



Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare
Directorate of Economics & Statistics
(AER Division)

543, Krishi Bhawan,
New Delhi-110 001

Dated: 08th March, 2019
11 April

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Minutes of Director's meeting held on 28th & 29th March, 2019 in Institute Of Economic Growth, New Delhi.

The undersigned is directed to forward the Minutes of Director's meeting held on 28th & 29th March, 2019 in Institute Of Economic Growth, New Delhi for discussion on methodology of studies and finalization of workplan of 2019-20.

Encl.: Minutes of the meeting


(Swati Singla)
Asth. Economic Adviser (AER)

Distirbution as per list attached.

File
Copy to H. C. Bhargava & Dr. H. C. Manjappa
22/4/19

MINUTES OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING HELD ON 28th & 29th March, 2019 IN INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, NEW DELHI

1. A meeting of Directors/Hon. Directors/In charge of AERUs/Cs for discussion on methodology and work plan for newly allotted studies was held on 28th and 29th March 2019 at Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), New Delhi as a follow up of the RAC meeting held earlier on 27th Feb 2019. The list of participants is at **Annexure-I**.
2. In the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Manoj Panda, Director, IEG Delhi emphasized on the importance of agriculture sector, its challenges and probable solutions, and talked about how research studies can be utilised for improvisation of policy and institutional structure.
3. Dr. K.L. Prasad, Principal Adviser, DAC&FW threw light on the decisions taken in RAC meeting regarding studies, their time frame, the important role the studies play in policy framework, their role in developmental issues like micro irrigation, productivity, implementation etc. He spoke on the need for improvement in methods of research and meeting timelines etc. He also asked all the AERCs/Us to keep in regular touch with Divisions of DAC&FW based on the research issues being studied.
4. Prof. J.V. Meenakshi, Delhi School of Economics, in the presentation explained various methodology issues of selection of sample size, magnitude of statistical significance. Shri. P.C. Bodh, Adviser, DES informed that there were around 26 studies as per discussion in RAC meeting; to maintain the quality of studies in the given timeframe and in view of its utility for policy making, studies have been prioritized. The timeline decided for the study proposals is annexed at **Annexure-II**, indicating that coordinated studies need to be completed in 4 quarters, i.e., by Mar. 2020, state(s) specific studies need to be completed in 3 quarters, i.e., by Dec 2019, and Village survey study need to be completed in 5 quarters, i.e., by Jun. 2020. Further, the study by Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers need to be completed in 2-months' timeperiod, subject to further discussions.
5. On the basis of detailed deliberations under the Chairmanship of Pr. Adviser, DAC&FW, 21 studies, of which 6 are coordinated studies and rest 15 are state(s)-specific study, were allotted to different centres and units. The detailed workplan for 2019-20 as finalised in the meeting alongwith the study-wise discussion is annexed herewith at **Annexure-III**.
6. Administrative and financial matters were discussed at the end of the two day meeting. Main issues/decisions were as follows:
 - i. Broadly, the discussion centred on the issues of recruitment and service conditions in AERC/Us. The centres raised the issue of staffing a permanent Director in the centres for smooth functioning of day to day matters. The centres highlighted the lack of proper coordination between them and University. Issues related to promotion were also raised by the AERCs. To address the same, the centres/units suggested AER Division, DES to issue a communication letter to Universities to clarify status of AERC/Us, especially to quash the earlier communications of DES in connection with non-recruitment, and uncertainty of AERC scheme as a result of CCEA decision in 2018.
 - ii. In response to Adviser, AER's query about the status of implementation of CAPI, some of the centres informed that they were using CAPI system for collection of ground level data through interview, however, there were some centres/units who were not using the same. The centres were requested to use grant-in-aid to equip themselves with tabs/laptops and arrange training individually on the basis of earlier decision/ fresh letter from AER Division.

List of participants at Director's Meeting held on 28th-29th March, 2019 at Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi.

Participants from AER Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW)

1. Dr.K. L. Prasad, Principal Adviser.
2. Mr. P.C. Bodh, Adviser.
3. Ms. Swati Singla, Assistant Economic Adviser.
4. Ms.Isha Arora, Junior Statistical Officer.
5. Mr.Jeevan Singh, Technical Assistant (Eco.)
6. Mr.Vaibhav Gupta, Technical Assistant (Eco.)
7. Mr.Ashesh Shukla, Technical Assistant (Eco.)
8. Mr.Munikumar Rao, Technical Clerk.

Participants from other divisions/departments/ministries.

9. Mr.Pankaj Tyagi, Director, RFS Division, MoA&FW
10. Mr.Pathan Haiyumkhan, NCPAH, MoA&FW
11. Shri. P. K. Anand, Deptt. Of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, MoA&FW
12. Mr. V. R. Thakur, Deptt. Of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, MoA&FW
13. Dr.Ms.Kavita Gotru, Director (A/cs), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

Participants from University of Delhi

14. Prof. Manoj Panda, Director, IEG
15. Prof. J. V. Meenakshi, DSE, Delhi
16. Mr. Deepak Kumar
17. Ms. Atray Choudhury

Participants from AER Units/Centres

18. Prof. Sukhpal Singh, IIM, Ahmedabad
19. Dr. Ramappa K B, ISEC, Bangalore
20. Dr. I. Maruthi, ISEC, Bangalore
21. Dr.Pramod Kumar, ISEC, Bangalore
22. Dr. CSC Sekhar, AER Unit Delhi
23. Mr.Sushanto K. Beero, IEG, Delhi
24. Dr.SangeetaChakravarty, IEG, Delhi
25. Prof. BrajeshJha, IEG, Delhi
26. Prof. N. C. Rao, IEG, Delhi
27. Dr. H. C. Malviya, AERC, Allahabad
28. Mr. Hasib Ahmad, AERC, Allahabad
29. Prof. R.P. Singh, AERC, Bhagalpur
30. Mr.Ranjan K. Sinha, AERC, Bhagalpur
31. Dr. K. JothiSivagnanam, AERC, Chennai
32. Mr. Ashraf Pulikkamata, AERC, Chennai
33. Dr.Yogesh Bhatt, AERC, Delhi
34. Dr. Hari Om Sharma, AERC, Jabalpur

Study progress, monitoring and review chart

- Stage 1: Finalisation of study design, methodology & questionnaire of the new studies
- Stage 2: Tabulation and data analysis
- Stage 3: Report writing, drafting and peer review
- Stage 4: Submission of All India consolidated reports

	2019												2020		
Activity/Task	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Coordinated studies	Stage 1			Stage 2				Stage 3			Stage 4				
States specific studies	Stage 1		Stage 2												
						Stage 3									
								Stage 4							
Village survey studies	Stage 1														
						Stage 2									
										Stage 3					
													Stage 4		

Note: Study on 'Study of functioning of DBT at retail points' has timeline of 2-months.

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Study allocation to various AER Centres/Units for the workplan of 2019-20

S.No.	Study name	Proposed by	Main AER Unit/ Centre	AER Centres/Units involved (States)
1	Impact evaluation study on Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)	RES Division, DAC&FW	AERU, CMA, IIM- Ahmedabad	1. Madhya Pradesh (AERC, Jabalpur) 2. Maharashtra (AERC, Pune) 3. Telangana (AERC, Waltair) 4. Uttar Pradesh (AERC, Allahabad) 5. Sikkim (AERC, Visvabharti)
2	The extent of erosion into farm profitability due to market imperfections	AER Division, DES	AERU, IEG-Delhi	1. Bihar (AERC, Bhagalpur) 2. Gujarat (AERC, VV Nagar) 3. Madhya Pradesh (AERC, Jabalpur) 4. Punjab (AERC, Ludhiana) 5. Andhra Pradesh (AERC, Waltair)
3	Impact evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS): Soil Health Card	Fert. Use Cell/ IIM Division, DAC&FW	AERU, ADRTC, Bengaluru	
4	Requirement and availability of cold chain for fruits and vegetables in the country	Horticulture Division	AERU, IEG-Delhi	1. West Bengal (AERC, Visvabharti) 2. Haryana (AERC, Delhi) 3. Gujarat and Rajasthan (AERC, VV Nagar) 4. Karnataka (AERU, ADRTC, Bengaluru) 5. Kerala (AERC, Chennai) 6. Uttar Pradesh (AERC, Allahabad)
5	Assessment of feed and fodder in all States/UTs	Feed & Fodder Unit, NIM Division, DAHD&F	AERU, ADRTC, Bengaluru	
6	Assessing the impact of the e-NAM Initiative linking APMC Markets: Evidence from Villages	Knowledge and Innovation Hub, NITI Aayog	AERU, CMA, IIM- Ahmedabad	
7	Understanding the performance and impact of Farmers Producers Organisation (FPOs) - Case studies across states and promoters in India	AERU, CMA, IIM- Ahmedabad	AERU, CMA, IIM- Ahmedabad	
8	Impact Evaluation of Farm Debt Waiver Scheme on Farmers' Livelihood in Punjab	AERC, Ludhiana	AERC, Ludhiana	1. Uttar Pradesh (AERC, Allahabad) 2. Punjab (AERC, Ludhiana)

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9	Assessment of Skill Gap for different Agro-Climatic Zones	Mechanisation and Technology Division, DAC&FW	AERC, VV Nagar	1. Assam (AERC, Jorhat) 2. Haryana (AERC, Delhi) 3. Gujarat (AERC, VV Nagar) 4. Tamilnadu (AERC, Chennai)
10	Strategies to Bridge Yield Gap of Major Crops in Bundelkhand Agro-Climatic Region of Madhya Pradesh	AERC, Jabalpur	AERC, Jabalpur	1. Madhya Pradesh (AERC, Jabalpur) 2. Uttar Pradesh (AERC, Allahabad)
11	Evaluation of Zero Budget Natural Farming initiatives in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana	Knowledge and Innovation Hub, NITI Aayog	AERC Waltair	1. Andhra Pradesh & Telangana (AERC, Waltair)
12	Sugarcane Transportation Cost and Harvesting Cost	CACP, MoA&FW	AERC, Delhi	1. Karnataka (AERU, ADRTC, Bengaluru) 2. Maharashtra (AERC, Pune) 3. Uttarakhnad (AERC, Delhi) 4. Uttar Pradesh (AERC, Allahabad)
13	Seed mini-kits of pulses and other crops- its relevance and application/distribution efficiency	Knowledge and Innovation Hub, NITI Aayog	AERU, ADRTC Bengaluru	1. Bihar (AERC, Bhagalpur) 2. Karnataka (AERU, ADRTC, Bengaluru) 3. Madhya Pradesh (AERC, Jabalpur) 4. Maharashtra (AERC, Pune) 5. Rajasthan (AERC, VV Nagar)
14	Market analysis for Bamboo Products	NRM Division, National Bamboo Mission	AERC Jorhat	1. Assam (AERC, Jorhat)
15	Village Survey Study	AER Division, DES	AERC, Visvabharati & 3 AER Units	One village by each centre/Unit from the state under its jurisdiction with the exception of CMIA, IIM Ahmedabad and AERC Shimla. AERC VV Nagar will select a village each from Gujarat and Rajasthan
16	Socio Economic Transformation of Reang primitive tribal group through Rubber plantation in Tripura	AERC, Jorhat	AERC, Jorhat	1. Tripura (AERC, Jorhat)
17	Impact of Hail Protection Mechanism on Apple Crop in Himachal Pradesh-A Case Study of Shimla District	AERC, Shimla	AERC, Shimla	1. Himachal Pradesh (AERC, Shimla)

18	Assessment of ratio of different products/forms of Spices being marketed: Study based on Ginger and Turmeric	Horticulture Division, DAC&FW	AERC, Pune	1. One district each from Assam & Orissa for Ginger (AERC, Waltair) 2. One district each from Assam & Meghalaya for Ginger (AERC, Jorhat) 3. Maharashtra for Ginger/Turmeric (AERC, Pune) 4. Karnataka for Ginger & Turmeric (AERU, ADRTC, Bengaluru) 5. Kerala for Ginger (AERC, Chennai) & Tamilnadu for Turmeric (AERC, Chennai) 6. Sikkim for Ginger & Turmeric (AERC, Visvabharati)
19	Study of functioning of DBT at retail points	Min. of Chemicals and Fertilizers	AERU, CMA, IIM, Ahmedabad	
20	Future market for agricultural commodities in India	AERU, IEG-Delhi	AERU, IEG-Delhi	
21	Labour scarcity in Agriculture in Bihar	AERC, Bhagalpur	AERC, Bhagalpur	1. Bihar (AERC, Bhagalpur)

Study proposal-wise discussion in the meeting

1. Study proposal titled 'Impact evaluation study on Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)'.

- a. It was agreed that the study needs to focus on the evaluation of the schemes on how it is working, the pitfalls etc. For further clarity if need arises the area of crop under drip irrigation can be examined and only those crops can be taken where area is relatively more. Success stories can be done for areas where it has worked and also for those areas where it has not worked. For detailed methodology and objectives, CMA, IIM Ahmedabad may coordinate with the RFS Division, DAC&FW.

2. Study proposal titled 'The extent of erosion into farm profitability due to market imperfections'.

- a. It was pointed out that the study topic is complex in nature and there is a need to look at each of the markets separately, such as the input market, output market, labour and credit market etc along with the number of players.
- b. Moreover, it was generally suggested that price may fall due to the factors of market imperfections, as well as due to demand and supply function. Therefore, it was suggested that there is need to be very careful in this regard while carrying out the study. On the proposed sample size for the study, it was discussed that it needed to be raised above 60.

3. Study proposal titled 'Impact evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS): Soil Health Card'.

- a. It was agreed that the approved centres may coordinate with the Fert. Use Cell/ INM Division, DAC&FW to understand their needs and thereby carry out the study. The main coordinating centre may be ADRTC, Bengaluru and the participating centres may be decided on basis of requirements of the sponsoring division.

4. Study proposal titled 'Requirement and availability of cold chain for fruits and vegetables in the country'.

- a. It was agreed that the study will be done on basis of both secondary and primary data and if need arises, one of the AERCs may help and assist in the study as well.

5. Study proposal titled 'Assessment of feed and fodder in all States/UTs'.

- a. It was agreed to include three kinds of feed under study: Dry and Green fodder and concentrate. The states finalised for study were Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Kerala, West Bengal, Haryana, Karnataka. DAC&FW has assured support in coordination with the state government in carrying out the study.

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6. Study proposal titled 'Assessing the Impact of the e-NAM Initiative linking APMC Markets: Evidence from Villages'.

- a. General concerns were raised regarding functioning of e-NAM in a proper manner, like non-utilisation of the portal by the stakeholders. It was agreed that there is a need to visit APMC's, mandis etc in a systematic manner to facilitate the study to aid in the inference from the study and figure out the solutions.

7. Study proposal titled 'Assessment of Skill Gap for different Agro-Climatic Zones'.

- a. It has been agreed that the coordinating centre alongwith the participating centres may discuss the study objectives and methodology with the concerned officers from Mechanisation and Technology Division, DAC&FW, who proposed the study, so that the study results are useful to the administrative division.

8. Study proposal titled 'Strategies to Bridge Yield Gap of Major Crops in Bundelkhand Agro-Climatic Region'.

- a. It has been agreed that the strategies to bridge the yield gap need to be addressed in the study. AERC need to include one high yield gap district and one low yield gap district from each state and attempt to estimate the process of yield gap.

9. Study proposal titled 'Evaluation of Zero Budget Natural Farming initiatives in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana'.

- a. It was discussed that Andhra Pradesh has a policy for ZBNF, while Telangana does not have. This difference should be kept under consideration in undertaking the study. The sample size and methodology of the study may be decided by the AERC.
- b. It was agreed to focus on increasing the food production amount rather than the meeting food requirement.

10. Study proposal titled 'Sugarcane Transportation Cost and Harvesting Cost'.

- a. It was discussed that data for other constituents of FRP are available; however, data for transportation and harvesting costs were not available. It was agreed that AERC, Delhi will coordinate the study and provide the sampling design to the participating centres. The latter will only provide the data in accordance to that.

11. Study proposal titled 'Village Survey Study'.

- a. It was agreed that the AERC Visvabharati, Santiniketan, will coordinate with the three Units in drafting and designing the sampling design and methodology of the study so as to ensure similarity and comparison across all centres and village survey study will be undertaken by all the AERCs/Us, except AERC, Shimla and CMA, IIM Ahmedabad. The framework for the survey may be finalised within the timeline of one month.

- b. It was agreed that all centres will select a medium developed village in the study at this stage, and overtime the villages may become a mix of advanced and backward villages. Village re-survey can be done at the interval of 5 years and there may be a common template for village re-survey.
- c. Census method may be used for the village survey and one village can be studied from social, demographic, economic points of view. The AER centre/Unit may choose a village which has been surveyed earlier, otherwise select a new village.

12. Study proposal titled 'Socio Economic Transformation of Reang primitive tribal group through Rubber plantation in Tripura'.

- a. AERC Visvabharati, Santiniketan commented that a similar study has been done in the past. Mr. P.C. Bodh, Adviser, DES informed that the earlier study was for all the inhabitants of the region, however, this study is meant specifically for the Reang tribe.

13. Study proposal titled 'Impact of Hail Protection Mechanism on Apple Crop in Himachal Pradesh-A Case Study of Shimla District'.

- a. AERC Shimla presented the study proposal suggesting to do analysis on anti-hail nets as the data is available with the state government's horticulture division. For anti-hail guns, the farmers' perspective would be incorporated in the study. They also informed that study of a technology of this kind has not been done earlier in India, and therefore, this study would lay the groundwork for future research.
- b. As there were certain apprehensions about the methodology of the study proposed, Adviser DES suggested to explore other methodologies for the study.

14. Study proposal titled 'Assessment of ratio of different products/forms of Spices being marketed: Study based on Ginger and Turmeric'.

- a. This study is important as the data on ratio of different crops is not available and study would fill the gap in that regard. It was agreed that all participating centres will include one district for ginger and one district for Turmeric.

15. Study proposal titled 'Study of functioning of DBT at retail points'.

- a. Director, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers (MoCF) made a presentation on the study proposal and stated that the study is to be undertaken with the timeline of 2 months. MoCF assured to provide the required logistics support for the study. It was approved that the study will be undertaken by AERU, CMA, IIM Ahmedabad.

16. Study proposal titled 'Shortage of labour in Agriculture, Bihar'.

- a. The study proposal has been presented by AERC Bhagalpur. They proposed to use NSSO data for the analysis of the study. Prof. Brajesh Jha suggested to refer to 2007

study on the similar topic and agreed to assist AERC Bhagalpur in the study alongwith Dr.Pramod Kumar.

17. In addition, the following studies have been allocated among the AERC/Us:

- a) The study proposal titled 'Future market for agricultural commodities in India' will be undertaken by AERU, IEG Delhi as a standalone study.
- b) The study proposal titled 'Market analysis for Bamboo Products' will be undertaken by the AERC Jorhat as bamboo is mainly concentrated in North Eastern Region.
- c) The study proposal titled 'Seed mini-kits of pulses and other crops- its relevance and application/ distribution efficiency' will be coordinated by ADRTC, Bangalore and will cover the states of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar.
- d) For the study proposal titled, 'Understanding the performance and impact of Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs)- Case studies across states and promoters in India' it was agreed that CMA, IIM Ahmedabad will conduct an individual AER Unit level study and case studies and farmer level survey will be included as part of study.
- e) In the study proposal titled, 'Impact Evaluation of Farm Debt Waiver Scheme on Farmers' livelihood' it was agreed that AERC Ludhiana will be the coordinating centre and AERC Allahabad will be the participating centre.