

Proceedings of the 47th Research Council meeting held at Rasi Seeds Seminar Hall, TNAU, Coimbatore on 25.2.2014

Forty seventh Research Council meeting was conducted on 25.2.2014 under the Chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor, TNAU, Coimbatore and the following members were present during the meeting.

- Director of Research welcomed the members and presented the action taken report of the previous Research Council meeting held on 23.4.2013.
- Director of Research presented about rice varieties released, rice cultures on pipelines, intensification of research on small millets, maize, millets in moisture stress areas, chewing cane, making availability of seeds of various crop varieties, plant variety protection and registration, critical evaluation of inputs required for organic agriculture and integrated farming system.
- Director of Research presented the action taken on the suggestions made during the previous Research Council meeting by RC members, Th. S.Ranganathan, in respect of starch content estimation in Tapioca varieties, improving shelf life of mango and possibilities of developing a combined harvester for turmeric and groundnut and Th.M.D.Ramakrishnan regarding cocoa value addition, seed to seed mechanization in paddy, bio-mass for energy generation, natural dyeing materials.
- Under issues for discussion, Director of Research emphasized the importance of taking basic and applied research based on the problems existing in the given point of time in specific area. The success of PPFM spray and check dam in saving the water starved paddy crop from failure to success was discussed.
- Director of Research also presented the present status of MLT & ART trials and suggested measures for conducting these trials in a better manner.
- Choosing to ignore
- Impact of extension based projects, product testing, venture capital, private agency
- RRC – stage I & II
- CPMS
- Evaluation / monitoring for MLTs, ARTs & OFTs
- Research mandates (short term / long term)

Suggestions made by Research Council Members

Th.S.Ranganathan

- Extension activities to be more rigorous to have high impact of the technology at field level. (**Action:** Dept. of Agriculture, Chennai)
- Electronic service in the form of CD's on farm machinery, mechanization, and other feasible technologies etc. to be made available. (**Action:** All Directors)
- New delta area is versatile to accommodate many crops besides rice, hence based on the present water availability suitable cropping sequence may be suggested. (**Action:** Director, TRRI, Aduthurai)

Th.M.D.Ramakrishnan

- Problem posed by Peacock in millets, paddy, pulses and vegetable production is on the high at different part of Tamil Nadu and research study to manage this menace may be taken up. (**Action:** Director, CPPS)
- To have the operation of private funded project and research activities at the problem site, rather than in non-problem area and also have reliable data from these studies. (**Action:** All Director)

Dr.G.Krishnamohan

- Dr.G.Krishnamohan, Former Country Manager, Syngenta, Coimbatore suggested fundamental changes required at TNAU research to make it great from good. Importance of introspections and feedback analysis to improve the research system was emphasized. He also suggested, market oriented research to improve the adoption level of the technology by farmers, data capture system to maintain the details of research activity for different crops and area over period of time, idea generation through interactive meeting / brain storming, exploiting the yield potential of existing varieties rather than new varieties, research collaboration with specialists, preparing research priorities, forecasting for plant protection and production, introduction with unrelated institutes like DARO / CSIR etc. for improving the research orientation at TNAU.

Suggestions by the Vice-Chancellor

- Exploration and inclusion of Chengkarumbu and Namakarumbu, a well known chewing cane types of Tamil Nadu for their performance study at various Sugarcane Research Stations. (**Action:** Sugarcane Research Stations)

- Glycemic Index and Glycemic load of Papaya to be analyzed (**Action:** Prof. and Head, Dept. of Fruits, HC&RI, TNAU, Coimbatore and Dean, HSC&RI, Madurai)
- In the permanent pesticide trial, being conducted at HC&RI, Periyakulam, the marketing practices followed in the post harvest of vegetables against pests and also the impact of mild water wash of just harvested vegetables in minimizing the pesticide residue levels in the produce has to be studied. (**Action:** Dean, HC&RI, Periyakulam)
- Ecosystem services by the farmers and strengthening market oriented research is vital and it needs to be studied. (**Action:** Director, CARDS, TNAU, Coimbatore)