

## **Minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Research Council, TNAU held on 5.3.2012**

The Vice-Chancellor, TNAU chaired the meeting. The list of members who attended the meeting is appended.

Dr.A.Chandrasekaran, Director of Research-in-Charge, TNAU welcomed the Chairman and Members of the Research Council.

The Research Council approved the minutes of the 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council held on 17-02-2011.

The Director of Research-in-Charge presented the action taken on the recommendations made during the 42<sup>nd</sup>, 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Research Council.

The Director of Research-in-Charge also presented the excerpts of the TNAU Vision 2030 and the XII Plan proposals for TNAU submitted to the State Planning Commission.

Based on the discussions the following recommendations were made on the points specified.

### **I. Comments for follow up on the action taken on the Recommendations made during the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

#### **Agenda 2.a.2.**

**In the context of adoption and usage of soluble fertilizers, fertigation and precision farming, research on the dosage of chelated fertilizers and micro nutrients for crops be initiated.**

**(Action: SO, NRM)**

The treatment levels may be fixed based on the critical level of the micro nutrients. The experiments may be taken up ensuring deficiency conditions after doing the soil testing.

### **Agenda 2.a.3.**

**Use of biofertilizers as alternate for potash and other micro nutrients (Action: SO, NRM)**

The observations under the Agenda 2.a.2 may be followed for this also.

### **Agenda 2.e.2.**

**Availability of micro nutrients for foliar spray (Action: SO, NRM)**

The observations under the Agenda 2.a.2 may be followed for this also.

### **Agenda 2.(1).Agricultural Marketing**

**The price forecast for banana may be disseminated to farmers through NRCB also. (Action: Director, CARDS)**

Price forecasting for banana may be done for specific varieties particularly for Neipoovan and Nendran varieties.

### **Agenda 2.(2). Water Management**

**Research on precision farming in transplanted redgram may be continued. (Action: Director, WTC / CM / CPBG)**

The trials on precision farming in red gram may be taken up in the farmers' field. It may also be ensured that all **other package of practices is followed as given in the crop production guide**. All new trials may be taken-up in the potential areas only. This issue may also be discussed in the Annual Researchers Workshop.

## **Suggestions made by Expert Members in the 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Research Council**

### **a. Suggestions of Thiru. P. Palanivel, Expert Member**

1. Cereals/vegetables/fruit varieties with low glycemic value and high biological quality fiber should be developed.
2. Processes should be developed for the conversion of conventional food grains like varagu, Samai, Kuthiravali, Ragi, Cumbu, etc., in to high value /convenient food product for marketetting on a high brand.
3. Similar to permanent manurial trials, permanent pesticide trials should be laid out to get to know the environmental effect and pest & disease equilibrium of various pesticides / insecticides etc.,(Bt cotton increases sucking pests/cotton virus, etc,)
4. The tannery and dyeing industries are using heavy chemicals and the water and water ways are terribly polluted resulting in water/soil damage. Research should be taken-up to find out the ways and means to use botanicals/ Nano chemicals (bio-degradable) for tanning & dyeing purpose replacing the chemicals.
5. A process study from planting to harvest in sugarcane cultivation to minimize the process cost should be taken-up.
6. New tools/implements/machinery should be developed for groundnut harvesting as it is labour intensive without damaging the stalk which has fodder value.
7. Dwarf varieties/hybrids in coconut should be developed as labour has become a problem for plucking.
8. In order to develop crop varieties/hybrids to meet stake holder need for industrial crops like cotton, sugarcane, cassava, etc., and other crops, regular stakeholder interaction should be organized rather than having discussions with few farmers/end users here and there.

9. The research outputs should be up-dated in the websites including the annual report. Irrelevant information shall be removed.

**b. Suggestions made by Thiru. Venkatramani Govindan**

1. Greater use of ICT in agricultural extension education should be ensured.
2. New Genre of agricultural extension methods should be evolved to fulfill farmers' aspirations.
3. Farmers should be enabled to receive incentives for the eco-system services produced by them rather than extending subsidies to help them. Eco-system benefits of different cultivation systems should be quantified to help Government to take policy decisions on extending incentives to farmers as done in countries like Japan.
4. The research methodology should meet the aspirations of new generation of farmers

**c. Suggestions made by Dr. Rani Perumal**

1. Transfer of technology should be made cost effective and faster by revitalizing KVKs and Agri. Technology Management System
2. Farmers should be helped to become Agro-Technologists

**d. Suggestions made by Thiru. Manimozhi, JDA, Coimbatore**

1. Varieties / hybrids with a yield advantage of 40 to 60 per cent over the existing ones alone are acceptable to the farmers.
2. Pre release survey should be made among the farmers about marketability.
3. Implements such as; low cost coconut climber, sugarcane planter/harvester and paddy harvester suitable for small farms should be evolved to overcome labour scarcity.

**e. Suggestions made by the Vice-Chancellor**

1. Greater focus in research should be given for pulses and oil seeds as we are chronically deficit in those crops.

2. Research in farm mechanization should be more focused to develop tools, implements and machineries suitable for small farm agriculture.
3. Seminar on Women in Agriculture should be conducted to benefit women farmers.
4. The Vice-Chancellor also informed the forum about various achievements and initiatives taken to make research and development to benefit the farming community.

The meeting ended with a formal Vote of Thanks proposed by Dr.K.Thyagarajan, Director, Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics.

### **List of participants**

1. Dr.P. Subbian, Registrar, TNAU, Coimbatore
2. Dr.A. Chandrasekaran, Director of Research, i/c TNAU, Coimbatore
3. Dr. Rani Perumal, Retired Prof. & Head, SS&AC, TNAU, Coimbatore
4. Th. Venkataramani Govindan, Water Management Communication and Knowledge -Sharing Specialist, Chennai
5. Th.P. Palanivel, Managing Director, 'Jaysan' Home Builders, Chennai
6. Dr.K. Thiyagarajan, Director, CPBG, TNAU, Coimbatore
7. Dr.R.Samiyappan, Director, CPMB, TNAU, Coimbatore
8. Dr.R. Ganesan, Dean, AC&RI, Killikulam
9. Dr.V. Ponnuswami, Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam
10. Dr.S.Jeyaraman, Director, CM, TNAU, Coimbatore
11. Dr.C. Udayasoorian, Dean, SPGS, TNAU, Coimbatore
12. Dr.S. Santhana Bosu, Dean (Engg.), TNAU, Coimbatore
13. Dr.V. Velu, Special Officer (NRM), TNAU, Coimbatore
14. Dr.G. Kathiresan, Director, P&M, TNAU, Coimbatore
15. Dr.T.Jayaraj, Director, TRRI, Aduthurai

16. Dr.V. Jayabal, Dean, ADAC & RI, Trichy
17. Dr.P. Durairasu, IFS, Dean, FC&RI, Mettupalayam
18. Dr.E.I.Jonathan, Director, CPPS, TNAU, Coimbatore
19. Dr.T. Rathakrishnan, Director, SW, TNAU, Coimbatore
20. Dr.N. Ajjan, Director, CARDS, Coimbatore
21. Dr.S. Chellamuthu, Director, WTC, TNAU, Coimbatore
22. Dr.A. Tajuddin, Dean, AEC&RI, Kumulur
23. Dr.V.Valluvaridasan, Director, ODL, TNAU, Coimbatore
24. Dr.N. Kumar, Dean, HC&RI, Coimbatore
25. Dr.K.Vairavan, Dean, AC&RI, Madurai
26. Dr.P. Banumathi, Dean (Home Science), Madurai
27. Dr.M.Bhaskaran, Special Officer (Seeds), TNAU, Coimbatore
28. Dr.M. Chinnadurai, Prof. & Head, Agl. Economics, TNAU, Coimbatore.
29. Dr.V. Udayasuriyan, Professor & Head, Biotech, TNAU, Coimbatore
30. Dr.A.K. Mani, Professor & Head ,RRS, Paiyur
31. Dr.C. Divaker Durairaj, Prof. & Head, Farm Machinery, TNAU, Coimbatore
32. Th.N.Jothilakshmanan, Asst. of Fisheries, Bhavanisagar
33. Th.K.Chenniappan, Exe. Engineer (AE), Tiruppur
34. Th.W.Vincent Manoharan, Dy. Director of Horticulture, Coimbatore
35. Th.K.Manimozhi, Joint Director of Agriculture, Coimbatore
36. Th.P.Vaithyanathan, Asst. Director, Sericulture
37. Th.S.Parani mohan, Inspector, Sericulture
38. Th.S.Thillairajan, Asst. Director, Fisheries, Ooty
39. Dr.S.Sundar rajan, AO, Animal Husbandry Department