

## **Proceedings of the 46<sup>th</sup> Research Council meeting held at Rasi Seeds Seminar Hall, TNAU, Coimbatore on 23.4.2013**

Forty sixth Research Council meeting was held at Rasi Seeds Seminar Hall, TNAU on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2013 under the chairmanship of Dr.K.Ramasamy, Vice-Chancellor, TNAU. Meeting started with the welcome address by Dr.M.Maheswaran, Director of Research (i/c). After confirming the recommendations made during the 45<sup>th</sup> Research Council, action taken on the recommendations emanated during the 45<sup>th</sup> Research Council was presented by the Director of Research.

Recommendations made by the Vice-Chancellor on the various researchable issues are detailed below:

- Papaya CO 8 has to be analysed for its Glycemic Index in comparison to other entries. **(Dept. of Fruit crops, HC&RI)**
- All the millets are to be analysed for their nutritional components to exploit them for the improvement of human health **(Dept. of Millets ; PHTC)**
- A Permanent Pesticide Trial has to be taken up at HC & RI, Periyakulam with the technical guidance and necessary follow up by the **Director, CPPS.**
- Natural dying materials for the apparels are to be identified and test verified for their suitability and acceptability **(Dept. of Apparels, HSC & RI, Madurai)**
- As there had been a slug in the adoption of improved varieties of sugarcane released by TNAU by the farmers as well Cane Officers, concentration on the development / improvement of chewing canes can be taken up **(SRS, Cuddalore, Sirugamani & Melalathur; Director, TRRI)**

- Feasibility of utilizing the turmeric harvester with minimum changes for harvesting the groundnut can be explored **(Dept. of Farm Machinery / AMRC, Dean, AEC&RI)**
- Discussions are to be held with the officials of Sagoserve, Salem for the large scale promotion of Me833 culture which had been identified for release during 2013 **(TCRS, Yethapur; Dean, HC&RI)**
- Large scale cultivation of CO RH 4 hybrid even like adopting a village is to be planned and executed in coordination with the Dept. officials **(Dept. of Rice; Director, CPBG)**
- Seed production of CO HM 6 hybrid can be taken up at HC&RI, Periyakulam as JDA, Theni is more interested **(Dept. of Millets; Director, CPBG).**
- Uploading of Annual Reports of TNAU of 2011 and 2012 has to be completed at the earliest. Linking of the reports hosted in the Agritech portal to the Main page is to be made **(Director, Planning and Monitoring)**
- National Biodiversity Board has already formulated strategy for providing incentives to the farmers involved in providing eco-system services. CCPC staff available in the Directorate of CARDS can be employed to collect the details and to arrive values for such services **(Director, CARDS)**
- Various inputs required for organic agriculture are to be critically evaluated and documented **(Director, CM)**
- A clear cut strategy on crop breeding activities is to be devised. Though there are ten research centres involved in rice breeding, tangible outcome from these stations is not substantial. A strategic breeding plan should be evolved from hybridization to sharing of materials across the stations so that unwanted duplications can be avoided **(Director, CPBG; Director, TRRI)**
- NARP status reports are to be updated **(Director of Research)**

- All MLTs and ARTs planned for testing advanced cultures and technologies should be monitored by a team of scientists identified for each cop and technology for execution and deriving output **(Director, CPBG; Director, CM and Dean, AEC&RI, CBE & Dean, HC&RI, CBE)**
- For Agrl. Implements, instead of emphasizing on low cost, weight reduction as well stress reduction can be thought of **(Dean, AEC&RI)**
- Demonstration plots with 100 per cent mechanization (from seed to seed) may be planned involving Breeders and the Agronomists for rice and some of the garden land crops **(Dean, AEC&RI, Kumulur)**
- Feasibility of having trials for various millets at AC & RI, Killikulam be explored and executed **(Director, CPBG)**
- All the scientists can be informed to look into the various research platforms and mega research programmes proposed by ICAR for the XII Plan period to propose suitable research projects **(Director of Research)**
- Scientists from FC & RI and AEC & RI can have discussions on sustainable use of biomass for energy generation.
- Integrated Farming System as suggested by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu has to be emulated in all the Colleges / Research Stations by having the animal husbandry component **(Director of Research / Director, CM/ Dean, HC & RI)**
- Research focus in the Horticulture has to be retuned wherein two vegetables and two fruit crops can be taken up and the key technologies contributing for upsurge in the yield are to be popularized for follow up by the farmers.
- Suitable measures for plant variety protection and registration for all the released varieties / hybrids, extant varieties have to be completed **(Director, CPBG)**
- Evaluation of quality parameters in rice that make it suitable for various purposes can be identified and exploited. Besides, the genetic variation

- and the role of environment on quality parameters of rice may be explored **(Director, CPBG)**
- The release proposal for a variety / hybrid in any crop will be entertained only when the breeder(s) concerned are with seed material to cover a minimum of 100 to 200 acres.
  - Strengthening market oriented research is to be given priority **(Director, CARDS)**
  - As indicated by the Deputy Directors, Agrl. Marketing of Pudukottai and Madurai, utilization of cucumber available in Pudukottai area, Standardizing packaging technology for exporting commodities and promoting recently released rice varieties in Madurai area with the help of JDA, Madurai are to be taken up **[Special Officer (Seeds), HC&RI (W), Dean, AEC&RI and Director, CPBG]**
  - Availability of parental seeds of maize hybrids, Lucerne C O 2, CO FS 29 to the Dept. of Animal Husbandry is to be ensured **(Director, CPBG)**
  - Intensification on research in small millets should be geared up with suitable strategic plan **(Director, CPBG)**
  - Effective marketing channel and market for Thorny brinjal (*Mullukathiri*) for Dharmapuri farmers need to be worked out **(Director, CARDS)**
  - To meet the demand of the packing technology proposed by the Deputy Director (Marketing), packaging mango especially for choice varieties (Alphonsa) for the purpose of export needs to be improved (Dean, AEC&RI, CBE) and offer training to the marketing personnel of Dept. of Agrl. Marketing.
  - In response to the request to design instrument to assess the starch content of tapioca at the farm gate, it is suggested to procure the instrument already available in the market by the marketing department and facilitate the needy farmers.
  - Potential of the local cucumber, "Namana samudram" variety is to be explored for commercial cultivation and also to the local and export

marketing as requested by Deputy Director (Agrl. Marketing), Pudukottai  
**(Action: Dr.T.Balamohan, Special Officer, HC&RI (W), Trichy)**

- Cocoa being suitable intercrop in coconut, value addition of harvested bean useful at the farmers level is to be explored to increase the income of farmers as suggested by Th.M.D.Ramakrishnan, Expert Member of Research Council **(Dean, HSC&RI, Madurai)**.
- According to his further remarks, the irrigation water, being the most precious commodity, the research activities are to further geared up towards water conservation methods and suitable cropping systems. To suit the low water availability, millets and minor millets may be recommended to have the food and nutritional security **(Director, CPBG)**
- Th.S.Ranganathan, President, Cauvery Delta Farmers Association, Mannargudi and Expert Member of Research Council emphasised the importance of developing crop varieties based on the stakeholders' acceptability and marketability. Further he opined that coordination of Revenue Department, Public Works Dept. and Department of Agriculture is essential for improving the productivity in Delta region. He requested to focus the research issues for delta region on developing short duration rice varieties (within 100 days), improved package of practices for direct sown rice, alternative cropping pattern by utilizing South West Monsoon during *Kuruvai* season, promoting green manures and varieties responding to such manures, effective post emergence weedicides, promotion of vegetable and fruit crops based cropping system, effective water budgeting with available Cauvery water, eradication of weeds in water canals and rice varieties tolerant to salinity **(Director, TRRI, Aduthurai)**.

Dr.K.Velayutham, Director, CM i/c delivered vote of thanks.