

ICAR-CENTRAL ISLAND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
PORT BLAIR – 744 105

F.No. PA/8-17/RAC/2024/

Dated: 9.05.2024

Proceedings of the Research Advisory Committee meeting held on May 8, 2024 at ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair

The Research Advisory Committee meeting was held at ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Anil Kumar Singh, former DDG (NRM), ICAR, New Delhi on May 8, 2024. The following officials were present in this meeting:

1. Dr. S. K. Singh, Former Director, NBSS & LUP, Nagpur and Member, RAC
2. Dr. N. P. Sahu, Joint Director, ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai and Member, RAC
3. Dr. J. Rema, Former Director, ICAR-IISR, Kozhikode and Member, RAC
4. Dr. Vishaw Bandhu Patel, ADG (Fruits and Plantation Crops), ICAR, New Delhi and Ex-Officio Member, RAC.
5. Dr. Eaknath B. Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair and Ex-Officio Member, RAC.
6. Shri. Varadharajan, Progressive Farmer, South Andaman and Member, RAC
7. Shri. Ankit Kumar Mridha, Progressive farmer, North and Middle Andaman and Member, RAC
8. Dr. P. K. Singh, Head (Act.), Division of Horticulture and Crop Improvement, ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair and Member Secretary, RAC
9. Dr. Jai Sunder, Head, Division of Animal Science, ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair.
10. Dr. S. K. Zamir Ahmed, Head (Act.), Division of Fisheries Science, ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair.
11. Dr. T. Subramani, Head (Act.), Division of Natural Resource Management, ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair.
12. Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, Principal Scientist & Head, ICAR-KVK, South Andaman

At the outset, Dr. P K Singh, Member Secretary, welcomed the Chairman and Members of RAC and presented Action Taken Report of the previous meeting of RAC. The divisional projects were discussed and reviewed. Action Taken Report on suggestions made by the Honourable Agriculture Minister, Govt. of India regarding islands activities was also reviewed during this meeting.

During the deliberations of research activities from different divisions, the following points were emerged:

General Comments

- To strengthen the Minicoy Regional Station one scientist each from Horticulture, Animal Science and Natural Resource Management has to be deployed after strengthening the scientific manpower.

- Impact analysis of technologies on the basis of adoption of the same by the farmers to be done by the concerned scientist of Agricultural Economics in collaboration with ICAR-National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research. Track record of performance/adaptation of the technologies certified by ICAR has to be maintained by the Institute.
- Quantification of each component in IFS model has to be done with due emphasis on Green Credit program designed to reward and incentivize individuals and entities for their positive environmental contributions.
- Refinement of RAC agenda for the subsequent years to convert the document into action plan for 100 days as well as for next five years.
- Site to be defined geographically in the Agro-ecotourism and IFS models being developed by the Institute.
- Project wise cataloguing of research papers needs to be done.
- Good quality pictures of IFS models and other project sites to be submitted to the council for preparation of compiled document to be published by the Council.
- One Health programme on zoonotic and public health issues should address micronutrients deficiency in the soil, water quality parameters and ecotoxicological study involving human-animal-plant-soil continuum.

Division of Horticulture and Crop Improvement

- Research programme on selected major fruit crops like avocado and banana to be initiated. Further, germplasm of mango needs to be explored, collected and characterized by the concerned Scientist of Economic Botany.
- Emphasis should be given to the collection, conservation, evaluation and utilization of crop genetic resources in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Division of Animal Science

- To mitigate heat stress in poultry, supplementation of specific amino acids in the feed to be taken up as one of the immediate measures.
- Biofortified fodder resources (e.g. zinc) could be explored to reduce the need for external application of Melatonin.
- Standard nutritional requirement for native breeds of Andaman and Nicobar Islands needs to be determined.
- Commercial preparation of seaweed to be included as feed additive to reduce methane generation by the ruminant production system.

Division of Natural Resource Management

- Study the soil properties of different land uses such as coastal, low land, hilly, plateau, forest and mangrove areas for its management and suitability to different purposes.

- All the components of IFS should be quantified and compatibility of components based on land holding size to be studied. Green Credit should be worked out for IFS model. Recheck the soil properties of IFS model periodically for its management.
- In IFS model, update the nomenclature from "hilly lands" to "sloppy upland".
- Water requirements across the sectors such as agriculture, domestic, and industry/hotels to be addressed in the state-specific action plan, with predicted projections for the next 50 years.
- Monitoring and quantifying the mobilization of nutrients in natural farming practices to be studied.
- Analysis of the impact of sea level rise to be studied in light of submergence of land and groundwater contamination.

Division of Fisheries Science

- Emphasis to be given on new interventions in the existing freshwater aquaculture practices in the Islands.
- Shrimp aquaculture activity has to be promoted in the Islands with technical backstopping from the Institute.
- Soil and water quality parameters need to be taken into account while mapping the inundated areas and its potential for brackishwater aquaculture in the Islands.
- Regional Station, Minicoy of ICAR-CIARI should take the support of experts from ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai to make interventions in masmin production at Minicoy Island.

Finally, RAC recommended the following important action points.

1. Research programmes on selective major fruit crops like avocado, banana, etc. may be undertaken. Exploration and collection of mango germplasm may be undertaken by involving the Scientist of Economic Botany.
2. Work should be initiated on development of standard feeding practices for the livestock species of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Keeping in view, the scenario of climate change, research should be initiated on biofortified fodder, specific mineral supplementation and seaweed feeding in ruminants.
3. All the components of IFS should be quantified and compatibility of components based on land holding size to be studied. Mobilization of nutrients in natural farming practices needs to be monitored and quantified.
4. Emphasis to be given on new interventions like shrimp aquaculture by backstopping with technical know-how to the farmers. Soil and water quality parameters need to be analyzed while mapping the inundated areas.

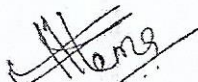
The RAC meeting was ended with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Sunder, Head (Animal Science) ICAR- CIARI.



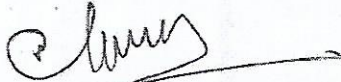
Dr. V. B. Patel 8/5/24
Ex-Officio Member



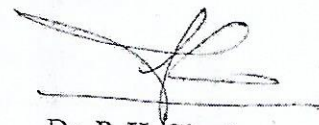
Dr. S. K. Singh
Member



Dr. J. Rema
Member



Dr. E. B. Chakurkar
Ex-Officio Member

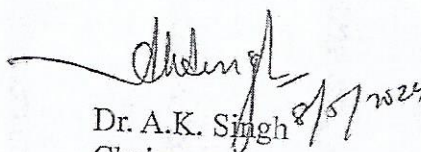


Dr. N. P. Sahu
Member

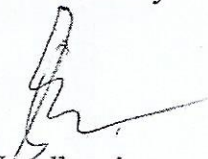
Dr. P. K. Singh
Member Secretary



Shri. Ankit Kumar Mirdha
Member



Dr. A.K. Singh 8/5/2024
Chairman



Shri. Varadharajan
Member