top priority basis.

#### **NATIONAL HERBARIUM OF CULTIVATED PLANTS**

2.78 The Committee have noted discrepancies in the figures submitted to them in regard to the achievements of the National Herbarium of Cultivated Plants. At one place in the Outcome Budget 2012-13, it has been stated that

316 herbarium specimen were added to the Herbarium during 2010-11, taking the total holdings to 20300 plants. At another place while enumerating the achievements during Fiscal 2011-12, the total holdings have been shown as 20560. Asked to reconcile the difference in total specimens at the end of 2010-11 and the total during 2011-12 the Department have stated that while the former figure pertains to the total specimen as on 31 March, 2011 the latter pertains to total as on September, 2011. The Committee are, however, not satisfied with the reasons adduced by the Department. The clarification of the Department notwithstanding, the figures of the total specimens at the end of 2010-11 (20300) do not match with the total specimens during 2011-12 (20560) if the acquisitions during the latter period (321) are added to it. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to revisit the issue and furnish a factual note in the matter after due reconciliation.

## **CHAPTER – III**

### **SECTORAL EVALUATION**

#### **(A) CROP SCIENCE**

During the course of examination of the Demands for Grants of DARE it was noted that in Annual Plan 2012-13 under the major head Crop Science against the proposed outlay of Rs. 670.70 crore, Rs. 460.00 crore has been approved. Thus there has been a 31.41% reduction in the amount proposed by the Department.

It was further noted that the proposals in respect of National Bureau of Plant Genetics Resources, Directorate of Seed Research and Central Institute of Cotton Research have also been reduced by 79.59%, 71.33% and 47.58% respectively. Simultaneously, proposals under IARI, New Delhi. Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI) have received enhanced allocations. The Department were, therefore, asked to explain in detail how the various Schemes proposed by these Bureau/Directorate/Institutes will be affected due to huge reduction of funds during the Fiscal. They were also asked about the reasons for upwards revision of Annual Plan proposal in respect of IARI, New Delhi and IGFRI at BE stage.

3.2 In response, it was stated that the total requirement of ICAR during the fiscal period 2012-13 was Rs 4719.68 crore but the BE is Rs 3220.00 crore only. Thus according to the budget received by ICAR, the budget allocation to Crop Science Division was also reduced from Rs 670.70 crore to Rs 460.00 crore. Therefore, the budget to different Schemes in the Division was allocated based on priority and needs of the Schemes. The ongoing research in respective Schemes including NBPGR, DSR and CICR will continue without any difficulty because the budget allocated to Crop Science Division in 2012-13 is 17% more than 2011-12 allocation and specifically in case of NBPGR, DSR and CICR, allocation in 2012-13 is more than 2011-12 to the extent of 70%, 105% and 80% respectively. Moreover, the budget requirement will be heightened at the later years of XII Plan Period after approval of the SFC/EFC proposals in respect of concerned Schemes; and during 2012-13 spillover activities of XI Plan will be carried out on existing basis. Further,

funding to these Institutes will be harmonized at Revised Estimate (RE) level looking into the funds utilization status for each Scheme. However, the allocation for 2011-12 and 2012-13 for these Institutions are given as below:

<b>(in crore)</b>			
<b>Institute</b>	<b>RE 2011-12</b>	<b>BE 2012-13</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
NBPGR	9.00	15.32	70.27
DSR, Mau	3.00	6.17	105.60
CICR	0.82	1.48	80.00
IARI	38.38	68.38	78.16
IGFRI	3.66	6.25	70.72

3.3 As regards the hike in allocations of IARI and IGFRI it was stated that these are two very important Institutes of Crop Science Division. The substantially enhanced allocation has been made due to priority and needs of the Schemes, considering the importance of enhancing the yield of fodder crop, budget has been allocated to IGFRI by 70% more than 2011-12 during the Annual Plan; and due to urgent need to emphasize on upstream research, IARI have been allocated 78% more than 2011-12 in the Annual Plan. Further, funding to these Institutes will be harmonized at Revised Estimate (RE) level looking into the funds utilization status for each Scheme.

## **(B) HORTICULTURE**

3.4 Under the Major Head Horticulture against the proposal of Rs. 360.30 crore, an outlay of Rs. 240.00 crore has approved at BE stage which is 33.38% less. BE Allocations of some of the Horticulture Institutes have, therefore, been reduced by more than 33.38% and above. About the reasons for such drastic reduction in the BE for 2012-13 and the effect that this curtailment would have on the programmes of each of these institutes it was submitted by DARE that there is no reduction in the allocation to Horticulture Division in 2012-13 as compared to RE of 2011-12 which is Rs. 191.20 crores, the actual figure of 2012-13 being Rs. 240 crores. This increase is to the tune of 25.52% over last year's RE. However the reduction in BE 2012-13 is in relation to the proposed BE by the Horticulture Division which has been based on availability of funds with the Council.

It was further submitted that there shall be no effect on ongoing programmes due to less allocation in BE 2012-13 compared to the proposed allocation since new initiatives, challenge and network programmes and platforms shall be taken up after the approval of SFC/EFC.

**(C) AGRICULTURE EXTENSION**

**(i) Allocation**

3.5 Under the Major Agriculture Extension against the proposal of Rs. 755 crore, an outlay of Rs. 507 crore has approved at BE stage which is 32.84% less. BE Allocation of Krish Vigyan Kendras had been reduced by 33.07%. When asked about the details of Schemes for which the funds to the tune of Rs. 734.61 crore, had been proposed by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education in the Annual Plan 2012-13, the Department stated that an amount of Rs. 734.61 crore was proposed for KVK Scheme for Annual Plan 2012-13. The Break-up of allocation proposed for 2012-13 and amount provided as BE- 2012-13 under Plan Budget in respect of schemes of Agricultural Extension Division is as under:-

<b>(Rs.in crore)</b>			
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of Scheme</b>	<b>Allocation proposed for 2012-13</b>	<b>BE 2012-13</b>
1.	KVK Scheme	734.61	491.67
2.	DRWA Scheme	3.00	1.50
3.	AICRP on Home Science Scheme	15.06	11.50
4.	DKMA Scheme	2.33	2.33
	<b>Total</b>	<b>755.00</b>	<b>507.00</b>

3.6 To a query about the extent to which objectives of the Schemes of Agriculture Extension will be affected, it was replied that some impact on infrastructure development during the current financial year would be felt, that would be taken up during the next Plan period.

**(ii) Transfer of Technology**

3.7 The Transfer of technology has been the weakest link between the researcher and the farmers in the Country. The Committee, therefore, desired to know about the steps proposed to be taken by the DARE to bridge the link between the researcher and the farmers during the Twelfth Five Year Plan in general and 2012-13 in particular. They were informed that Agriculture being a State subject, large scale technology dissemination is the responsibility of the State Governments, which operate the main extension mechanism for transfer of technology to farmers. In order to reduce the time lag in Technology Application, the network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras established by ICAR assesses, refine and demonstrate Agricultural Technologies in farmers' field. Moreover, the KVK as an intermediary institution between research and extension system provide technological back stopping to extension personnel of line departments to update their knowledge and skills through training programmes and also involving them in extension programmes of KVKs, which are organized to create awareness about latest and improved technological technologies. To bridge the link between researchers and farmers, the ICAR has provided mobile diagnostics cum exhibition units to selected Agricultural Universities for providing on the spot diagnostic and advisory services by researchers to the farmers. These units also facilitate KVKs in their outreach activities to reach more number of farmers. In addition, 310 KVKs have started providing agro-advisory service through mobile phones to farmers of different agro climatic regions in the Country. Moreover, the ICAR Institutes, Agricultural Universities and KVKs will continue to focus more direct interface with farmers through various extension programmes including farmers-scientists interface meetings, visits to farmer's field and guided visits of farmers to research farms and demonstration field, besides organizations of technology week, field days and farmers fairs and exhibitions.

3.8 In the Approach Paper to the Twelfth Five Year Plan titled 'Faster, sustainable and More Inclusive Growth' released in October, 2011, it has been stated that 'the ATMA concept needs to be strengthened, although possibly not as a stand-alone Scheme. On the development side, extension involves planning and its implementation so that ATMAs are best suited to operate as the domain agency



reporting to District Planning Committees. On the technical side, there is need to better integrate into ATMA the problem-solving capacities of KVKs and the feed-back loop these offer to SAUs and NARS.'

3.9 When asked to elaborate on the changes in ATMA set-up and concept are felt desirable by the Planning Commission and how do they intend the Government to go about it, as ATMA has not been able to acquit itself upto general expectations, it was stated that each District has KVK and ATMA. The ATMA may take up 'field extension' activities covering agriculture and allied sectors, whereas KVKs may provide technical backstopping through frontline extension. Such arrangement may bring in required convergence between two systems.

ATMA may deliver better by way of (i) proper selection of farmer friend at the village level, (ii) strengthening SMS support at the block level, (iii) promoting other service providers, (iv) strengthening training and information and (v) farmer participatory programmes in collaboration with Gram Panchayats.

3.10 It has also been mentioned in the Approach Paper to the Twelfth Plan that 'increased allocations to research and extension must go hand-in-hand with institutional changes in public sector R&D and in the role mandated for KVKs. The Planning Commission was, therefore, asked to kindly elaborate on the institutional changes in public sector R&D that they think are desirable. In response, it was stated that Inter-Departmental Platforms in high priority research areas would be established for greater interaction among different R & D organizations for pooling their expertise to make the research agenda demand driven. These platforms will involve institutions beyond NARS, like CSIR, DBT, DST and others geared to targeted outcome.

3.11 About the changes in the role of KVKs required in the view of Planning Commission, it was stated that intensive efforts would be made to provide institutional arrangements for linking ICAR research outcome with Development departments with focus on problem solving research. KVK would be provided support in critical subject matters and enhanced contingency grants. KVK would

need to come up as local 'Knowledge Resource Centres' with down the line advisory linkages with (i) block level formations like 'Krishi Bhawan' in Kerala, 'Rytu Sampark Kendras' in Karnataka, (ii) Farmer Organizations and (iii) agri-entrepreneurs.

3.12 The Approach Paper further states that 'the guidelines of RKVY need a re-look so that ATMAs and KVKs can together bring better convergence at the district level and below between planning, research and extension.' When told to elaborate on the changes that the Planning Commission thought are required in the RKVY guidelines, the Committee were informed that architectural changes in the RKVY are under consideration. However, the Comprehensive District Agricultural Plan (C-DAP) approach be internalized for priority setting and projectization.

#### **(D) AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**

3.13 It is observed that under the Major Head Agricultural Education against the proposal of Rs. 730.00 crore, an outlay of Rs. 583.00 crore has approved at BE stage which is 20.13% less than the proposal.

3.14 About the details of the Schemes for strengthening and development of Higher Agricultural Education in India which will be affected due to the less allocation of funds at BE stage, the Department informed the Committee that the present ongoing activities would not be affected. The proposed new activities like Center of Excellence, support to old colleges, Engendering education, Social Inclusiveness, Information Management & Forecasting, Student Development, Reforms in Governance, instructional farms and competitive grants projects, etc. would be taken up as a part of 12<sup>th</sup> Plan.

3.15 To the specific query about its impact on the Agriculture Sector in the Country it was stated that at present the efforts of Higher Agricultural Education is to maintain quality standards in the country. Efforts shall be made to strengthen the ongoing activities without any adverse impact.

3.16 The Department informed the Committee that the allocation of Rs. 583 crores for Education Division is 14.7% higher than the RE for 2011-12. The allocation is made keeping in mind the overall allocations for 2012-13 (Rs. 3220 crores). With increased allocation by 14.7% ongoing activities can be continued and higher priority new activities started.

**(E) ECONOMICS, STATISTICS AND MANAGEMENT**

3.17 Under the Major Head Economics, Statistics and Management against the proposal of Rs. 45.21 crore, an outlay of Rs. 5.00 crore only has approved at BE stage which is 88.94% less.

3.18 The Economic Statistics and Management Division of the Council perform the following functions:

(a)

1. Monitoring and coordination of AP Cess funds Projects.
2. Comments about the proposal of professional societies.
3. Coordination and miscellaneous activities.
4. Linkages of various institutions/ICAR and Ministries.
5. Issues related to National Centre for Agricultural Economics & Policy Research and Indian Agriculture Statistics Research Institute.

3.19 The salient targets of concerned institutions of Economics, Statistics and Management are detailed separately as below:-

**National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP)**

- Policy research in the areas of science and technology
- Innovations in the changing market and global economic outlook
- Climate change and adaptation
- Optimal utilization of resources for increasing farm income without deterioration of environment and natural resources
- Policy interfacing with various stakeholders
- Net working with various social science institutions
- Capacity strengthening in social science research in NARS

**Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI)**

The present main thrust of the IASRI is to undertake research education and training in the discipline of Agricultural Statistics, Computer Applications and

Bioinformatics and also to develop trained manpower to address emerging challenges in agricultural research.

Since scenario of agriculture research is changing at a very fast rate, the Institute has set its future agenda to meet the statistical and informatics needs. The efforts would be to become a lead organization in the world in the field of agricultural statistics, statistical computing, information communication technology including bioinformatics, and be responsive, vibrant and sensitive to the needs of researchers, research managers and planners.

In order to achieve the target set, the Institute has visualized the following priority areas of research to be undertaken:

- Development and analysis of experimental designs for agricultural system research
- Forecasting, modelling and simulation techniques in biological systems
- Development of techniques for planning and execution of surveys and statistical applications of GIS in agricultural systems
- Development of techniques for genetics/computational biology and applications of bioinformatics in agricultural research
- Development of informatics in agricultural research
- Teaching and training in agricultural statistics and informatics

3.20 When asked about the details of Schemes for which the amount of Rs. 45.21 crore was proposed the following written submission was made by DARE:

**Scheme/ Project for which the amount has been proposed**

**NCAP**

- Drivers And Sources Of Future Agricultural Growth, Food Security And Improved Farm Income
- Harnessing Potential Of Existing And Emerging Technologies And Impact Assessment Of R&D
- Macroeconomic And Trade Policies And Resource Allocation For Agriculture
- Inclusive Governance And Institutions For Agricultural Growth And Development
- Dynamics Of Sustainable Agricultural Systems And Evolving Coping Strategies
- Network program : Regional Crop Planning For Improving Resource Use Efficiency And Sustainability
- Special Programmes
- Agriculture Outlook
- Indices of Farm Income and Food and Nutrition Security

## **IASRI**

- Strengthening of Agricultural Bioinformatics Grid
- Strengthening Statistical Computing for NARS
- Strengthening of Data Centre of ICAR
- Forewarning Pests and Diseases in Crops
- National Agricultural Science Museum

3.21 Asked further as to how adversely would the various areas of activities would the various areas of activities of the Division be affected due to the drastic reduction in the BE amount the following was submitted:

## **NCAP**

The project in network mode will not be undertaken.

## **IASRI**

NAIP has granted an extension of one year to the project at 'Strengthening of Agricultural Bioinformatics Grid'. Therefore, requirement of funds for 2012-13 will be met from NAIP. Therefore, in 2012-13, this would not be adversely affected. However, allocation in future years for this network project would be required.

NAIP has granted an extension of three months to the project at 'Strengthening Statistical Computing for NARS'. It may not be possible to strengthen the statistical computing facilities at new SAU's and also development of customized modules may be slowed down.

## **(F) AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING**

3.22 Under the Major Head Agricultural Engineering against the proposal of Rs. 117.08 crore, an outlay of Rs. 78.00 crore has approved at BE stage which is 33.37% less. BE Allocation of Central Institute on Post Harvest Engineering and Technology and Indian Institute of Natural Resins and Gums have been reduced by more than 33%.

3.23 About the reasons for the reduction in BE and its impact on the programmes of these Institutes, the Committee were informed that the reduction in the case of CIPHET, Ludhiana is due to the fact that the budget allocated in Plan RE 2011-12 was with respect to achieving the targets in the last year of the XI Plan. Once those targets have been achieved by the end of the XI Plan the funds required for sustenance of these programmes have been adequately considered and

accordingly the funds have been allocated in Plan BE 2012-13. For the new programmes the details will be worked out in the SFC/EFC of the Institute. Therefore, there will be no effect on the research programmes of the institute due to this reduction.

3.24 In the case of IINRG, Ranchi there is no reduction in BE 2012-13 as compared to RE 2011-12 and hence no reasons for any effect on the research programmes of the Institute.

**(G) ANIMAL SCIENCE**

3.25 Under the Major Head Animal Science against the proposal of Rs. 287.64 crore, an outlay of Rs. 250.00 crore has approved at BE stage which is 13.08% less.

3.26 When queried about the details of programmes of various Animal Science Institutes will be affected due to the less allocation of funds at BE stage, the Department informed the Committee that the RE in case of Animal Science Division for the year 2011-12 was Rs. 201.53 crores in comparison to the BE of Rs. 250 crores, as such there will be no effect on the programmes of various animal science institutes. During the year 2012-13 an outlay of Rs. 250 crores has been approved at BE stage against the proposal of Rs. 287.64 crores and hence the following programmes will be undertaken during the coming years:

- Semen sexing ; and
- Goat genome mapping

**(H) VACANCIES IN ICAR AND ITS INSTITUTES**

3.27 The following information has been furnished by the Department regarding the number of Scientific Technical and Administrative posts lying vacant in DARE/ICAR and its research institutes as on date.

Category	Sanctioned	In Position	%age filled	Vacancies
Scientific	6470	5093	79 %	1377
Technical	6635	5096	77 %	1539
Administrative	4886	4162	85 %	724

3.28 About the extent to which research and other activities of DARE/ICAR have been affected due to these shortages. DARE informed the Committee that retirement and recruitment is a continuous process and the vacancies will exist at any given time. Presently the R&D programmes are being managed through judicious re-deployment of the available scientific manpower. In other categories the services are appropriately outsourced as per operational needs and requirements. The research programmes were not affected due to these vacancies, since, the on-going activities were carried out by making interim arrangements

3.29 As regards the details of steps taken by the DARE to fill such vacancies during 2011-12, the results thereof and proposals for 2012-13. The Department informed the Committee that Steps have been initiated to get these vacancies filled up on top priority basis. In the Scientific category 492 positions in different levels have been filled up in the year 2011-12. In the year 2012-13, 632 positions of Scientists in the entry-level are expected to be filled up based on the results of the ARS Examination 2011 and 2012. 68 selectees are availing joining time for completion of their Ph.D. and are likely to join in the next 2-3 months. Besides 287 requisitions are in various stages of process in the Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board (ASRB) for which the recommendations are expected in the near future. Requisitions for the remaining posts are under process for being forwarded to the ASRB.

For posts in the Administrative category wherein the recruitment is centralized through the ASRB based on the results of the competitive examination for the positions of Administrative Officers / Finance & Accounts Officers as well as for Assistants nearly 400 positions are to be got filled up in 2012-13.

In all other cases wherein recruitment is decentralized and delegated, instructions have been issued to all the Institutes for filling up the approved vacancies expeditiously. Efforts are being made to fill up these vacancies.

3.30 Elaborating further on this aspect, the Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR stated during the further Oral Evidence on 11 April, 2012:

“As regards vacancy position, I would like to submit, as has been indicated here, during the financial year 2011-12 we were able to fill 492 positions of scientists both at the entry level and at lateral level. Presently, 632 positions are going to be filled up during the current year. Now, at the moment there were 20 undergoing training in Hyderabad Academy and 287 positions are in different stages of recruitment. I would also like to submit here that one, the recruitment corresponding to retirement levels is a continuous process. So, at any given time there will be some vacancies.

The second point that I would like to submit is about lateral entry positions. Now, this is a situation coming across the institutes and the universities, as you rightly mentioned. Now there is a vacancy position—we have also written from the Council and from the Planning Commission to the universities—to the level of 30-40 per cent in different universities. When we go for direct entry, the feeder channel is not available. It is not available. Earlier it so happened that people would move across the country for senior level positions, promotions and so on. That also is slightly reduced. These are the problems. So, every time we are looking into these points and trying to address how best we could fill them.

I would submit to the Committee that in the lateral entry, direct entry to senior scientist positions, a happy situation is that we have many scientists returning from overseas. This time specifically we have got people from America, Korea, Canada and some of the South East Asian countries. People have come back. This is also a situation coming up. So, we think this trend would increase.

We are doing all our efforts. At the same time at direct entry level we would like to have a due reference to merit. We do not want to simply recruit people just for the sake of filling up posts. These are the dynamic situations that we have in filling up the posts.

The universities, as you mentioned, many of the research stations and our own all-India coordinated projects are not properly provided with manpower of requisite quality. We are bringing out that repeatedly. We are not getting the required quality and the kind of qualification on the subject matter. This is a problem over there in the research stations and for the coordinated research projects.

We have been discussing with the Vice-Chancellors. They are trying to do their best. They have issues in their local recruitments. But, this is being discussed across the system”.



## **CROP SCIENCE**

3.31 The Committee note that due to the scaling down of the Outlay of ICAR from the proposed Rs. 4719.68 crore to Rs. 3220.00 crore for Annual Plan 2012-13 has resulted in down-sizing of the allocations of various divisions of the Council. For instance the Crop Science Division allocation has been reduced from Rs. 670.70 crore to Rs. 460.00 crore. This has resulted in several Schemes of the Crop Science Division Institutes being drastically down-sized. The financial proposals in respect of National Bureau of Plant Genetics Resources (NBPGR), Directorate of Seed Research (DSR) and Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR) have been reduced by almost 80%, 71% and 48% respectively. On the other hand, proposals of IARI, New Delhi and Indian Grass and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), which are also in the same Division, have been hiked by almost 78% and 71% respectively. The Department have justified the reduction in the allocations to NBPGR, DSR and CICR on the grounds that the overall reduction in the allocations to Crop Science Division has resulted in down-sizing to allocation of these funds. They have also justified the present reduced allocations of these three Institutes on the grounds that these allocations are still significantly higher than the RE allocations to these Institutes during the Fiscal gone by. As regards the hike in allocations of IARI and IGFRI, these have been justified in the light of the importance of these Institutes, priority and need of the Schemes, etc., etc. The Committee, cannot, but take the justifications extended by the Department with a pinch of salt. The proposals for funds of the three Institutes who have been subsequently allocated far less

allocations would have been approved by DARE/ICAR before consolidated proposal of Rs. 4719.68 crore was made by them to the Planning Commission. Likewise, the proposals of IARI and IGFR in their original form would also have had the concurrence/approval of DARE/ICAR. Here, the case of IARI deserves specific mention. Their original proposal sought a sum of Rs. 47.30 crore. This has been enhanced to Rs. 68.38 crore in the Budget Estimate showing an increase of more than 78%. How the Institute would be able to absorb this additional allocation is a matter to ponder about. The Committee have a growing feeling that the reduction in allocation of certain Institutes on the plea of reduction in over all allocation and simultaneously substantial enhancement in case of two other Institutes in the same Division, indicates a degree of ad-hocism in the financial management. The Committee, therefore, desire that rather than waiting till the RE stage, DARE/ICAR should seriously reconsider the original proposals of all the five Institutes and consider a just re-appropriation of funds within the Division so that priority research areas do not suffer in any of these Institutes.

### **HORTICULTURE**

3.32 The allocation to Horticulture Division has also suffered due to the overall reduction in the allocation of DARE/IARI. It was been allocated Rs. 240.00 crore against the proposed Outlay of Rs. 360.30 crore. The Department have tried to allay the apprehension of the Committee by stating that there shall be no effect on ongoing programmes due to less allocation in 2012-13 since new initiatives challenge and network programmes and

platforms shall be taken up after the approval of SFC/EFC. The Committee are, however, not convinced since as per their own admission the Department are trying to get maximum possible SFC/EFC clearances in the first half of the ongoing Fiscal. This would mean additional requirement of funds during the second half of the Fiscal. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to revisit the requirements of Horticulture Division so that they are, apart from implementing ongoing Schemes of Eleventh Plan, also able to commence work on the new Schemes for which SFC/EFC approvals are obtained during the Fiscal.

#### **AGRICULTURE EXTENSION**

##### **(i) Allocation**

3.33 Against the proposed allocation of Rs. 755.00 crore the share of Agriculture Extension Division has been reduced to Rs. 507.00 crore in the changed scenario. The worst affected being KVK Scheme whose allocation has been reduced to Rs. 491.67 from originally proposed Rs. 734.61 crore. By their own admission, this drastic curtailment is going to affect infrastructure development during the current Financial Year. The agriculture extension services are the most important interface of the Department/Council with the biggest stakeholder in the agriculture sector namely the farmer. It is also common knowledge that the extension services are already beset with several shortcomings. In fact, technology transfer has been one of the weakest links in agricultural research. In such a scenario, why have the Department chosen to wield their axe on the allocations of agriculture extension is beyond comprehension and also a pointer towards

their casual approach towards extension services. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend the Department to restore the allocation to Agriculture Extension Division as per their requirements for the Fiscal through permissible re-appropriation. The funds shortage arising out of such an enhancement may be compensated from the funds accruing to Schemes of DARE/ICAR through the route of RKVY.

(ii) Transfer of Technology

3.34 As stated previously, transfer of technology has remained, an area of huge concern for years together now, as the technologies developed are not being transferred from lab to land in desirable numbers and at desirable pace. Thus the achievements of agricultural research are being frittered away to a large extent in the absence of adequate and timely transfer of technology. The Committee note from the Approach Paper to the Twelfth Plan that at last Planning Commission has realized the need for improving upon this aspect. The Commission have emphasised on the need for strengthening ATMA; integrating into ATMA, the problem solving capacities of KVKs and the feedback loops these offer to NARS. In the Scheme of things envisaged by the Commission for the purpose, the KVKs would be required to come up as local knowledge resource centres with down the line advisory linkages with (i) block level formations (ii) farmer organizations (iii) agri-entrepreneurs. The Committee also note from the Approach Paper that Planning Commission is of the view that guidelines of RKVY be revisited so that ATMAs and KVKs could bring better convergence at the district level

and below between planning, research and extension. The Committee find a lot of merit in the instant proposals of Planning Commission. They, therefore, recommended their expeditious fructification, so that the Government takes further necessary action to implement these salutary measures, which have all portents of changing the face of the technology transfer mechanism, without any further loss of time.

### **AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**

3.35 The Committee note that for Agricultural Education an Outlay of Rs. 583.00 crore has been approved against the proposal of Rs. 730.00 crore. In this case also the Department have in their micawberish vision assured the Committee that the ongoing activities would not be affected due to this more than 20% curtailment in the funds requirement for agricultural education. However, they have also admitted that it would mean exclusion of new activities like Centre for Excellence, Engendering Education, Social Inclusiveness, Information Management and Forecasting, Student Development, Reforms in Governance, Instructional Farms, etc. During their various interactions with the Committee, the Department have been time and again pointing out the morass in which the agriculture education has been for last so many years. They have also been repeatedly pointing out to the Committee, as to how this mess in the Agricultural Education Sector has lead to a drastic shortage of talent in the Sector leading to severe shortage of scientific and technical manpower in the National Agricultural Research System. The Committee, therefore, find it incomprehensible as to how the Department, who are so highly sensitized to the present state of and the

pressing requirements of Agricultural Education Sector, have chosen to curtail the funds allocation to this critical input for the entire Agricultural Sector. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to have an urgent rethink over the allocations to the Agricultural Education Division so that all the planned new activities, as far feasible, are taken up for implementation during the current Fiscal in the larger interest of the Agricultural Sector.

### **ECONOMICS, STATISTICS AND MANAGEMENT**

3.36 Amongst the various divisions of ICAR, the Economics, Statistics and Management Division has been worst sufferer due to the reduced allocations of funds to ICAR. Their proposal of Rs. 45.21 crore has been downsized to a paltry sum of Rs. 5.00 crore only. The Committee note that the various Institutes of this Division are engaged in research in several core areas including Climate change and adaptation, Optimal utilization of resources for increasing farm income without deterioration of environment and natural resources, Bio-informatics, Regional crops planning for improving resource utilization efficiency and sustainability, Strengthening of agricultural bio-informatics grid and Fore-warning of pests and diseases in crops, to cite a few. How this almost 90 % curtailment in funds allocation would affect these research projects is nobody's guess. The Department would, therefore, be well advised to see that these Research Projects are not delayed for want of funds and the system would benefit from the outcome of these research projects in the coming days.

## **AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING**

**3.37 A sum of Rs. 78.00 crore has been allocated under Major Head Agricultural Engineering for the year 2012-13. The amount proposed was Rs. 117.08 crore. This curtailment has resulted in the budgetary allocations of Central Institute on Post Harvest Engineering and Technology and India Institute of National Resins and Gums being reduced by more than 33%. The Department have extended their oft repeated reply, about ongoing Schemes not being affected due to funds curtailment, in the case of these two Institutes also. The fact, however, remains that the Committee had visited IINRG, Ranchi during February this year. They had found that the Institute had several ambitious research projects and schemes in the pipeline for the Twelfth Plan. The Department drawing solace from the fact that funds requirement of the Institute this year have been matched with the RE of last year is, therefore, highly misplaced. The funds requirement of any organization should be assessed on its projection of cogent and workable proposals which are of utility for the developmental process. Merely equating these requirements with RE figures of previous year can never do justice with the genuine requirements of the organization and could lead to sub-optimal utilization of its capacity and capabilities. The Committee are sure, that given an opportunity CIPHET would also have strived for greater achievements had there funds requirement been met in toto. If not now, the Committee expect the Department to do justice with these two Institutes at the RE stage of the ongoing Fiscal.**

## **ANIMAL SCIENCE**

**3.38 Major Head Animal Science has been allocated a sum of Rs. 250.00 crore as BE 2012-13. This is 13% or so less than the proposed amount of Rs. 287.64 crore. DARE have informed the Committee that since the BE amount of Rs. 250.00 compares favourably with the RE 2011-12 of Rs. 201.53 crore, there will be no effect on the programmes of various Animal Science Institutes. They have, however, in the same breath admitted that due to BE being lesser than the proposed amount, semen sexing and goat genome mapping programmes will be undertaken during coming years. The dichotomy in the response of the Department speaks volumes about how the reduced allocation has played havoc with the well laid down plans of DARE/ICAR in the first year of the Twelfth Plan. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Finance should take suitable corrective action at the RE stage to enable the Department to undertake two of their ambitious projects viz semen sexing and goat genome mapping in this very year itself.**

## **VACANCIES IN ICAR AND ITS INSTITUTES**

**3.39 The Committee have been greatly concerned about the vacancies in scientific, technical and administrative cadres in ICAR and its constituents. From the latest information furnished by the Department on this vexed problem the Committee note that there are 1377 vacancies in the Scientific Cadre against the sanctioned 6470 posts. In the Technical Cadre the situation is equally bad with 1539 vacancies out of 6635 sanctioned posts.**



On the Administrative side also, out of total 4886 posts 724 are vacant. While the number of these vacancies are very perturbing, what is more worrisome is the fact that as per the admission of Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR during the Oral Evidence before the Committee on 11 April, 2012 there is also a serious dearth of talent for direct entry level recruitment. The Committee are pained to know that this dearth of talent has already led to a situation where many of research stations and all-India Coordinated Projects are not provided with manpower of requisite quality. In the opinion of the Committee, this situation is a direct offshoot of the years and years of neglect of NARS in general and agricultural education in particular by the planners and the Government. With low priority being accorded to their requirements of men, material and money and an attitude of apathy towards agriculture sector due to an overwhelming preference for industry and services sector, the law of diminishing returns has set in. To undo this will indeed require a herculean effort from all concerned. Keeping the gravity of the situation in view the Committee recommend that the planners, the Government, DARE/ICAR and the SAUs should put their heads together at the soonest, so that both short and long term solutions to this problem are found and also put in place without any further loss of time.

NEW DELHI;  
23 April, 2012  
03 Vaisakha, 1934 (Saka)

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