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**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2013-2014)**

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

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

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2013-2014)

**{Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/
Recommendations contained in the Forty-seventh Report
of the Committee on Agriculture (2012-2013)}**

FIFTY FIRST REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

December 2013/Agrahayana, 1935 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 09.12.2013

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 09.12.2013



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

December 2013/Agrahayana, 1935 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2013-14)

Shri Basudeb Acharia - Chairman

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LOK SABHA

2. **Shri Narayansingh Amlabe**
3. **Shri Sanjay Singh Chauhan**
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30. **Shri Shivanand Tiwari**
31. **Shri Darshan Singh Yadav**

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri A. Louis Martin - Joint Secretary
2. Smt. Abha Singh Yaduvanshi - Director
3. Shri R.S. Negi - Committee Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Fifty-first Report on action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-seventh Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2013-2014) pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

2. The Forty-seventh Report of the Committee was presented to Lok Sabha on 23 April, 2013 and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 25 April, 2013. The Action Taken Notes on the Report were received on 18 July, 2013.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 29 October, 2013.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-seventh Report of the Committee is given in **Appendix**.

NEW DELHI;
26 November, 2013
05 Agrahayana, 1935 (Saka)

BASUDEB ACHARIA
Chairman,
Committee on Agriculture

CHAPTER-I

R E P O R T

This Report of the Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Forty-seventh Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Agriculture (2012-2013) on "Demands for Grants – 2013-14 pertaining to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) which was presented to Lok Sabha on 23 April, 2013 and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 25 April, 2013.

1.2 The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education) have furnished Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 27 Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report. These have been categorized as under:

- . Observations/Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government:
Recommendation Para Nos. 1.4, 2.18, 2.19, 2.20, 2.21, 3.31, 3.32, 3.33, 3.34, 3.36, 4.57, 4.59, 4.60, 4.61, 4.62, 4.63, 4.64, 4.65, 4.66, 4.67, 4.68, 4.69, 4.70, 4.71 and 4.72.

Total = 25
Chapter = II
- . Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:
Recommendation Para No. NIL

Total = NIL
Chapter = III
- . Observations/Recommendations in respect of which action taken replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:
Recommendations Para No. 3.35

Total = 01
Chapter = IV
- . Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited :
Recommendation Para No. 4.58

Total = 01
Chapter = V

1.3 The Committee trust that utmost importance would be given to implementation of the observations/recommendations accepted by the Government. In cases, where it is not possible for the Department to implement the recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that further Action Taken Notes on the Committee's comments contained in Chapter-I and Final Action Taken Reply in respect of Recommendation for which only interim reply has been furnished as brought out in Chapter-V of this Report, be furnished to them at an early date.

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

SOIL MAPPING
(Recommendation Para No. 2.19)

1.5 Inventory of soil resources including soil map is one of the basic tool as it guides suitability of various crops. Keeping the farmers constantly updated of soil health profile, mapping and geo-reference database of micro and micro-nutrients play a major role in improving the agriculture production in the Country. The Committee are concerned to find that geo-referenced soil fertility maps for only 152 districts have been prepared out of 171 selected districts and remaining 19 districts are likely to be completed by September, 2013. The Department has been assigned a target of 62 districts in the current fiscal and 300 Districts in the XII Five Plan. The Department is working with other organizations like Indian Space Research Organisation, National Remote Sensing Agency etc. in close tandem. Since the geo-reference database help in working out the exact nutrient requirement especially micro-nutrients of a crop in the field, the Committee, therefore, desire that the Department to review their targets and complete geo-reference of all the 600 odd Districts in the Twelfth Five Year Plan itself. They further desire the Department to work out the additional financial requirement needed for completion of major and micro nutrients geo-reference map and prevail upon

the Planning Commission and the Government to liberally fund the project during the current Five Year Plan period.

1.6 Developing geo-referenced soil fertility maps for different districts of the country was undertaken by the Council for 171 districts in first phase funded by DAC, Ministry of Agriculture under National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility. The DAC is likely to take up rest of the districts in subsequent phases through respective state Governments involving state soil testing laboratories. However, the Council may accept the same if offered by DAC.

1.7 The Committee in their earlier recommendation had desired the DARE to review the targets and complete geo-reference for the 600 odd districts in the 12th Five Year Plan itself. The Committee also desired the Department to work out the additional fund requirement needed for completion of major and micro nutrients, geo-reference maps and prevail upon the Planning Commission/Government to liberally fund the project during the current Five Year Plan period. The reply of DARE is silent as to whether the matter regarding additional fund requirement was taken up with the Planning Commission and if so, when and with what result. The Committee would await further information in this regard.

SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS
(Recommendation Para No. 2.20)

1.8 In a country, where a large section of the farmers are small and marginal with low land holdings, inadequate purchasing power and lack of access to credit and extension services, it is but desirable that appropriate farm technologies to cater to their specific needs, be evolved. It was a matter of great relief that the Council has initiated an AICRP on Integrated Farming System for small and marginal farmers of different agro-ecological zones to increase productivity and profitability. The multi-enterprise system involves crops, horticulture, agro forestry, livestock, fisheries, poultry, piggery, mushroom cultivation and bee-keeping with the potential to increase productivity. The Committee noted that the cluster farming system has been undertaken in some states and Integrated farming system units set up in 50 KVKs to demonstrate the suitability of integrated farming system models. Keeping in view of the interest of small and marginal farmers, the Committee, desired the Department to increase the number of KVKs for

demonstration of integrated farming system models expeditiously. The rise in input costs, dearth of labour etc. contribute significantly to the end cost of agriculture produce. Farm mechanisation is one of key to growth, for so called progressive farmers and can afford cost of such implements and machineries. Economy of scale may not appropriately suit farm machineries and implements, to be used in small land holdings. The unique characteristic of small and marginal farmers, thus calls for introduction and development of low cost, light weight, multi-purpose farm equipments and tools for their benefit. The Committee desired that appropriate steps including technological innovation and support be extended to small and marginal farmers. Action taken by the Government may be apprised to the Committee.

1.9 The Government in their Action Taken Reply have stated that Horticulture is best option for diversification and system productivity for small holdings. Horticulture crops such as flowers, medicinal and aromatic plants, and vegetable crops under protected cultivation, mushrooms, bee farming and post harvest processing and preparation of value-added products can fetch more prices in the market. Further, considering adoption of Integrated Farming System (IFS) as the most appropriate approach in meeting the challenges of small-farm-agriculture, the Council has strengthened the ongoing AICRP on Integrated Farming System (IFS) during current Plan with an allocation of Rs. 149.5 crores. The project is presently operational in 32 centres. Once the models are developed, the same will be popularized through different KVKs.

1.10 Development of low cost and light weight farm tools and implements is a continuing endeavor of the AICRPs on Farm Implements and Machinery, Utilisation of Animal Energy and Ergonomics and Safety in Agriculture. Several farm implements and machines have been developed for various power sources. Simple and low cost tools and implements can be owned by the farmers and the larger, expensive machines are available on custom-hiring basis which are quite popular in various states of the country. Small farmers are getting benefits of high capacity machines through custom hiring services.

1.11 Fisheries Research Institutes have developed technologies for small scale aqua farming in pond, seed production, coastal aquaculture, marine and inland aquaculture, mussel farming, oyster farming, poly-lined pond culture systems and ornamental fish

culture for the benefit of small & marginal farmers. Open sea cage farming is another opportunity where field demonstrations have been conducted with active participation of fishermen including tribals in different regions of east and west coast of India. Hygienic fish drying/ smoking technologies and value addition to low value fishes developed will also help poor farmers to fetch more price for their commodity.

1.12 They further stated that as suggested by the committee, 424 more number of integrated farming system units have been proposed in the EFC for establishment in KVKs during XII Plan.

1.13 The Committee note that the DARE has strengthened the All India Coordinated Research Project on Integrated Farming System (IFS) with an allocation of Rs. 149.50 crore during the current Plan. DARE has submitted that the IFS project, which is considered to be the most appropriate approach in meeting the challenges of small-farm agriculture is operational in 32 centres and that once the models are developed, 424 more integrated farming system units in Krishi Vigyan Kendras are proposed to be established during the current plan. The Committee hope that the models will be developed expeditiously and the task of establishing 424 more IFS units taken up without delay.

OVERVIEW OF DEMANDS **(Recommendation Para No. 3.31)**

1.14 The Committee noted that as per Demand No. 2 pertaining to Department of Agricultural Research and Education a sum of Rs. 5729.17 crore was allocated to the Department at BE for the current Fiscal. Out of this Rs. 3415.00 crore was a part of Plan side which is 26.20 % higher than the RE of previous financial year and 26.97 % lower than the proposal of the Department i.e. 4676.32 crore. On the Non Plan side the Department had allocated a sum of Rs. 2314.17 crore as BE 2013-14 which was 9.25 % more than RE of Rs. 2100.00 crore for the previous Fiscal. The Annual Plan Outlay of the Department which was Rs. 5729.17 crore also to be seen in the context of total Outlay of Rs. 25,553 crore communicated by the Planner to the DARE for the Twelfth Five Year Plan. The Committee noted that as in the past the Department had again failed to change the mindset of the Planner and the Government in the matter of allocation of funds to DARE during the current Fiscal also. This was a undoubted fact

that Indian Agriculture has been facing a large number of challenges as narrated in previous chapter which will require capital intensive solutions, seems to have been given a go by the Planners and the Government. Both of them have, again in this Second year of the Twelfth Five Year Plan, too failed to understand the urgency of timely infusion of capital in the system so as to give an impetus for developing technologies for the emerging challenges. The Committee, therefore, recommend that allocations to the Department in the ongoing Fiscal be reconsidered and enhanced accordingly at the RE stage by when, hopefully EFC/SFC approval of the schemes will be cleared.

1.15 The Department of Agricultural Research and Education in their Action Taken Reply has stated that the EFC/SFC processes of the plan scheme are at various stages of formulation/approval. As advised by the committee the department will be approaching the Planning commission/ Ministry of Finance for enhanced allocation at RE stage.

1.16 The Committee are glad to note that as recommended by the Committee, the DARE will be approaching the Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance for enhanced allocation at RE stage. The DARE has, however, not mentioned the projection made for enhanced allocation. The Committee would like to be apprised of the same and also the actual realisation of the enhanced allocation.

FUNDS UTILISATION

(Recommendation Para No. 3.33)

1.17 The Committee noted that the figures for the Financial Year 2008-09 and 2009-10 submitted in the Committee last year, had changed in the documents submitted to them this year. The Department had communicated the final figure for expenditure of 2011-12 as Rs. 2765.27 against the expenditure of Rs. 1654.58 crore till January, 2012 communicated previous year. The Committee found that Rs. 1195.47 crore (Rs. 2765.27 – 1654.58) had added in two months expenditure of the Department. Out of the allocated amount, the Department was unable to utilized Rs. 524.98 crore (10325.75 – 9800.77) during Eleventh Five Year Plan period. The trend of expenditure clearly reveals that the Department had failed to observe the instructions/guidelines of Ministry of Finance regarding monthly expenditure plan. From the quarterly

expenditure, the Committee found that for 2011-12 the expenditure was 28 % in the last quarter and for 2012-13 is 11 %. There was NIL expenditure in the Second Quarter in ICAR Plan and Non Plan side during the year 2012-13. The Committee noted with a great sense of disappointment that despite several assurance given by the Department on the previous recommendations regarding utilization of funds by them had again failed to utilized 100 % of their allocation. They therefore, strongly felt that the Department to review the functioning of their funds utilization mechanism to check recurrence of such trend in future and apprise of the outcome.

1.18 The Government in their Action Taken Reply have stated that they have noted the observation of the Committee regarding the fund utilization mechanism for strict future compliance.

1.19 The Committee in their previous Reports have on a number of occasions commented on the fund utilisation mechanism of the Department. The reply of the Department has not indicated whether any review of the mechanism was undertaken as desired by the Committee. The Committee would like the Department to undertake a review in this regard, if not already undertaken and the Committee be informed of the outcome.

TWELFTH PLAN OUTLAY
(Recommendation Para No. 3.35)

1.20 The Twelfth Plan Document though approved by NDC in December 2012 had delayed considerably and was yet to see the light of day, despite several efforts made by the Committee during the previous years, the Department had proposed Rs. 57,887.21 crore for the XII Plan. The Working Group appointed by the Planning Commission had also recommended Rs. 55,000 as Twelfth Plan outlay for DARE/ICAR. The Department had communicated the Gross Budgetary support of Rs. 25,553.00 crore for the XII Plan by the Planning Commission on September, 2012. The Committee did not appreciate the downsizing of allocation, if the communicated figure was taken on its face value which was less than 1% of Agriculture GDP. The Eleventh Plan document had unequivocally emphasized agriculture spending on NARS, to be 1% of Agriculture GDP. The Committee would also urge upon the Government to allocate 1% of Agriculture GDP for Agriculture Research and also rework on financial and other

requirements of 1% investment of Agriculture GDP on Research. The Committee noted with a great sense of disappointment that the exercise undertaken by the Working Group set up by the Planning Commission to suggest plan size, had proved to be futile, as Planning Commission failed to honour the recommendations made by one of its authority. They therefore, desired the Government to make such examination/scrutiny of planning process, more realistic in future

1.21 The Department in their Action Taken Reply have stated that the report of Working Group on Research and Education constituted for the 12th Five Year Plan was duly considered by deciding the Gross Budgetary Support to the Department of Agriculture and Education. The 12th Five Year Plan document has kept the target for expenditure on agricultural research and education at 1% of the agricultural GDP. Such expenditure includes the expenditure incurred by the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) which comprises both the Central and State Governments on plan and non-plan side. One of the targets of 11th Five Year Plan was raising the expenditure on agricultural research and education to the level of 1% of the agriculture and allied sectors' GDP. The 12th Five Year Plan has noted that as it turns out, research spending at 2006-07 prices, although reaching nearly 0.9% in 2010-11, averaged 0.7% during Eleventh plan. Part of the reason was a shortfall of about 20% in the Centre's Plan expenditure from that originally targeted, but the main reason was inadequate spending by States. While Centre's expenditure (non-Plan & Plan, including RKVY) increased 68% in real terms between Tenth and Eleventh Plan periods, corresponding States expenditures increased only 22%. In particular, non-Plan spending on SAUs increased less than 17%.

1.22 The Committee are disappointed with reply of the Department that 1% of the Agricultural GDP expenditure targeted during the 12th Five Year Plan includes the expenditure incurred both by the National Agricultural Central Research System comprising of the Central and State Governments on plan and non plan side. The Committee have been emphasizing time and again that allocation of 1% of Agricultural GDP on Agriculture Research should be exclusively for the Centre. The Committee hope that the DARE has taken note of the Committee's view in

this regard and expect the Department to take all necessary steps to ensure allocation accordingly.

Recommendation Para No. 3.36

1.23 The Committee noted that 44% of proposed outlay of the Department was reduced by the Planner for Twelfth Five Year Plan. The pace of progress of important research programmes like genomics work in horticultural plants, markets for desirable traits stem cell research would slackened due to the cut. The strengthening of existing KVKs including new initiatives viz. Consortia Research Platform (CRP) on Agri-biodiversity Management Genomics and Molecular Breeding etc. would too be affected due to reduced allocation during the XII Plan. In addition to that new initiatives like National Agricultural Education Project, Farmers First, Student Ready, ARYA etc will be slackened. It was a matter of deep concern that High end Research Projects such as Agro-biodiversity, Genomics, Nanotechnology, Conservation Agriculture, Health Foods, Farm Mechanisation etc. which were component of CRP, may either had to be shelved or postponed indefinitely. The Committee appreciating the constraints of ICAR for slackening these important programmes would like to advise the Department to again draw attention of the Planner and the Government on the gravity thereof and ask enlarge funds to complete these activities as to overcome the challenges faced by Indian Agriculture.

1.24 The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply has stated that ICAR's proposal for XII plan envisions this scenario of judiciously integrating conventional plant breeding, molecular biology, bioinformatics, genetic engineering, human resource and infrastructural development, Farm Mechanization, Energy in Agriculture, Secondary Agriculture, Health Foods and Natural Fibres through the Consortia Research Platform (CRP). These CRPs have been conceived keeping in mind the evolving scenario of agriculture in the country and to address them with appropriate research and development interventions.

1.25 DARE/ICAR would be seeking higher allocation of funds for completion of these activities to overcome the challenges faced by Indian Agriculture.

1.26 The Committee are not satisfied with the perfunctory reply of the Department that it would be seeking higher allocation of funds. The Department does not seem to be pro-active in enlisting its demands for additional allocation for specific projects and proposals. The Committee desire the Department to make vigorous efforts in this regard and ensure desired results.

CROP SCIENCE
(Recommendation Para No. 4.58)

1.27 The Committee also noticed that only 52.13 % of the funds were utilized by the Division upto January, 2013 and the factors responsible for such slow phase were time taken in completion of processing of official procedures to procure spill over equipments. To utilize the RE, the Division had made re-appropriation amongst sub-heads for Grant for Capital/Salary/General through Divisional meetings. The Committee strongly recommended the Department to strengthen the monitoring mechanism of expenditure of the Crop Science Division to ensure that the Budget Estimates allocation of the Division was fully utilized in a time bound manner.

1.28 The Department in their Action Taken Reply have stated that suitable monitoring mechanism of expenditure of all the Schemes under Crop Science Division for utilization of funds would be put into place in addition to existing mechanism.

1.29 The Committee note that the Department has proposed to put in place additional monitoring mechanism to monitor the expenditure of all the schemes under Crop Science Division. No details have, however, been given as to what additional mechanism is envisaged in this regard. The Committee would await these details and expect the Department to ensure positive results.

HORTICULTURE
(Recommendation Para No. 4.59)

1.30 Genetic resource management and development of improved varieties of horticulture crop, biotic and abiotic resistance, export-value, as also standardization of technique for rapid propagation and horticulture based cropping pattern were some of the issues connected with Horticulture Division.

1.31 The Committee noted that the Department had not made any changes in the proposals of the Horticulture Division for 2013-14. The Division had able to utilized 73.86 % of their RE grant (upto January 2013). Some of the institutes like Central Institute of Sub Topical Horticulture, Lucknow, Central Institute of Arid Horticulture, Bikaner, Central Plantatio Crops Research Institute, Kasargod and Director of Floriculture, New Delhi unable to utilized more than 26 % of their allocation upto January, 2013 which improved belatedly in the month of February, 2013. Under utilization of funds was a cause of concern to the Committee. For the purpose of finalization or reallocations, prioritization and also EFC's clearances, discussions were held in March, 2013. The Committee, desired the Department to complete the finalization of EFC / SFC and other formalities of various schemes of the Division. Further, there was an imperative need to strengthen the implementation mechanism of the Horticulture Division so that the targets assigned for of the Twelfth Five Year Plan are realised. At the same time, corrective actions need to be taken to ensure utilization of funds prudently.

1.32 The Department in their Action Taken Reply have stated that the focused areas envisaged are being addressed through Consortia Research Platform and Challenge Programme such as Agro-biodiversity, hybrids, molecular breeding, diagnostics, seeds and secondary agriculture. Efforts are being made to complete formalities for the finalization of EFC/SFC of various schemes of the Division so that the targets assigned for the Twelfth Five Year Plan could be realised.

1.33 The Committee note that the Department has proposed to address focused areas like agro bio-diversity, hybrids molecular breeding, diagnostics, seed and secondary Agriculture through Consortia Research Platform. The reply is, however, silent about the progress made in finalisation of EFC/SFC clearances of

various schemes and the time required for completion of the task. The Committee would like to be intimated of the position.

AGRICULTURE EXTENSION
(Recommendation Para No. 4.60)

1.34 Agriculture Extension has a major scheme of disseminating knowledge and information to the farmers. The Krishi Vigyan Kendras during 2012-13, assessed refined and demonstrated technologies through 29,428 on-farm trials, 1.31 lakh front-line demonstrations in different farming system. Under NICRA project 100 KVKs also demonstrated climate resilient technologies through 23441 demonstrations in the country. The Committee further found that out of 632 KVKs in the country, the Department had provided Administrative buildings to 554 KVKs, trainees hostel to 490 KVKs, staff quarters to 442 KVKs, demonstration units to 394 KVKs and soil and water testing facilities to 389 KVKs. The Committee found major deficiencies in the operation of KVKs. At places they were non-operational for want of project coordinator/specialist and other administrative staff, lack of infrastructure etc. Some of KVKs have failed to extend professional advise expected from them. Bridging the yawning gap recorded at demonstration and farmers field, is another area of the concern. The Committee desired that the functioning of KVKs be relooked into and the specific pitfalls brought so in the Report be made good. At the same time, the infrastructure such as Administrative buildings, trainees hostel, staff quarters, demonstration units and soil and water testing facilities, be provided in a time bound manner in the remaining KVKs. The bottlenecks in achieving demonstration level yields at farm levels by identified and appropriate actions taken to narrow the productivity gap further. The Committee found that private participation in agriculture extension through the institutions of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) has not yielded the desired results, since the private players allegedly, pursue limited agenda of promoting their products driven by profit motives under the guise of agriculture extension. Such deficiencies were admitted by Secretary, DARE during his deposition before the Committee. Under such a scenario, the private participated KVK do not attend to major components of extension services, leaving farmers in a lurch. The holistic approach of dissemination of information and farm knowledge to farmers, through KVK, which is a guiding philosophy, is given a decent burial by the private participated KVK. The Committee view this with all the

seriousness, it deserves and liked the Department to appraise the quality and reach of extension services rendered by private players. The Committee desired that Government should ensure that KVK including private KVKs provide all the mandated activities to the farmers, without any exception. At the same time the allocations for KVKs be stepped up, so as to ensure that only State supported KVKs function, in the country.

1.35 As regards inadequate infrastructures in KVKs, it is stated that as per availability of funds the required and need based infrastructure in the remaining KVKs will be provided during XII Plan. With regard to bottlenecks in achieving demonstration level yields at farm level, it is pertinent to mention that other factors like non-availability of adequate agro- inputs like seed, fertilizers, plant protection chemicals etc. credit, irrigation facilities in time to farmers also work as constraining factors in achieving higher yields by farmers. The KVKs have no control over such factors. Moreover, the main extension system, which is responsible for reducing the yield gaps between demonstrated technologies and yields obtained by farmers is operated by the State Governments. However, after demonstrating the production potential of agricultural technologies in farmers field through front-line demonstrations on different crops, the KVKs conduct a number of follow up activities like field days, kisan gosthis, technology week and other awareness creating programmes with the participation of farmers and extension personnel. As far as the issue of private participation in Agriculture Extension through KVKs is concerned, it is stated that all the KVKs are provided 100% financial support by ICAR. Few KVKs have also taken up selected extension activities on the public private partnership (PPP) mode on technologies which are tested and recommended by Agricultural Universities and Research Institutions. These activities are taken up within the scope of work of KVKs without diluting the mandated activities. However, as per the observation of the Committee the KVKs have been advised to be careful while working in PPP mode not to allow the private partners to pursue their agenda of promoting their products using KVK platform. Regarding stepping up of allocations to KVKs it is stated that funds allocation to KVKs was increased from Rs. 435.40 crore in 2012-13 to Rs. 496.88 crore in 2013-14.

1.36 The Committee had desired among other things that there should be a relook at the functioning of KVKs and suitable remedial action taken on the basis of its outcome. The Government's reply has not dealt with this aspect. The Committee desire that action be taken on this recommendation and the Committee be informed of the outcome. The Committee would also like that a copy of the advice given to KVKs regarding working in PPP mode be furnished to them for information.

Recommendation Para No. 4.61

1.37 The Committee noted that the entire expenditure of the KVKs was booked under Plan Head and was reported to be the main cause for delay in making provision for infrastructure developments. They therefore, desired the Department to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance so as to fund Krishi Vigyan Kendras from Non-Plan allocation.

1.38 The Department of Agricultural Research and Education in their Action Taken Reply have stated that the proposal for funding of KVKs from Non-Plan budget has already been mooted for consideration by Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance.

1.39 The Committee note with satisfaction that the proposal for funding KVKs from Non-Plan Budget has been mooted for consideration by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance. The Committee desire the Department to pursue the matter with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance and report the final outcome to the Committee.

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

(Recommendation Para No. 4.65)

1.40 The Committee have taken serious note of lack of enthusiasm amongst youth of the country, to take agriculture, as a career and profession, probably on the grounds of limited employment opportunities, unfavourable returns as compared to service sector etc. This calls for introspection of whole gamut of agriculture education system in the

country and employability. The Committee feel that being agrarian economy, expansion of agriculture education should not halt. The avenues of employment be raised exponentially. At the same time, policy on Central Agriculture University as recommended by the Committee each be expedited. The Committee would like to be apprised of action taken in the matter.

1.41 In order to promote reach and visibility of agricultural education in the country, policy on higher agricultural education has been developed after a critical analysis of current agricultural education system in the country. Similarly, a proposal has been moved to constitute a committee to develop detailed guidelines for establishment of Central Agricultural Universities in the country.

1.42 The Committee feel that the policy on higher agricultural education to promote the reach and coverage regarding agricultural education should be combined with creation of adequate employment opportunities with reasonable salary. The reply has not mentioned anything about steps proposed in this regard. They are curious to know about specific steps proposed/being taken. The Committee also desire that the proposed Committee to develop guidelines for establishment of the Central Agricultural Universities be constituted expeditiously with definite time frame for submission of its report.

ANIMAL SCIENCE

(Recommendation Para No. 4.71)

1.43 Management and improvement of livestock was one of thrust area of Agriculture in the Country. To improve productivity, production and reproductive efficiency in livestock and poultry were major areas which were addressed by 18 animal science institutes comprising of 2 Deemed Universities, 5 Central Research Institutes, 01 National Bureau, 4 Project Directorates and 6 National Research Centres. The Division also coordinates 7 All India Coordinated Research Projects and 7 Network Research Programmes. In addition, 2 Outreach programmes and 4 mega seed projects (poultry, sheep, goat and pig) were also being operated in different parts of the country at different ICAR institutes, State Agricultural / Veterinary Universities and Non-Governmental Organizations. Against the proposal of Rs. 280 crore an outlay of Rs. 225.00 crore BE which was 19.64 % lower was approved. The Committee noted that

programmers of Network Project on Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal, National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal including Network on Research & Development, Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar, Central Institute for Research on Goats, Makhdoom, Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Hissar, Network on Buffaloes Hissar, National Institute on Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bengaluru, NRC on Camel, Bikaner, NRC on Equine, Hissar, Veterinary Type Culture, AICRP on Cattle Research, Meerut, Central Avian Research Institute Izatnagar, Project Directorate on Poultry, Hyderabad, Network on Gastro Intestinal Parasitism, Izatnager and NRC on Mithuu, Jharnapani Nagaland Animal Science Institutes, were affected due to the lower allocation to the tune of 76.47%, 31.35%, 41.66, 50.76, 47.5%, 53.75%, 51.14%, 34.78%, 45.71%, 33.33%, 37%, 56.75%, 50%, 66.25%, funds, respectively. The projects of Animal Science Division assumes special significance, as they directly impact small and marginal farmers. The Committee, therefore, recommended the Department to review the proposals of these Centres and consider re appropriation of funds with the Divisions so that the priority research of these Centres did not suffer in the current Fiscal.

1.44 The Government in their Action Taken Reply have stated that they have agreed with the recommendation that the research activities of priority concerns in Animal Sciences are likely to be affected due to lower allocation of funds. However, the proposed research activities to be undertaken in the XII Five Year Plan are as follows;

1. "Embryo bio-technology including cloning, transgenics, modern biotechnological tools including stem cell technology.
2. Enhancing livestock productivity viz. broiler and egg production, milk, meat and wool production including by products through fertility enhancement and elite germplasm production.
3. Enhancing nutritional value of milk, meat and poultry products through incorporation of nutraceuticals and value addition.
4. Conservation of Animal Genetic Resources and whole genome analysis for marker assisted selection.
5. Sero-surveillance and monitoring of livestock and poultry diseases, bio-

containment of zoonotic diseases and highly pathogenic diseases for their effective handling and control.

6. Development of accurate diagnostic kits and novel vaccines for disease diagnosis and their control.”

These activities will be the priority concern for allocation of funds in the current plan period.

1.45 The Committee are not satisfied with the Reply of the Government. Though the Department has stated that it agrees with the recommendation of the Committee, nothing has been mentioned as to what action has been taken or proposed to be taken to implement the recommendation. The Committee would like the Department to ensure that research activities of priority concerns in Animal Sciences do not suffer in the current financial year for want of funds.

CHAPTER – II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation Para No. 1.4

The Committee note that the Action Taken Replies regarding the action taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Thirty-Second Report of the Committee were furnished by the Government within the stipulated three months and the Statement of the Minister under Director 73-A was made within the stipulated six months period. An analysis of the action taken by the Government reveals that 57% Recommendations have been accepted, 29% Recommendations have not been accepted and 11% of Recommendations are in the various stages of implementation. While the Committee hope and trust that the Department will continue to adhere to the stipulations laid down under Direction 73-A in future, in letter and spirit.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Noted for compliance.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

Recommendation Para No. 2.18

Sustainable development, climate change, bio-security, bio-safety are some of the upfront areas requiring detailed research. The development of appropriate technology for conservation management and sustainable utilisation of natural resources, to ensure food, nutritional and environmental security; deteriorating productivity of resources, profitability of small land holdings, dry-land agriculture, farm

mechanisation etc. are some of the challenges confronting Indian agriculture. Many of the challenges have there been in the past and some owe their genesis to fast changes contemporary scenario. Some of the challenges have been tamed and very long distance ought to be travelled before the new and novel manifestations are win over. The technology-driven agriculture with farmers' centric approach calls for anticipatory research of various agro-ecological conditions instead of adaptive research. Recent empirical studies have revealed that investment in Agriculture Research and Development is one of the factors contributing to substantially reduction in rural poverty by stimulating agriculture growth and reducing food prices, globally. In the Indian context, results have shown that about 13.5 rupees are returned for every rupee invested in Agriculture Research and Development. Another study to quantify outcome of research, found that around ¼ growth in output of wheat and cotton, 1/5th in case of bajra and 13% in paddy and maize, were due to toil and labour put by research and development works. The primacy of agriculture R&D in the development process is second to none. The Committee desire that investment in Agriculture R&D be stepped up, so as to obtain high returns, further the Committee trust and hope that the Indian scientists and technocrats will continue to strive hard, as before and overcome the challenges besetting Indian agriculture, on war footing, by developing appropriate mitigating strategies & technology, for the benefit of farmers.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Government agrees with the recommendation that the investment in R&D be stepped up to obtain high returns by developing mitigating strategies & technology for the benefit of farmers. In this context, the crop improvement programmes of ICAR will give more emphasis on crop yield, quality and tolerance/ resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses and making crops able to withstand the weather extremities. The recent achievements in the field of sequencing of genomes of important plants and microbes may be gainfully utilized in this regard. Targeted integration of economically important genes for crop improvement through structural and functional genomics/ molecular breeding in major field crops will be strengthened. ICAR's proposal for XII plan envisions the scenario of judiciously integrating conventional plant breeding, molecular

biology, bioinformatics, genetic engineering, human resource and infrastructural development. For this, inter-disciplinary and inter-departmental research platform in consortium mode on hybrids, agro-biodiversity management, genomics, bio-fortification and seeds are proposed through Consortia Research Platforms.

Further ICAR is developing location specific eco friendly low cost farm technologies in farmers' participatory mode with due consideration of farmers' resource availabilities to overcome the challenges and to resolve problems of farming community.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

SOIL MAPPING
(Recommendation Para No. 2.19)

Inventory of soil resources including soil map is one of the basic tool as it guides suitability of various crops. Keeping the farmers constantly updated of soil health profile, mapping and geo-reference database of micro and micro-nutrients play a major role in improving the agriculture production in the Country. The Committee are concerned to find that geo-referenced soil fertility maps for only 152 districts have been prepared out of 171 selected districts and remaining 19 districts are likely to be completed by September, 2013. The Department has been assigned a target of 62 districts in the current fiscal and 300 Districts in the XII Five Plan. The Department is working with other organizations like Indian Space Research Organisation, National Remote Sensing Agency etc. in close tandem. Since the geo-reference database help in working out the exact nutrient requirement especially micro-nutrients of a crop in the field, the Committee, therefore, desire that the Department to review their targets and complete geo-reference of all the 600 odd Districts in the Twelfth Five Year Plan itself. They further desire the Department to work out the additional financial requirement needed for completion of major and micro nutrients geo-reference map and prevail upon the Planning Commission and the Government to liberally fund the project during the current Five Year Plan period.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Developing geo-referenced soil fertility maps for different districts of the country was undertaken by the Council for 171 districts in first phase funded by DAC, Ministry of Agriculture under National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility. The DAC is likely to take up rest of the districts in subsequent phases through respective state Governments involving state soil testing laboratories. However, the Council may accept the same if offered by DAC.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

Comments of the Committee

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

SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS **(Recommendation Para No. 2.20)**

In a country, where a large section of the farmers are small and marginal with low land holdings, inadequate purchasing power and lack of access to credit and extension services, it is but desirable that appropriate farm technologies to cater to their specific needs, be evolved. It is a matter of great relief that the Council has initiated an AICRP on Integrated Farming System for small and marginal farmers of different agro-ecological zones to increase productivity and profitability. The multi-enterprise system involves crops, horticulture, agro forestry, livestock, fisheries, poultry, piggery, mushroom cultivation and bee-keeping with the potential to increase productivity. The Committee note that the cluster farming system has been undertaken in some states and Integrated farming system units set up in 50 KVKs to demonstrate the suitability of integrated farming system models. Keeping in view of the interest of small and marginal

farmers, the Committee, desire the Department to increase the number of KVKs for demonstration of integrated farming system models expeditiously. The rise in input costs, dearth of labour etc. contribute significantly to the end cost of agriculture produce. Farm mechanisation is one of key to growth, for so called progressive farmers and can afford cost of such implements and machineries. Economy of scale may not appropriately suit farm machineries and implements, to be used in small land holdings. The unique characteristic of small and marginal farmers, thus calls for introduction and development of low cost, light weight, multi-purpose farm equipments and tools for their benefit. The Committee desire that appropriate steps including technological innovation and support be extended to small and marginal farmers. Action taken by the Government may be apprised to the Committee.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Horticulture is best option for diversification and system productivity for small holdings. Horticulture crops such as flowers, medicinal and aromatic plants, and vegetable crops under protected cultivation, mushrooms, bee farming and post harvest processing and preparation of value-added products can fetch more prices in the market. Further, considering adoption of Integrated Farming System (IFS) as the most appropriate approach in meeting the challenges of small-farm-agriculture, the Council has strengthened the ongoing AICRP on Integrated Farming System (IFS) during current Plan with an allocation of Rs. 149.5 crores. The project is presently operational in 32 centres. Once the models are developed, the same will be popularized through different KVKs.

Development of low cost and light weight farm tools and implements is a continuing endeavor of the AICRPs on Farm Implements and Machinery, Utilisation of Animal Energy and Ergonomics and Safety in Agriculture. Several farm implements and machines have been developed for various power sources. Simple and low cost tools and implements can be owned by the farmers and the larger, expensive machines are available on custom-hiring basis which are quite popular in various states of the country. Small farmers are getting benefits of high capacity machines through custom hiring services.

Fisheries Research Institutes have developed technologies for small scale aqua farming in pond, seed production, coastal aquaculture, marine and inland aquaculture, mussel farming, oyster farming, poly-lined pond culture systems and ornamental fish culture for the benefit of small & marginal farmers. Open sea cage farming is another opportunity where field demonstrations have been conducted with active participation of fishermen including tribals in different regions of east and west coast of India. Hygienic fish drying/ smoking technologies and value addition to low value fishes developed will also help poor farmers to fetch more price for their commodity.

As suggested by the committee, 424 more number of integrated farming system units have been proposed in the EFC for establishment in KVKs during XII Plan.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.13 of Chapter – I of this Report.

Recommendation Para No. 2.21

The subsequent narratives deals with details examination of the working of the Department in terms of implementation of its Schemes and financial performance during the Fiscal, 2012-13 and projections for the year 2013-14. The Committee desire that the Demand No.2 of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) be approved.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Complied with.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

OVERVIEW OF DEMANDS **(Recommendation Para No. 3.31)**

The Committee note that as per Demand No. 2 pertaining to Department of Agricultural Research and Education a sum of Rs. 5729.17 crore has been allocated to the Department at BE for the current Fiscal. Out of this Rs. 3415.00 crore has been a part of Plan side which is 26.20 % higher than the RE of previous financial year and 26.97 % lower than the proposal of the Department i.e. 4676.32 crore. On the Non Plan side the Department has allocated a sum of Rs. 2314.17 crore as BE 2013-14 which is 9.25 % more than RE of Rs. 2100.00 crore for the previous Fiscal. The Annual Plan Outlay of the Department which is Rs. 5729.17 crore is also to be seen in the context of total Outlay of Rs. 25,553 crore communicated by the Planner to the DARE for the Twelfth Five Year Plan. The Committee note that as in the past the Department has again failed to change the mindset of the Planner and the Government in the matter of allocation of funds to DARE during the current Fiscal also. This is a undoubted fact that Indian Agriculture has been facing a large number of challenges as narrated in previous chapter which will require capital intensive solutions, seems to have been given a go by the Planners and the Government. Both of them have, again in this Second year of the Twelfth Five Year Plan, too failed to understand the urgency of timely infusion of capital in the system so as to give an impetus for developing technologies for the emerging challenges. The Committee, therefore, recommend that allocations to the Department in the ongoing Fiscal be reconsidered and enhanced accordingly at the RE stage by when, hopefully EFC/SFC approval of the schemes will be cleared.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The EFC/SFC processes of the plan scheme are at various stages of formulation/approval. As advised by the committee the department will be approaching the Planning commission/ Ministry of Finance for enhanced allocation at RE stage.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.16 of Chapter – I of this Report.

OUTCOME BUDGET **(Recommendation Para No. 3.32)**

Outcome Budget broadly indicates the physical dimensions of financial budget as also the actual physical programmes of the Department. It also records performance of first Nine months of the a Fiscal year and targeted performance for the year ahead. The Ministry of Finance issues instructions to various Ministries and Department for presentation of Outcome Budget Document in a uniform format in the Parliament. The scrutiny by the Committee has revealed that DARE has not observed the guidelines of the Ministry of Finance in preparation of the document in letter and spirit. For instance, minute details as required under the instant guidelines, have not been reflected in Chapter II to V, religiously and in clear terms. Further, as admitted by the Department, the information contained in Chapters V & VI, were inter-changed, though inadvertently. The Committee take strong note of the failure to adhere to the stipulations and other minute details, contained in the instant instructions, and also the so called “inadvertent mistakes” in the Outcome Budget. The Committee is of the view that due care and caution has not been exercised in the process of compilation and presentation of the Document to Parliament and its authorities. Appropriate action to correct the mistakes, be taken and the Parliament apprised thereof. The Committee also desire that DARE should meticulously follow the instructions of Ministry of Finance and present their error free Outcome Budget, in the ensuing year.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Department has furnished the requisite information in annexure I of the outcome budget as already indicated in the tabular form, but assures for compliance of the instructions of Ministry of Finance outlined in chapter II. This could be done with a thoughtful consideration to make things easy and clear. Précised forms of achievements have been given for concerned sectors in Chapters IV, as scheme wise outcomes have

already been furnished in chapter II. Inadvertent mistake as noticed will not be allowed to recur.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

FUNDS UTILISATION
(Recommendation Para No. 3.33)

The Committee note that the figures for the Financial Year 2008-09 and 2009-10 submitted in the Committee last year, have been changed in the documents submitted to them this year. The Department has communicated the final figure for expenditure of 2011-12 Rs. 2765.27 against the expenditure of Rs. 1654.58 crore till January, 2012 communicated previous year. The Committee find that Rs. 1195.47 crore (Rs. 2765.27 – 1654.58) has added in two months expenditure of the Department. Out of the allocated amount, the Department has been unable to utilize Rs. 524.98 crore (10325.75 – 9800.77) during Eleventh Five Year Plan period. The trend of expenditure clearly reveals that the Department has failed to observe the instructions/guidelines of Ministry of Finance regarding monthly expenditure plan. From the quarterly expenditure, the Committee found that for 2011-12 the expenditure is 28 % in the last quarter and for 2012-13 is 11 %. There was NIL expenditure in the Second Quarter in ICAR Plan and Non Plan side during the year 2012-13. The Committee note with a great sense of disappointment that despite several assurance given by the Department on the previous recommendations regarding utilization of funds by them have again failed to utilized 100 % of their allocation. They therefore, strongly feel that the Department to review the functioning of their funds utilization mechanism to check recurrence of such trend in future and apprise the outcome.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Department has noted the observation of the Committee regarding the fund utilization mechanism for strict future compliance.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.19 of Chapter – I of this Report.

UNSPENT BALANCES **(Recommendation Para No. 3.34)**

The Committee note that the Department has again surrendered unspent balances to the tune of Rs. 201.58 crore for Financial Year 2010-11 and Rs. 108.89 crore for F.Y. 2011-12 to the Government. The reasons regarding EFC/SFC documents, delay in release of funds and operation of institutes from different locations etc. tendered by the Department before the Committee are not convincing. The Committee note that while the Department argue forcefully to step its allocation and at the same time return the past years unspent balance, do reflect poorly on the performance and planning process monitoring mechanism of the Department. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to revisit their existing funds utilization mechanism and over the whole system so as to ensure that the funds once allocated are fully utilized by various Divisions in the remaining period of the Twelfth Five Year Plan.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Department has taken note of this Recommendation. The Regular monitoring of utilization of funds is being done in the monthly expenditure review meetings. The requisition based release is undertaken to meet the expenditure demands in order to ensure optimum utilisation of allocated funds.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

Recommendation Para No. 3.36

The Committee note that 44% of proposed outlay of the Department has been reduced by the Planner for Twelfth Five Year Plan. The pace of progress of important

research programmes like genomics work in horticultural plants, markets for desirable traits stem cell research will be slackened due to the cut. The strengthening of existing KVKs including new initiatives viz. Consortia Research Platform (CRP) on Agri-biodiversity Management Genomics and Molecular Breeding etc. will too be affected due to reduced allocation during the XII Plan. In addition to that new initiatives like National Agricultural Education Project, Farmers First, Student Ready, ARYA etc will be slackened. It is a matter of deep concern that High end Research Projects such as Agro-biodiversity, Genomics, Nanotechnology, Conservation Agriculture, Health Foods, Farm Mechanisation etc. which are component of CRP, may either had to be shelved or postponed indefinitely. The Committee appreciating the constraints of ICAR for slackening these important programmes would like to advise the Department to again draw attention of the Planner and the Government on the gravity thereof and ask enlarge funds to complete these activities as to overcome the challenges faced by Indian Agriculture.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

ICAR's proposal for XII plan envisions this scenario of judiciously integrating conventional plant breeding, molecular biology, bioinformatics, genetic engineering, human resource and infrastructural development, Farm Mechanization, Energy in Agriculture, Secondary Agriculture, Health Foods and Natural Fibres through the Consortia Research Platform (CRP). These CRPs have been conceived keeping in mind the evolving scenario of agriculture in the country and to address them with appropriate research and development interventions.

DARE/ICAR would be seeking higher allocation of funds for completion of these activities to overcome the challenges faced by Indian Agriculture.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.26 of Chapter – I of this Report.

CROP SCIENCE **(Recommendation Para No. 4.57)**

Development of new crop varieties, with improved yield and nutritional quality alongwith technical support are some of the mandate assigned to ICAR. The Committee note that for Crop Science Division an Outlay of Rs. 468.00 crore was approved against the proposal of Rs. 628.01 crore. The financial proposals of the National Institute of Biotic Stress Management, Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology, Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur and Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi have been drastically down-sized by almost 93.33 %, 92.5 %, 77.56 % and 64.78 % respectively. On the other hand some of the programmes and projects have received enhanced allocations at BE stage. The Department has lamented that the reduction would influence the procurement of research materials and cost of the laboratory/field work force. Further, upon reassessment of the operational cost upward revision effected in some of the projects. Such unprofessional and casual approach at planning stage itself points towards mismanagement in the Crop Science Division which resulted in either drastically reducing the allocation or revising the cost upwards. They therefore, recommend the Department to reapprove the projects so that need based provision made for the purpose.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The proposal for higher allocation was initially made for some of the institutions of Crop Science division tentatively taking into account certain newer initiatives in respect of infrastructure development. However, these were downsized subsequently due to envisaged delay in EFC finalization and to optimize the expenditure of the

budgetary allocation. It is ensured that these programmes and the projects will not suffer any budgetary constraints.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

HORTICULTURE
(Recommendation Para No. 4.59)

Genetic resource management and development of improved varieties of horticulture crop, biotic and abiotic resistance, export-value, as also standardization of technique for rapid propagation and horticulture based cropping pattern are some of the issues connected with Horticulture Division.

The Committee note that the Department have not made any changes in the proposals of the Horticulture Division for 2013-14. The Division has been able to utilize 73.86 % of their RE grant (upto January 2013). Some of the institutes like Central Institute of Sub Topical Horticulture, Lucknow, Central Institute of Arid Horticulture, Bikaner, Central Plantatio Crops Research Institute, Kasargod and Director of Floriculture, New Delhi unable to utilize more than 26 % of their allocation upto January, 2013 which improved belatedly in the month of February, 2013. Under utilization of funds is a cause of concern to the Committee. For the purpose of finalization or reallocations, prioritization and also EFC's clearances, discussions were held in March, 2013. The Committee, desire the Department to complete the finalization of EFC / SFC and other formalities of various schemes of the Division. Further, there is an imperative need to strengthen the implementation mechanism of the Horticulture Division so that the targets assigned for of the Twelfth Five Year Plan are realised. At the same time, corrective actions need to be taken to ensure utilization of funds prudently.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The focused areas envisaged are being addressed through Consortia Research Platform and Challenge Programme such as Agro-biodiversity, hybrids, molecular breeding, diagnostics, seeds and secondary agriculture. Efforts are being made to

complete formalities for the finalization of EFC/SFC of various schemes of the Division so that the targets assigned for the Twelfth Five Year Plan could be realised.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.33 of Chapter – I of this Report.

AGRICULTURE EXTENSION (Recommendation Para No. 4.60)

Agriculture Extension has a major scheme of disseminating knowledge and information to the farmers. The Krishi Vigyan Kendras during 2012-13, assessed refined and demonstrated technologies through 29,428 on-farm trials, 1.31 lakh front-line demonstrations in different farming system. Under NICRA project 100 KVKs also demonstrated climate resilient technologies through 23441 demonstrations in the country. The Committee further find that out of 632 KVKs in the country, the Department has been able to provide Administrative buildings to 554 KVKs, trainees hostel to 490 KVKs, staff quarters to 442 KVKs, demonstration units to 394 KVKs and soil and water testing facilities to 389 KVKs. The Committee find major deficiencies in the operation of KVKs. At places they are non-operational for want of project coordinator/specialist and other administrative staff, lack of infrastructure etc. Some of KVKs have failed to extend professional advise expected from them. Bridging the yawning gap recorded at demonstration and farmers field, is another area of the concern. The Committee desire that the functioning of KVKs be relooked into and the specific pitfalls brought so in the Report be made good. At the same time, the infrastructure such as Administrative buildings, trainees hostel, staff quarters, demonstration units and soil and water testing facilities, be provided in a time bound manner in the remaining KVKs. The bottlenecks in achieving demonstration level yields at farm levels by identified and appropriate actions taken to narrow the productivity gap

further. The Committee find that private participation in agriculture extension through the institutions of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) has not yielded the desired results, since the private players allegedly, pursue limited agenda of promoting their products driven by profit motives under the guise of agriculture extension. Such deficiencies were admitted by Secretary, DARE during his deposition before the Committee. Under such a scenario, the private participated KVK do not attend to major components of extension services, leaving farmers in a lurch. The holistic approach of dissemination of information and farm knowledge to farmers, through KVK, which is a guiding philosophy, is given a decent burial by the private participated KVK. The Committee view this with all the seriousness, it deserves and would like the Department to appraise the quality and reach of extension services rendered by private players. The Committee desire that Government should ensure that KVK including private KVKs provide all the mandated activities to the farmers, without any exception. At the same time the allocations for KVKs be stepped up, so as to ensure that only State supported KVKs function, in the country.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

As regards inadequate infrastructures in KVKs, it is stated that as per availability of funds the required and need based infrastructure in the remaining KVKs will be provided during XII Plan. With regard to bottlenecks in achieving demonstration level yields at farm level, it is pertinent to mention that other factors like non-availability of adequate agro- inputs like seed, fertilizers, plant protection chemicals etc. credit, irrigation facilities in time to farmers also work as constraining factors in achieving higher yields by farmers. The KVKs have no control over such factors. Moreover, the main extension system, which is responsible for reducing the yield gaps between demonstrated technologies and yields obtained by farmers is operated by the State Governments. However, after demonstrating the production potential of agricultural technologies in farmers field through front-line demonstrations on different crops, the KVKs conduct a number of follow up activities like field days, kisan gosthis, technology week and other awareness creating programmes with the participation of farmers and extension personnel. As far as the issue of private participation in Agriculture Extension

through KVKs is concerned, it is stated that all the KVKs are provided 100% financial support by ICAR. Few KVKs have also taken up selected extension activities on the public private partnership (PPP) mode on technologies which are tested and recommended by Agricultural Universities and Research Institutions. These activities are taken up within the scope of work of KVKs without diluting the mandated activities. However, as per the observation of the Committee the KVKs have been advised to be careful while working in PPP mode not to allow the private partners to pursue their agenda of promoting their products using KVK platform. Regarding stepping up of allocations to KVKs it is stated that funds allocation to KVKs was increased from Rs. 435.40 crore in 2012-13 to Rs. 496.88 crore in 2013-14.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.36 of Chapter – I of this Report.

Recommendation Para No. 4.61

The Committee note that the entire expenditure of the KVKs is booked under Plan Head and is reported to be the main cause for delay in making provision for infrastructure developments. They therefore, desire the Department to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance so as to fund Krishi Vigyan Kendras from Non-Plan allocation.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The proposal for funding of KVKs from Non-Plan budget has already been mooted for consideration by Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.39 of Chapter – I of this Report.

Recommendation Para No. 4.62

During 2012-13 out of Rs. 450.00 crore RE the Division has been able to utilize only Rs. 291.26 crore upto January, 2013. This shows the tardy trend in the expenditure in the Division. The Committee desire the Department to revisit the funds utilization and monitoring mechanism of that Division so as to utilize the funds prudently so as to meet the targets of Twelfth Five Year Plan.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

As suggested by the Committee, the funds utilization will be monitored on quarterly basis to ensure its prudent utilization so as to meet the targets of Twelfth Five Year Plan.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

Recommendation Para No. 4.63

The Committee have observed that in the context of drought prevailing in various parts of the country, ICAR has developed a number of technologies, for drought proofing. Similarly, demonstration and training organised by CAZRI, Jodhpur and CRIDA, Hyderabad in drought affected districts of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Rajasthan, as part of NICRA. District level contingency plan to meet aberrant weather contingency like delay in monsoon, mid-seasonal break in monsoon, unseasonal rain, heavy floods, cyclone, cold waves, heat waves prepared for 400 districts. While appreciating the work of ICAR in mitigating sufferings of farmers, the Committee desire

that KVKs should disseminate information / knowledge in the districts under their jurisdiction, so as to contain the ill effects of drought.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

In order to contain the ill effects of drought and other adverse climatic conditions, the KVKs prepare and implement contingency plan of their activities based on the technologies developed by ICAR Institutes and Agricultural Universities. Besides, 100 KVKs are also involved in demonstrating climate resilient technologies under NICRA project.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

AGRICULTURE EDUCATION **(Recommendation Para No. 4.64)**

The Agriculture Education is being imparted in the country by 55 Agriculture Universities, 5 Deemed to be Universities and 4 Central Universities having Agricultural faculties. To promote the talent, an All India Entrance Examination for Admission to UG level course for 15 % seats and to PG level courses for 25 % seats are held annually. The ICAR supports strengthening and development of agricultural education to develop student amenities like Educational Museum, Sports complex, Smart Class Rooms, Examination Hall, Boys and Girls Hostel etc. supports to promote niche area of excellence, hands on training, Library for education quality and reforms. Due to reduced allocation no new works, purchase of equipment has been undertaken by the universities for strengthening and development of Higher Agriculture Education during the current Fiscal. The Committee appreciate the assistance being provided by the DARE/ICAR. They further desire the Department to utilize funds expeditiously and raise additional funds under the Head at RE stage.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The programmes initiated in XI Plan will be continuing in the XII Plan also and the objectives of the project are aligned with the mainstream thrust areas, as enunciated in the XII Plan document of the Planning Commission. Ensuring Access, Equity, and Quality assurance in higher agricultural education shall be emphasized. Promoting holistic higher agricultural education by blending knowledge, skill and attitude shall be the priority for :

- Engendering and social inclusiveness in education
- Performance linked support
- Institution Development and reforms in governance.
- Faculty development by enlarging faculty resources and supporting research programme of teachers associated with Agriculture Universities.
- Attracting talent to higher agricultural education

The Universities will be encouraged to utilize the funds expeditiously & effectively and additional demand at RE stage shall be raised. Effective approval of E.F.C. will be taken up and equipment procured as per provisions.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

Recommendation Para No. 4.65

The Committee have taken serious note of lack of enthusiasm amongst youth of the country, to take agriculture, as a career and profession, probably on the grounds of limited employment opportunities, unfavourable returns as compared to service sector etc. This calls for introspection of whole gamut of agriculture education system in the country and employability. The Committee feel that being agrarian economy, expansion of agriculture education should not halt. The avenues of employment be raised exponentially. At the same time, policy on Central Agriculture University as recommended by the Committee each be expedited. The Committee would like to be apprised of action taken in the matter.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

In order to promote reach and visibility of agricultural education in the country, policy on higher agricultural education has been developed after a critical analysis of current agricultural education system in the country. Similarly, a proposal has been moved to constitute a committee to develop detailed guidelines for establishment of Central Agricultural Universities in the country.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.42 of Chapter – I of this Report.

HUMAN RESOURCE **(Recommendation Para No. 4.66)**

Development of Human Resources, is key to ushering Agriculture growth. To meet the challenge and future requirement of agriculture scientist the Department has set up CAU at Imphal and four Deemed to be Universities i.e. IARI, New Delhi IVRI, Izatnagar, NDRI, Karnal and CIFE, Mumbai. The Committee have taken note of intake and manpower of some of the Agricultural Institutes. It has been noted that there exists an annual intake capacity of 545 in CAU Imphal and 115 UG & 128 PG, 140 UG & 97 PG, 22 UG & 132 PG, and 166 at IARI, IVRI, NDRI and CIFE respectively. Against this intake, the actual enrolment in CAU Imphal is 331 which are supervision of 218 teachers/faculties. Similarly in IARI, against 241 students there are 542 teachers/faculties. In IVRI against 222 students, there are 232 teachers/faculties, NDRI against 227 there are 146 teachers/faculties and CIFE against 129 students there are 52 teachers/faculties. The Committee have a growing feeling that number of teachers/faculties engaged in all these needs to be reviewed by the Department and the Committee be apprised of the outcome thereof.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The total number of students enrolled in the CAU, Imphal is 922 in UG and 200 in PG including 1st to 5th year and therefore, the strength of teachers/faculty may be viewed accordingly.

As regards ICAR Deemed Universities viz. IARI, New Delhi, IVRI, Izatnagar, NDRI, Karnal and CIFE, Mumbai are premier research institutes established with the mandate to conduct research, post graduate education and transfer of technologies in the areas of agriculture, animal health and production, dairy sciences and fisheries respectively. The faculty of these institutes is involved in all the activities performing tripartite role for which most of the scientists are often working beyond the normal office hours. For example, there are 542 scientists inducted as faculty for teaching post graduate students in 24 disciplines of M.Sc., M.Tech. and Ph.D. Programs at IARI, New Delhi. Of these 366 faculty is from IARI and the remaining is from its sister institutes located in IARI campus viz. IASRI/NBPGR/NRCPB/DMR/DFR/NCIPM/NCAP where post graduate programmes in Agricultural Statistics, Bioinformatics, Computer Application and Plant Genetic Resources are being offered. The Institute has 108 in-house projects, 170 externally funded projects, 5 challenge programs and 12 outreach programs, which are being executed by scientists of IARI who are involved in teaching activity as faculty also in order to carry out research. Further, it may be pertinent to mention here that annual intake of the students in IARI is 242 only but on roll students are 645.

IVRI, Izatnagar offers Master's and Ph.D. programme in 22 and 20 disciplines respectively and National Diploma courses in 9 disciplines besides several short-term specialized training courses to the professionals and vocational trainings to the farmers. Beside the IVRI faculty is handling number of international, multi-institutional, multi-divisional and other projects like All India Coordinated Research Projects (2); All India Networking Programmes (9); DBT Projects (17); ICAR Funded Projects (3); National Fund for Basic and Strategic Frontier Area Research in Agriculture (7); National Agricultural Innovation Project (15); Outside funded Projects (21); International Collaborative Research Projects (4) and Institute Projects (111). In the year 2011-12,

Scientists of the institute have published a total of 405 research papers (Indian journals -213; Foreign journals-192) in journals of repute. The institute have filed 12 new patents, 3 copy rights & 4 design registration applications and commercialized 4 technologies during the year. It may also be mentioned that the present total strength of students of 2 year's duration of MVSc. & 3 year's duration of Ph.D. is about 600, which is being taught & guided by the faculty of IVRI.

Similarly, NDRI, Karnal- a premier institute in Research & Development of Dairy Sector is mandated for research in Dairy process, production and marketing and Human Resource Management to meet requirements of Dairy Industry and dissemination of innovative technologies for socio-economic transformation. Therefore, all the Scientists are engaged not only in teaching but also in research, extension, consultancy and technology transfer as per mandate of the institute. Considering that B.Tech is of four years duration; Master's degree of two years duration and Ph. D. of minimum three years duration, the present students on roll in B.Tech., M.Sc./M.V.Sc./M.Tech, Ph.D. are 140, 257, 398 respectively, which comes out to be a total of 795 students. In addition, a new programme viz. National Diploma (Dairy Technology) with annual intake of 25 students of 3 years duration is to be initiated from this academic session. Therefore, the present physical strength of 146 is required to be increased so as to make it to the sanctioned strength of 227 to achieve the targets as per the mandate.

At CIFE, Mumbai the faculty is also actively engaged in research of both institute based projects and externally funded research programmes, besides teaching, training and extension programmes. Currently, CIFE, Mumbai has 58 teachers for about 260 students of Masters and Doctoral programmes. The academic programmes and requirements of students & staff are continuously reviewed by the institute's Academic Council and QRT and their recommendations have been implemented from time to time to offer academic programmes effectively and to utilize the services of faculty efficiently.

Therefore, in view of the above it is evident that there is only an optimum number of faculty in these deemed universities, to undertake these multifarious huge tripartite activities and responsibilities.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER
(Recommendation Para No. 4.67)

From the latest information furnished by the Department regarding the vacant position the Committee note that there are 1895 vacancies in the Scientific Cadre against the sanctioned 6472 posts. In the Technical cadre the situation is not very good it has 891 vacancies out of 6635 sanctioned posts. On Administrative side out of total 4891 posts 580 are vacant. The Divisions like Crops Science, Animal Science, NRM, Fisheries, Engineering and Education are the worst suffer of the shortage of Scientists. The Committee have been greatly concerned about the vacancies in scientific, technical and administrative cadres in ICAR and had urged upon Government to take appropriate administrative measures. However, result oriented action, has not been taken so far. 29% vacancy in scientific cadre is a great cause of concern since it directly impact the pace and quality of R&D work in Agriculture Sector. As an interim measures, ICAR should consider extension of services of scientists of proven merit, with national / international track record of research. At the same time, the Department should strengthen the existing recruitment procedure and prepare an action plan to fill the vacant posts in a time bound manner.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Regarding scientists final result of the ARS Examination 2012 for filling up 431 positions of Entry level Scientists is expected by September – October, 2013. Another 75 selectees of ARS Examination 2011, who had been granted extension of joining time to complete their Ph.D thesis are likely to join in next two-three months. Further, about 400 entry level positions are expected to be filled up annually in the coming years.

As clarified in replies submitted earlier, recruitment in other senior scientific positions is a continuous process. Recruitment action is at different stages in the Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board (ASRB) for filling up about 500 positions on lateral entry basis.

To address the situation of applicants not being found suitable, the essential qualifications have recently been fine-tuned and made broad-based so as to attract larger number of applicants to fill up scientific positions on lateral entry basis.

In order to retain and utilize services of Scientists of proven merit, the ICAR has following three schemes :-

- (i) National Professor : 10 slots
- (ii) National Fellow : 25 slots
- (iii) Emeritus Scientists : 50 slots

It is also proposed to increase the existing number of slots in the above schemes, and also to engage Post Doctoral Fellows (PDFs) in the XII Plan to address shortage of scientific manpower.

Recruitment in the Administrative and Technical categories is decentralized. Instructions have already been issued to all units for filling up vacancies expeditiously. Efforts being made in this regard are monitored closely.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

FARM MECHANIZATION / AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING **(Recommendation Para No. 4.68)**

Farm mechanization and availability of adequate farm power are crucial for timely farm operations, handling the crop produce, increasing production and productivity and reducing post harvest losses. With the increase in intensity of cropping, the turnaround time is drastically reduced, which demands availability of adequate power for time farm operations so that land is made available for subsequent crop. Similarly, for precision farming, increasing area under irrigation, conservation tillage, straw management and diversification of agriculture, more power is required for water lifting and precision placement / application of agricultural inputs such as seed, fertilizer, irrigation water, plant protection chemicals etc. The Committee desire that farm mechanization should be accorded a higher degree of priority so as to address the issue of scarcity of farm labour during peak agricultural season.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Research and development activities on farm mechanization including precision farming technologies, conservation agriculture, and straw management are being carried out at Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal with the cooperating centres of AICRP on Farm Implements and Machinery. The need for increasing the farm power availability on Indian farms has been given adequate attention in the XII Plan. A Consortia Research Platform on Farm Mechanization has been proposed with farm machinery manufacturing centres at different locations. These farm machinery manufacturing centres would manufacture and supply location-specific farm implements and would also serve as training centres for local entrepreneurs.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

Recommendation Para No. 4.69

A sum of Rs. 75.00 crore has been allocated under Major Head Agricultural Engineering for the current Fiscal against the proposal of Rs. 99.30 crore. The demand of funds for approximately Rs. 92.00 crore was received from various units/schemes of the Division. These demands was made while the financial year 2012-13 has completed only six to eight months and therefore, the demand was on the higher side for the year 2013-14. The Committee was shocked to know that the Division has prepared their proposals on the higher side and not in realistic manner. They therefore, recommend the Department to review the Budget estimation system of Agriculture Engineering Division. The Committee noted that the Division has utilized Rs. 34.32 crore upto January, 2013 out of RE allocation of Rs. 52.00 crore while submitting clarification regarding non-utilization of funds upto 31 January, 2013 was due to less expenditure reported by certain units under establishment charges. The Committee took serious view and recommend the Department to rework on the priorities of the Division and strengthen the funds utilization mechanism so that the targets of XII Five Year Plan in respect of the Divisions are achieved in remaining period of plan.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Efforts were made to expedite fund utilization by different units of Agricultural Engineering and it is seen that 99.83% (Rs 5191.39 lakhs) of the total allocation of Rs 5200 lakh was utilized by the end of financial year (2012-13). The proposals for the funds were made based on the demands received from different institutes/units. The allocation was reduced based on the actual funds received. The Department would rework on the priorities of the Division and strengthen the funds utilization mechanism so that the targets of XII Five Year Plan in respect of the Division are achieved in remaining period of plan.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT **(Recommendation Para No. 4.70)**

Institutes under Natural Resource Management Division have made significant achievements in improving soil health, promoting organic farming and agroforestry. There has been the reduction of 11 % funds at RE stage. Against the proposal of 351.40 crore an outlay of Rs. 310.00 crore has allocated. The Committee noted that National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur, Central Soil and Water Conservation Research & Training Institute, Dehradun, AICRP on Integrated Farming System + Organic Farming, Modipuram, NRC Agroforestry, ICAR Research Complex, Goa, NIASM, Malegaon and NICRA has registered a reduction of 34.16%, 60%, 23.52%, 20%, 33.33%, 22.5%, 21.97 and 18.18% respectively. The Committee have a growing feeling that the such a huge reduction of allocation of certain Institutes on the plea of reduction in over all allocation 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 reconsider the proposals of these institutes at the earliest and apprise the outcome. The Division has been able to utilize only 66.47 % of their RE allocation upto the end of January, 2013 several approved items of works / equipments could not be completed because of the codal formalities involved. They

strongly recommend the Department to review their internal funds utilization mechanism at the earliest so that the funds allocated to the Division are utilized fully.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The reduction of 11% in allocation of NRM Division in the RE 2012-13 (Plan) was due to reduction of allocation by the Ministry of Finance in the overall allocation of DARE/ICAR in the RE 2012-13 (Plan). Even though the utilization was 66.5% up to January 2013, it improved to 89% by the end of March 2013.

As regards internal mechanism for utilisation of funds allocated to the Institutes is being regularly monitored/reviewed through various forums such as SOC meetings, Divisional meetings, Expenditure Review meetings etc. However, all efforts will be made to ensure full utilisation of allocation by the institutes in future.

An allocation of Rs. 310.00 crores has been accorded to the NRM Division under BE 2013-14 (Plan) out of the the overall allocation of ICAR in BE 2013-14 (Plan). However, as a sequel to the recommendation of the Committee for enhancing the allocation of National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur, Central Soil and Water Conservation Research & Training Institute, Dehradun, AICRP on Integrated Farming System + Organic Farming, Modipuram, NRC Agroforestry, ICAR Research Complex, Goa, NIASM, Malegaon and NICRA, necessary steps are being taken separately to augment the allocation of these institutes/ AICRP; at the BE 2013-14 stage itself without waiting for the RE 2013-14 stage.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

ANIMAL SCIENCE **(Recommendation Para No. 4.71)**

Management and improvement of livestock is one of thrust area of Agriculture in the Country. To improve productivity, production and reproductive efficiency in livestock and poultry are major areas which are addressed by 18 animal science institutes comprising of 2 Deemed Universities, 5 Central Research Institutes, 01 National Bureau, 4 Project Directorates and 6 National Research Centres. The Division

also coordinates 7 All India Coordinated Research Projects and 7 Network Research Programmes. In addition, 2 Outreach programmes and 4 mega seed projects (poultry, sheep, goat and pig) are also being operated in different parts of the country at different ICAR institutes, State Agricultural / Veterinary Universities and Non-Governmental Organizations. Against the proposal of Rs. 280 crore an outlay of Rs. 225.00 crore BE which is 19.64 % lower has been approved. The Committee noted that programmers of Network Project on Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal, National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal including Network on Research & Development, Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar, Central Institute for Research on Goats, Makhdoom, Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes, Hissar, Network on Buffaloes Hissar, National Institute on Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bengaluru, NRC on Camel, Bikaner, NRC on Equine, Hissar, Veterinary Type Culture, AICRP on Cattle Research, Meerut, Central Avian Research Institute Izatnagar, Project Directorate on Poultry, Hyderabad, Network on Gastro Intestinal Parasitism, Izatnager and NRC on Mithuu, Jharnapani Nagaland Animal Science Institutes, are likely to be affected due to the lower allocation to the tune of 76.47%, 31.35%, 41.66, 50.76, 47.5%, 53.75%, 51.14%, 34.78%, 45.71%, 33.33%, 37%, 56.75%, 50%, 66.25%, funds, respectively. The projects of Animal Science Division assumes special significance, as they directly impact small and marginal farmers. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to review the proposals of these Centres and consider re appropriation of funds with the Divisions so that the priority research of these Centres do not suffer in the current Fiscal.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Agreed with the recommendation that the research activities of priority concerns in Animal Sciences are likely to be affected due to lower allocation of funds. However, the proposed research activities to be undertaken in the XII Five Year Plan are as follows;

1. "Embryo bio-technology including cloning, transgenics, modern biotechnologicaltools including stem cell technology.

2. Enhancing livestock productivity viz. broiler and egg production, milk, meat and wool production including by products through fertility enhancement and elite germplasm production.
3. Enhancing nutritional value of milk, meat and poultry products through incorporation of nutraceuticals and value addition.
4. Conservation of Animal Genetic Resources and whole genome analysis for marker assisted selection.
5. Sero-surveillance and monitoring of livestock and poultry diseases, bio-containment of zoonotic diseases and highly pathogenic diseases for their effective handling and control.
6. Development of accurate diagnostic kits and novel vaccines for disease diagnosis and their control.”

These activities will be the priority concern for allocation of funds in the current plan period.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para Nos. 1.45 of Chapter – I of this Report.

FISHERIES **Recommendation Para No. 4.72**

Against the proposal of Rs. 104.80 crore an outlay of Rs. 85.00 crore BE has approved. The Committee note that the allocation of Fisheries Division has reduced to 18.89 % at BE stage and there has an impact of 34.03%, reduction on the funds of Central Marine Fisheries Institutes, Kochi, 28.57% funds Central Institute Brackishwater Aquaculture, Chennai, 20.61% Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi and 20.83% National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow. The shortage of funds

will have impact on various important programmes like Networking Programs on Mariculture and Aquatic Animal Health Management, Species & System diversification and intensification of culture practices in freshwater and brackishwater. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to revisit the funds requirements of these Centres and Institutes and consider their proposals before RE stage. The Committee also noted that out of allocation of Rs. 69 crore the Fisheries Division has been able to utilize only Rs. 50.14 crore upto the end of January, 2013 and to monitor the funds utilization the Division initiated action on 15 March, 2013. The Committee desire the Department to strengthen the funds utilization mechanism of Fisheries Division so that the funds allocated are fully utilized.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Lower allocation of fund may have some impact on some of the programs like Networking Programs on Mariculture and Aquatic Animal Health Management, species & system diversification and intensification of culture practices in freshwater and brackishwater. Increase in plan funds allocation to the Fisheries Division will be considered at the time of submission of Revised Estimates depending upon the availability of plan funds.

Monthly monitoring of utilization of funds are being done at the Division and discussions with Directors of the institutes were held for full utilization of funds. Divisional meeting of Directors and Heads of Division of the Fisheries Research Institutes was convened by Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR on 15th March 2013 and after discussions during meeting, action was taken for full utilization of Plan funds. Though an amount of Rs. 50.14 crore was utilized out of allocation of Rs. 69 crore up to the end of January 2013 and by the end of March, 2013 it was Rs. 67.59 crore which was 98% of RE. However, steps will be taken to further strengthen the funds utilization mechanism of Fisheries Division so that the funds allocated are fully utilized.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

CHAPTER – III

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT
DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES**

- NIL -

CHAPTER - IV

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

TWELFTH PLAN OUTLAY **(Recommendation Para No.3.35)**

The Twelfth Plan Document though approved by NDC in December 2012 has been delayed considerably and is yet to see the light of day, despite several efforts made by the Committee during the previous years, the Department has proposed Rs. 57,887.21 crore for the XII Plan. The Working Group appointed by the Planning Commission has also recommended Rs. 55,000 as Twelfth Plan outlay for DARE/ICAR. The Department has been communicated the Gross Budgetary support of Rs. 25,553.00 crore for the XII Plan by the Planning Commission on September, 2012. The Committee do not appreciate the downsizing of allocation, if the communicated figure is taken on its face value which is less than 1% of Agriculture GDP. The Eleventh Plan document had unequivocally emphasized agriculture spending on NARS, to be 1% of Agriculture GDP. The Committee would also urge upon the Government to allocate 1% of Agriculture GDP for Agriculture Research and also rework on financial and other requirements of 1% investment of Agriculture GDP on Research. The Committee note with a great sense of disappointment that the exercise undertaken by the Working Group set up by the Planning Commission to suggest plan size, has been proved to be futile, as Planning Commission failed to honour the recommendations made by one of its authority. They therefore, desire the Government to make such examination/scrutiny of planning process, more realistic in future.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The report of Working Group on Research and Education constituted for the 12th Five Year Plan was duly considered by deciding the Gross Budgetary Support to the Department of Agriculture and Education. The 12th Five Year Plan document has kept the target for expenditure on agricultural research and education at 1% of the agricultural GDP. Such expenditure includes the expenditure incurred by the National

Agricultural Research System (NARS) which comprises both the Central and State Governments on plan and non-plan side. One of the targets of 11th Five Year Plan was raising the expenditure on agricultural research and education to the level of 1% of the agriculture and allied sectors' GDP. The 12th Five Year Plan has noted that as it turns out, research spending at 2006-07 prices, although reaching nearly 0.9% in 2010-11, averaged 0.7% during Eleventh plan. Part of the reason was a shortfall of about 20% in the Centre's Plan expenditure from that originally targeted, but the main reason was inadequate spending by States. While Centre's expenditure (non-Plan & Plan, including RKVY) increased 68% in real terms between Tenth and Eleventh Plan periods, corresponding States expenditures increased only 22%. In particular, non-Plan spending on SAUs increased less than 17%.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.22 of Chapter – I of this Report.

CHAPTER - V

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES TO THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

CROP SCIENCE **(Recommendation Para No. 4.58)**

The Committee also notice that only 52.13 % of the funds were utilized by the Division upto January, 2013 and the factors responsible for such slow phase were time taken in completion of processing of official procedures to procure spill over equipments. To utilize the RE, the Division has made re-appropriation amongst sub-heads for Grant for Capital/Salary/General through Divisional meetings. The Committee strongly recommend the Department to strengthen the monitoring mechanism of expenditure of the Crop Science Division to ensure that the Budget Estimates allocation of the Division are fully utilized in a time bound manner.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Suitable monitoring mechanism of expenditure of all the Schemes under Crop Science Division for utilization of funds would be put into place in addition to existing mechanism.

**[Vide Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
O.M No.7(6)/2013, dated 18th July, 2013]**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No. 1.29 of Chapter – I of this Report.

NEW DELHI;
26 November, 2013
05 Agrahayana, 1935 (Saka)

BASUDEB ACHARIA
Chairman,
Committee on Agriculture

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

(2013-14)

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 29 October, 2013 from 1100 hours to 1325 hours in Committee Room 'C' (G/F), Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Basudeb Acharia - Chairman

MEMBERS

LOKSABHA

2. Shri Sanjay Singh Chauhan
3. Shri H.D. Devegowda
4. Smt. Paramjit Kaur Gulshan
5. Shri Premdas Katheria
6. Shri P. Kumar
7. Smt. Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi
8. Sardar Sukhdev Singh Libra
9. Dr. Jyoti Mirdha
10. Shri Kachhadia Naranbhai
11. Dr. Vinay Kumar Pandey 'Vinnu'
12. Shri Hukmadeo Narayan Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

13. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi
14. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
15. Dr. K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao
16. Shri Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala
17. Shri Rajpal Singh Saini
18. Shri S. Thangavelu
19. Shri Darshan Singh Yadav

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri A. Louis Martin | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. Abha Singh Yaduvanshi | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri T.H. Rao | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Shri C. Vanlalruata | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee. Then, the Committee took up for consideration the following;

- (i) Memorandum No. 02 pertaining to the draft Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Forty-Seventh Report of the Committee on Agriculture (2012-13) on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education);

- * (ii) xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx
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- * (iii) xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx
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3. After some deliberations, the Committee approved the categorization of action taken replies as shown in the Memoranda and adopted the draft Reports without any modification. They authorized the Chairman to present these Reports to Parliament after getting them factually verified from the concerned Departments.

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The Committee then adjourned.

***Matter not related to this Report.**

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON
THE FORTY-SEVENTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE ON
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 2013-14 OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)**

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	27
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been Accepted by the Government	
	Para Nos. 1.4, 2.18, 2.19, 2.20, 2.21, 3.31, 3.32, 3.33, 3.34, 3.36, 4.57, 4.59, 4.60, 4.61, 4.62, 4.63, 4.64, 4.65, 4.66, 4.67, 4.68, 4.69, 4.70, 4.71 and 4.72.	
	Total	25
	Percentage	92.59%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee Do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	
	Total	NIL
	Percentage	0%
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	
	Para No. 3.35	
	Total	01
	Percentage	03.70%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited	
	Para No. 4.58	01
	Total	01
	Percentage	03.70%