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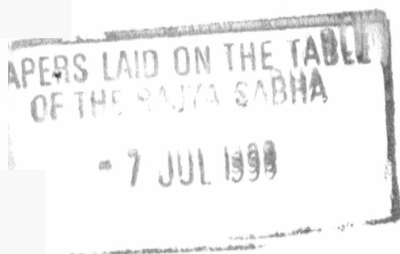
**STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON AGRICULTURE  
(1998-99)**

**TWELFTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)  
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (1997-98)**

**THIRD REPORT**

*[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations  
contained in the Tenth Report (1996-97) of Standing Committee  
on Agriculture (1996-97) (Eleventh Lok Sabha)]*



सत्यमेव जयते

AUTHENTICATED  
*Chandra*  
Chairman  
Standing Committee  
on Agriculture

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

*July, 1998/Asadha, 1920 (Saka)*

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(1998-99)

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*[Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations  
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*Presented to Lok Sabha on.....  
Laid in Rajya Sabha on.....*



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

*July, 1998/Asadha, 1920 (Saka)*

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## CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE .....	(iii)
INTRODUCTION .....	(v)
CHAPTER I      Report .....	1
CHAPTER II      Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government.....	4
CHAPTER III      Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies .....	18
CHAPTER IV      Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee .....	22
CHAPTER V      Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited .....	24

## APPENDICES

I. Minutes of the sitting of the Committee held on 17th June, 1998 .....	27
II. Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1996-97) (Eleventh Lok Sabha).....	30



COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE (1998-99)

Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

*Lok Sabha*

2. Shri Ramchandra Baidia
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SECRETARIAT

1. Shri G.C. Malhotra — *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri P.D.T. Achary — *Joint Secretary*
3. Shri S. Bal Shekar — *Deputy Secretary*
4. Shri K.L. Arora — *Assistant Director*
5. Shri Anil Kumar — *Reporting Officer*

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1998-99) having been authorised by the Committee to submit Report on their behalf, present this 3rd Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 10th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1996-97) (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on the Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education).


2. The Tenth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1996-97) on Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education) was presented to Lok Sabha on 11th April, 1997. The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education) was requested to furnish action taken replies of the Government to recommendations contained in the Tenth Report. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received.

3. The Committee considered the Action Taken Replies furnished by the Government in its sitting held on 17th June, 1998, approved the draft comments and adopted the 3rd Report. Minutes of the sitting are placed in Appendix I.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 10th Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix II.

NEW DELHI;  
July, 1998  
*Asadha, 1920 (Saka)*

KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU,  
*Chairman,*  
*Standing Committee on Agriculture*

AUTHENTICATED  
  
Chairman  
Standing Committee  
on Agriculture

## CHAPTER I

### REPORT

This Report of the Committee on Agriculture deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 10th Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1996-97) on Demands for Grants (1997-98) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education) which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 11.04.97 and laid in Rajya Sabha on 22.04.97.

1.2 Action Taken Replies have been received from the Government in respect of all the 20 recommendations contained in the Report. These have been categorised as follows:

- (i) Recommendations/Observations that have been accepted by the Government: (Chapter II of the Report)—

Recommendation Sl. Nos. 2 (Para Nos. 3.7, 3.8 and 3.13), 4 (Para No. 3.4), 5 (Para Nos. 3.15 to 3.17), 6 (Para No. 3.18), 7 (Para No. 3.19), 9 (Para Nos. 3.22 to 3.25), 10 (Para Nos. 3.26 to 3.28), 11 (Para No. 3.29), 13 (Para Nos. 3.34 & 3.35), 14 (Para No. 3.36), 15 (Para No. 3.37), 16 (Para No. 3.38), 18 (Para Nos. 3.40 & 3.41), 19 (Para No. 3.42) and 20 (Para No. 3.43)

Total 15

- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies: (Chapter III of the Report)—

Recommendation Sl. Nos. 3 (Para Nos. 3.9 to 3.12), 8 (Para Nos. 3.20 & 3.21) and 17 (Para No. 3.39)

Total 3

- (iii) Recommendation/Observation in respect of which replies of the Government has not been accepted by the Committee: (Chapter IV of the Report has been commented upon in Chapter-I of the Report)—

Recommendation Sl. No. 12 (Para Nos. 3.30 to 3.33)

Total 1

- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited: (Chapter V of the Report)—

Recommendation Sl. No. 1 (Para Nos. 3.1 to 3.6)

Total 1

1.3 The Committee will now deal with the recommendations which have not been accepted and have been included in Chapter IV of the Report.

**Recommendation Sl. No. 12 (Para Nos. 3.30 to 3.33)**

*Extension through Institute—Village Linkage Programme*

1.4 In their Tenth Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) in Para Nos. 3.30 to 3.33 the Committee had made the following observations/recommendations:

The Committee observe that a considerable portion of the allocation in this sector is being utilised for construction of buildings and this leaves very little money for the procurement of essential research equipments. The Committee feel that more stress is being given to building activities than on equipping the laboratories with the latest and sophisticated research equipments etc.

The Committee further observe that the farmers are kept away from the latest technological developments as such they are not in a position to adopt such technologies. The Committee desire that the scientist-farmer linkage should be strengthened and whether it be coastal or hilly or even arid or semi-arid region of India each farmer at each place should get the latest technology suitable to his region.

The Committee have been informed that a programme of Institute-Village Linkage has been initiated and 60 institutes have been selected for the implementation of the programme. Each institute has to select one village for development and advancement of technologies. Each scientist has been advised to give 20 per cent of his time to villagers.

The Committee are happy to learn the interest taken by the Department for the dissemination of technologies to farmers. The Committee are particularly happy that the scientists are now facing the ground realities by working shoulder to shoulder with the farmers. The Committee would like to have the programme monitored and the results of its success be reported to the Committee within a year.

### **Reply of the Government**

1.5 The Government in their reply have stated as under:

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has recently launched an innovative technology assessment and refinement programme called "Institution Village Linkage Programme (IVLP)". The concept is based on participatory mode ensuring greater scientist farmer linkage in a "bottom up" approach. Institute Village Linkage also ensures access to agricultural technologies generated by the entire institute or for that matter by the entire agricultural research system in the country to the entire farming community in a village or a cluster of villages representing around 1000 farm families per centre. This project is at present running in forty two centres in the Country.

Through these centres the farmers are actively involved in technology assessment in their field which ultimately helps each farmer of the adopted village to select appropriate technology as per individuals resource base and bio-physical conditions.

### **Comments of the Committee**

1.6 The Committee are disappointed to find that the Government have not replied to the recommendation of the Committee to avoid the undue stress being laid currently on construction of buildings rather than on equipping the research institutions with the latest and sophisticated research equipments and other accessories under the extension programmes. The Committee desire that the Government should take appropriate measures in pursuance of their recommendation and a report should be submitted to the Committee in this regard at the earliest. The Committee wish to point out to the Government in this regard that it is the technical equipments and other accessories that make a research institution and not mere concrete walls. The Committee also would like to be apprised of the achievements made under the Institute-Village Linkage Programme.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

#### **Recommendation Sl. No. 2 (Para Nos. 3.7, 3.8 and 3.13)**

##### *Separate Budget Head for Crop Husbandry*

2.1 The Committee in their Tenth Report (1996-97) in Para Nos. 3.7, 3.8 and 3.13 had made the following observations/recommendations:

The Committee noted that the total Budget estimates (1997-98) for Crop Husbandry amounts to Rs. 4,54,55,00,000 whereas the total Revenue Expenditure demanded for DARE is Rs. 5,99,27,00,000. The proportion of expenditure on Crop Husbandry amounts to roughly 75 percent of the total estimates.

In this connection, the Committee was informed by the Department that the Budget Head under Crop Husbandry also includes besides Crop Science allocations made for Horticulture, Soil and Water Management, Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Extension, Agricultural Education, Agricultural Statistics, World Bank Projects and Headquarters of ICAR and that is why the proportion under this head has gone to 75 percent of total Budget Estimates (1997-98). If the allocations for these sectors are taken away and only the allocations for Crop Sciences is considered the proportion for this sector will be about 21%.

The Committee recommend the Budget Head of Crop Husbandry should be suitably modified so that the allocations to other sectors are properly reflected in the demands.

#### **Reply of the Government**

2.2 The Government in their reply have stated as under:

The observations of the Committee are being implemented to provide different budgetary heads to reflect their allocations appropriately.

**Recommendation Sl. No. 4 (Para No. 3.14)**

*Precautionary measures to protect crops*

2.3 The Committee in their Tenth Report in Para 3.14 had made the following recommendation:

The Committee further recommend that greater thrust should be given by the ICAR for developing high yielding varieties since the area under cultivation is almost stagnant and they should not only concentrate on developing various disease-resistant varieties but also advise on the proper precautionary measures to be adopted by the farmers to avoid losses in production.

**Reply of the Government**

2.4 The reply of the Government was as under:

The main thrust of the crop improvement effort in IX plan would continue to be on development of high yielding varieties and hybrids with resistance to abiotic stresses such as salinity, high temperatures and drought; and biotic stresses such as pests and diseases. Emphasis of research is to consolidate the yield gains made in irrigated ecologies and maximize the productivity and yield of rainfed crops.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) packages to minimize crop losses due to pests and diseases have been recommended for major crops like rice, cotton, sugarcane, oilseeds and pulses. The research emphasis in IX plan would be on refinement of technology to reduce the risk by developing forewarning and forecasting systems for minimizing pest and disease attack. The adoption of IPM technology by farmers will be actively perused in collaboration with the Directorate of a Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, State Agricultural Universities and other Central and State Agencies.

**Recommendation Sl. No. 5 (Para Nos. 3.15 to 3.17)**

*Varietal Development in Pulses and use of Sprinklers for pulses cultivation*

2.5 In their Tenth Report the Committee had made the following observations/recommendations:

The Committee have been informed that pulses are grown in marginal lands, and rainfed areas and sprinkler system is the best method to obtain



30—40 million tonnes of grams. The Committee find that the farmers do not take up production of pulses in view of its susceptibility to diseases and low output.

The Committee are concerned at the low productivity of pulses which automatically affects the total production and availability of foodgrains. Pulses are being imported year after year in huge quantities. The Committee wish to point out that pulses can be grown in minimum moisture conditions and they feel that low productivity and the lack of interest in the farmers to take up cultivation of pulses are due to the lack of knowledge of the merits of sprinkler system and of the high yielding disease resistant varieties and the farmers do not always get remunerative prices for their crop.

The Committee strongly recommend that there is need to popularize the cultivation of pulses through demonstration of sprinkler systems, the low costs of its installation, and its vital use for cultivation of pulses must be given utmost priority by the Department through a pilot project so that the country could totally avoid the import of pulses. Simultaneously research should address itself to the task of evolving high yielding, disease-resistant varieties.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.6 The Government in their reply have stated as under:

Efforts are under way to raise the productivity of pulses through adoption of high yielding and disease resistant varieties. A number of disease-resistant varieties of pulses have been developed recently and front-line demonstrations are being conducted for increasing the adoption of these varieties. The Indian Institute of Pulses Research at Kanpur has been advised to further strengthen their on-going efforts on varietal development and frontline demonstrations.

Limited irrigation for one or two times especially for Rabi pulses have been found effective in increasing yield of pulses. Director, Indian Institute of Pulses Research has been asked to initiate action for formulation of pilot project for demonstration of sprinkler irrigation system in pulses on priority basis. Development of disease resistant varieties with high yield potential has been identified as the thrust area of research in pulses for IXth plan.

### **Recommendation Sl. No. 6 (Para No. 3.18)**

#### *Lack of facilities in AICRP—Horticulture Projects*

2.7 In their Tenth Report in Para No. 3.18 the Committee had observed as follows:

The total anticipated expenditure during VIII plan in this sector is Rs. 62.37 lakhs out of a total approved outlay of Rs. 120.00 lakhs and this works out to 51.98% of the total allocation. The Committee has been informed that Rs. 3000 crore worth of horticulture produce is lost annually due to lack of infrastructure for handling, storage, processing of the produce like pre-cooling chambers, proper packaging material; refrigerated vans etc. Research on these items of technology at the pilot scale level has been hampered for want of many of these facilities in the AICRP-Projects for Horticulture.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.8 The reply of the Government was as stated below:

The suitable action has been initiated to provide adequate infrastructural facilities to AICRP on PHT of Horticultural Crops in the IXth Plan.

### **Recommendation Sl. No. 7 (Para No. 3.19)**

#### *Strengthening of Commodity Institutes in Horticulture Division*

2.9 The Committee in their Tenth Report in Para 3.19 had made the following recommendations:

The Committee recommend that the Department should strengthen the commodity institutes viz. IIHR, Bangalore, CISH Lucknow, NRC-Citrus, IARI, CIPHET Ludhiana to do effective research studies in this field. They further recommend that these institutes may be directed to fully utilize the entire budgetary allocations so that export earnings could be generated and the burden on the consumption of foodgrains could also be lessened.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.10 The reply of the Government was as under:

Need based strengthening of all Crop Science Institutes including IARI has been proposed in the IXth Plan. Full utilization of budgetary allocations will be ensured to get maximum benefit of our resources.

The recommendation is noted for implementation in the IX Five Year Plan. In addition this recommendation is being communicated to CIPHET, Ludhiana for information and compliance.

As suggested by the Committee, strengthening of PHT research in Institutions like IIHR, Bangalore; CISH, Lucknow and NRC-Citrus, Nagpur have been proposed in the IX Plan proposal of Horticulture Division. The proposal for establishing a Centre of Excellence/Advanced Centre on Post Harvest Technology at IIHR, Bangalore has already been accepted for funding support under NATP. Under the AICRP on Post Harvest Technology also IIHR, CISH, NRC-Citrus will be strengthened during IX Plan.

#### **Recommendation Sl. No. 9 (Para Nos. 3.22 to 3.25)**

*Lack of Coordination between Department of Water Resources and ICAR in the States*

2.11 The Committee in their Tenth Report (Para Nos. 3.22 to 3.25) had made the following observations/recommendations:

The Committee has been informed that the soil is gradually losing its potential to produce good crops. This is more so specially in those areas where the drainage system of irrigation is adopted. In those areas, the problem of soil salinity has arisen and as a result of this the land has lost its potential to produce. It has been brought to the notice of the Committee that competitive digging for groundwater for sinking tubewells has adversely affected the level of the water table which has gone down at an alarming pace year after year. At certain places in West Bengal this table of water has gone down so low that further extraction gives rise to arsenic poisoning and contamination.

The main problem as cited by the Government is the lack of coordination between the research conducted by the Department of Water Resources and ICAR. In a particular instance wherein ICAR recommended 25/30 mm of water for the sugarcane crop, the water supplied to the farmers is 10" which is not required.

The Committee's attention was also drawn to the prevalence of unreliable results obtained by some methods of soil testing and the lack of knowledge on proper use of fertilizers on the part of the farmers. The Committee were informed that the farmers have been using these inputs without getting their soil tested and the inputs used by them were not actually required and thereby they destroyed the producing capacity of the land.

The Committee recommend that there should be proper coordination among the research scientists of ICAR and the engineers of the Water Resource Departments of the State Governments with a view to ensure optimum use of the scarcely available water for better production. The farmer should be made to realize the importance of soil-testing to properly plan the use of various kinds of fertilizers in their land. The Krishi Vigyan Kendras of ICAR could do a lot of useful work in the matter of soil-testing and in the matter of use of appropriate fertilizers by the farmers.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.12 The Government in their reply have stated as under:

It is true that saline and waterlogged soils are less productive than the normal soils. CSSRI, Karnal has developed technology packages for reclamation of such soils and drainage measures for removal of water congestion. These have been adopted by farmers and the state agencies. To arrest the declining water table farmers are being advised to use water efficient crops and use better irrigation methods (drip and sprinklers) in water scarcity regions.

ICAR has developed working linkages with Ministry of Water Resources and its various agencies. The important ones include:

- (i) ICAR-Central Water Commission Joint Scientific Panel on Water Management which meets regularly to discuss irrigation related researchable issues.
- (ii) ICAR-Ministry of Water Resources collaborative Research Project on Improvement of On-Farm Water Management. The project is in operation under 15 irrigation commands.
- (iii) Contribution of ICAR on various committees/fora of Ministry of Water Resources.

Soil test based fertilizer applications are being tried and promoted through ICAR. A specialised All India Coordinated Research Project on Soil Test Crop Response is functioning in a network mode with the major SAUs and the results are incorporated in the "Package of Practices" of the respective States.

The recommendations shall be implemented by the execution of on-farm water management research programme in the irrigation commands

through better linkages with the engineers of irrigation department/ CADAs. Most of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras have specialists on agronomy/ soil science to advise farmers on use of fertilizers based on soil tests. The agriculture departments of the States are also educated through several training programmes and demonstrations.

The Action Plan of KVKs in the country includes training and frontline demonstrations on efficient use of different fertilizers in field crops including vegetables and fruits. The importance of soil test based fertilizer use for its efficiency is being emphasized in the training and demonstration programmes of KVKs.

#### **Recommendation Sl. No. 10 (Para Nos. 3.26 to 3.28)**

##### *Shortfall in expenditure in the first two years of a Five Year Plan*

2.13 The Committee in their Tenth Report (Para Nos. 3.26 to 3.28) had made the following observations/recommendations:—

The approved outlay in the Animal Husbandry sector for the VIIIth Plan was Rs. 146.77 crore and the Department was given a total budgetary allocation of Rs. 133.38 crores. The Department was able to utilise Rs. 114.62 crores thereby leaving Rs. 19.26 crores unspent. The Government has stated that the shortfall in expenditure by Rs. 17.48 crores related to the first two years of the Plan. The Plan activity could not take off particularly with respect to the newer-institutes and the All India Coordinated Research Projects.

The Committee observe that under many of the Plan Schemes, expenditure could not take place in the first two years because the schemes were not finalised and the buildings were not available.

In a Five Year Plan, if two of the initial years are lost due to delays, much time is already lost. Automatically there is much of work and expenditure in the last three years. This results in non-completion of the Plan Schemes and shortfall in utilisation of allocated money. Research cannot be rushed up for quick results by greater influx of money. Therefore, there is a tendency to spend money in non-productive uses and as a result actual research suffers. The Committee recommend that Plan Schemes be taken up in greater earnest from the very 1st year of the Plan at least from the initial year of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.14 The reply of the Government was as under:—

Observations of the Committee will be kept in view and efforts taken to expedite the Plan Schemes under the IX Five Year Plan.

#### **Recommendation Sl. No. 11 (Para No. 3.29)**

*Refresher Courses and Foreign Assignments for Human Resource Development in Agriculture*

2.15 The Committee in their Tenth Report (Para No. 3.29) had made the following observations/recommendations:—

The Committee observe that the research institutions of the Government are generally of a big size and they feel that the Institutes should be decentralised to make them more effective. The Committee desire that in the process of education of the Professors, Scientists and the Staff, more refresher courses should be periodically conducted, for a better exposure, scientists are being sent on mutual exchange programmes to other countries and their knowledge is utilised for the development of the nation. However, the Committee desire that instead of sending older Scientists in the age group of 50-55 years for foreign assignments in view of the financial constraints, preference should be given to younger Scientists who had a future in the Department. The Committee further recommend that keeping in view the busy engagement schedule of the Hon'ble Minister of the Department the selection process for foreign assignments may be finalised at the Secretary level so that decisions are taken quickly and sufficient notice is made available to the persons selected for these assignments.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.16 The reply of the Government was as under:—

The Committee has recommended that the research institutions of the Government should be decentralised to make them more effective and have recommended more refresher courses for better exposure of Scientists. In this regard Education Division is supporting a number of summer institutes/short courses/refresher courses for updating the skills of the Scientists from ICAR Institutes and State Agriculture Universities. During 1997-98 a total of 33 such courses are being organised. Under

Agricultural Human Resource Development Project, Scientists below 50 years age group as recommended by the Committee are being sent for longer training so that younger scientists have opportunity of training. As recommended by the Committee that the foreign assignment proposals of scientists are being decided at the level of Secretary, DARE to make the whole process faster and it is put up to the Hon'ble Minister only for final approval.

**Recommendation Sl. No. 13 (Para Nos. 3.34 & 3.35)**

*Administrative delays in sanctioning Fisheries Projects*

2.17 The Committee in their Tenth Report (Para Nos. 3.34 & 3.35) had made the following observations/recommendation:—

The Committee have been informed that the reasons for under utilisation of funds in the Fisheries Division are (i) Administrative delays; (ii) delays in initiating the construction activities at Lucknow, Mumbai, Bhimtal etc.; and (iii) reduced allocations during the current financial year. Due to reduced allocations, payments of further installments towards a number of ongoing construction activities had to be deferred for the next financial year.

The Committee desire that the Government should analyse the causes due to which delay occur in their administrative set up and suitable steps should be taken to streamline and rationalise the procedures so that the research activities are not hampered by bureaucratic delays and by red-tapism.

**Reply of the Government**

2.18 The Government in their reply stated as under:

Noted for future guidance and compliance.

**Recommendation Sl. No. 14 (Para No. 3.36)**

*Timely development of research programmes*

2.19 In their Tenth Report (Para No. 3.36) the Committee had made the following observations/recommendations:—

The Committee are of the view that efforts have not been made by DARE to link expenditure on research to productivity. Projects and sub-

projects often lack objectivity. Technologies generated largely remain confined to published literature either because they are commercially not viable or lack necessary competitive edge. The Committee therefore, recommend that programmes be developed in a stipulated time-frame so that measures could be initiated to enhance revenue generation and increase recovery of expenditure on research so that agricultural research in the time to come is made more sustainable.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.20 In their reply the Government stated as under:—

Steps have already been taken in this direction. The approval and implementation of the Johl Committee Report on revenue generation by different Institutes in 1997-98 will help not only resource mobilization but also increase efficiency and productivity of agricultural research. Research prioritization, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will also be strengthened during the IX Plan.

### **Recommendation Sl. No. 15 (Para No. 3.37)**

*Need to spend on Equipments and consumables for effective research work*

2.21 The Committee in their Tenth Report (Para No. 3.37) had made the following observations/recommendation:—

It has been brought to the notice of the Committee that only a meagre percentage of the Plan outlay is spent on consumable meant for research and the funds are almost entirely diverted towards construction/civil works and purchase of equipments. In the absence of adequate funds for recurring expenditure to meet research expenses of Scientists, the equipments purchased remain non-functional and certainly hamper research output. The Committee recommend that allocations made for purchase of equipments and consumable should be the first charge on the budget, the civil works should receive the lowest priority.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.22 The reply of the Government was as under:—

The recommendation of the Committee is noted for implementation during the IX Five Year Plan.



### **Recommendation Sl. No. 16 (Para No. 3.38)**

#### *Use of Embryo-Transfer Technique in Cattle Breeding*

2.23 The Committee in their Tenth Report (Para No. 3.38) had made the following observations/recommendation:—

The Committee observe that the Embryo Transfer in cattle and buffalo was standardized during the VII Plan. Surprisingly, this objective of standardisation of embryo transfer technique continued in the VIII Plan also. Unfortunately, the technique though standardised has not been put to use for production of bulls by the Government even in its own livestock farms. The Committee recommend that a progeny testing programme at IVRI, NDRI and CIRB be developed using ET as the model.

#### **Reply of the Government**

2.24 The Government in their reply have stated as under:—

Progeny testing programme based on their daughter's performance is only possible solution for improving milk yield in cattle and buffaloes. Field testing programmes initiated in the VII and VIII Plan have helped in standardisation, their use in sire evaluation including developing sire evaluation methodology. Multiple ovulation and embryo transfer (MOET) has now made it possible to have more number of half and full sibs from a given sire-dam combination. MOET scheme having sire evaluation is very relevant to developing countries like India where success of field progeny testing is limited. MOET as adjunct to progeny testing would greatly help in achieving targets of production and testing of bulls. Schemes for progeny testing using MOET have been approved under the Council for implementation.

NDRI, IVRI and CIRB have large herds of cross bred cattle and buffalo. The herds of these Institution are to be used in MOET scheme to evaluate cross bred bulls and buffalo bulls. Requisite infrastructure in terms of men and material at these institutes are being provided.

### **Recommendation Sl. No. 18 (Para Nos. 3.40 & 3.41)**

#### *Contribution of Agricultural Engineering Division*

2.25 In their Tenth Report (Para Nos. 3.40 & 3.41) the Committee had made the following observations/recommendations:—

Scrutiny of the performance budget reveals that Engineering Division of the ICAR has been working on problems critical to Indian Agriculture.

Committee are happy to note that due consideration has been given by the division in developing the Post Harvest and Drainage Technologies. The Committee, are however, not satisfied with the efforts of the Engineering Division in solving the problem of small and marginal farmers. Greater emphasis should be given to develop the bullock drawn implements which are mostly used by small and marginal farmers. Similarly, the decisions of establishing a Division of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering at the Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal and proposing a new AICRP on "Engineering Measures for Efficient Land and Water Management" are welcome steps towards involving the Agricultural Engineers and particularly those who have specialisation in Soil and Water Engineering, for supporting the agricultural production process through an efficient and sustainable use of the two most important capital resources.

The Committee strongly support the above two steps and hope that the Soil and Water Engineering activities which are integral to the Agricultural Engineering discipline, will get a boost at the Council under the Agricultural Engineering Division through the effective implementation of the above two steps.

#### **Reply of the Government**

2.26 In their reply the Government have stated as under:

The Engineering Division is giving due importance to development and popularisation of improved implements and hand tools for small and marginal farmers. As a result, *five manually operated* equipments namely Rice transplanter; Wheel hoe; Serrated sickle; Tubular maize sheller; Groundnut decorticator and *ten animal operated* equipments namely improved yokes and harnesses; Hellical and lugged wheel puddlers; Three row sweep cultivator; Harrow puddler; Seeding and planting attachment over country plough; Two and three row seed-cum-fertilizer drills; Two row planters for smaller and bolder seeds; Sugarcane/potato planters; Groundnut/potato diggers; Animal drawn tool carrier with attachments for ploughing, seeding, weeding etc. have been developed and supplied in large numbers to the farmers for popularisation.

The Directors of the concerned Institutes and Project Coordinators of All India Coordinated Research Projects have been suitably instructed to put more efforts to popularise hand tools and animal drawn implements amongst small and marginal farmers.

Suggestion and support of the Committee are noted for implementation.

### **Recommendation Sl. No. 19 (Para No. 3.42)**

#### *Tapping the Water Resource Potential of Small Watersheds*

2.27 The Committee in their Tenth Report (Para No. 3.42) had made the following observations/recommendations:

The Committee are convinced that for agricultural development and people's involvement in the development process, on a sustainable basis, water is the focal point around which all the activities are gradually built up. It is also known that a vast number of small agricultural watersheds in the country are ungauged and hence, their water yield behaviour are unknown. Hence appropriate research is to be initiated to reliably estimate the water resource potential that can be harnessed at the small watershed level for its storage and use in agriculture. Therefore, harnessing of the rain water at the micro level in small watersheds for creating a locally usable water resource, through appropriate storage structures and land manipulation by using suitably designed implements should be given primary importance in the proposed new AICRP on Engineering Measures for Efficient Land and Water Management.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.28 The Government in their reply have stated as under:

The observation is noted and will be kept in view while finalizing the detailed technical programme after the proposed new AICRP, is finally approved.

### **Recommendation Sl. No. 20 (Para No. 3.43)**

#### *Research on efficient irrigation application methods*

2.29 The Committee in their Tenth Report (Para No. 3.43) had made the following recommendation:

The Committee recommend that in view of the competing demand of the scarce water resource, there has to be an all out effort in adopting efficient irrigation application methods such as drip sprinkler etc. For this, the proposed Engineering Division at the Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal should emphasise on the development

of a strong research data base on the adaptability and economics of use of these advance irrigation application methods for different crops and under different agro-ecological situations.

### **Reply of the Government**

2.30 The reply of the Government was as under:

It is being communicated to Director CIAE for information and compliance, after the proposed division is created.

## CHAPTER III

### RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES

#### **Recommendation Sl. No. 3 (Para Nos. 3.9 to 3.12)**

##### *Decline in Annual Growth-rate of Foodgrains*

3.1 The Committee in their Tenth Report (Para Nos. 3.9 to 3.12) had made the following observations/recommendations:—

Foodgrain registered over 3% annual growth in production during the 1980's. The latest annual growth rate of foodgrains is only 1.7% which is lower than the current population growth rate.

The Committee are alarmed at the lowering trend in the production of foodgrains, even though 21% of the total budget of the department is spent on the research on crop husbandry. The reasons given by the Department for this decline in the productivity of foodgrains are (i) prevalence of yellow rust & brown rust diseases (ii) imbalanced use of fertilizer, (iii) unfavourable weather during March and (iv) reduction in area under wheat in Haryana.

The Committee feel that the incidence of yellow and brown rust diseases and imbalanced use of fertilizers being directly related to the functions of ICAR could have been avoided by taking timely precautions and by properly educating the farmers.

This would have saved at least 2 million tonnes of foodgrains. However, the target growth rate to be achieved in the production of foodgrains should be more than the growth rate of population every year and this can be achieved only through cultivation of high yielding varieties.

#### **Reply of the Government**

3.2 The Government in their reply have stated as under:—

It is a fact that production during the nineties has not kept the same pace of growth as in eighties. The contention as in 3.11, regarding control

of diseases and balanced use of fertilizers is not under the direct responsibility of the Council as per the allocation of business between the research and development department. The prices of different fertilizers determine primarily the differential use of fertilizers. In the instant case, it is the misuse of phosphatic fertilizers which of course now has been corrected by suitable pricing mechanism of Govt. of India. As in point 3.12, it is well appreciated that the growth could be substantially enhanced by cultivation of high yielding varieties and adoption of improved agro production and protection technologies.

The ICAR is charged with the responsibility of production of only breeder seed of the improved varieties as per demand. ICAR has done good work on the breeder seed production front. However, from breeder seed, foundation and certified seeds need to be produced in adequate quantities before it is supplied to the farmers for enhancing their crop productivity.

**Recommendation Sl. No. 8 (Para Nos. 3.20 and 3.21)**

*Separate Project for Post Harvest Management of Fruits and Vegetables*

3.3 The Committee in their Tenth Report (Para Nos. 3.20 & 3.21) had made the following observations/recommendations:

The Committee feel that the Department is always keen to demand more funds but does not bother to utilise the funds already available to them properly and efficiently for creating infrastructural facilities for developing and testing technologies which could help in saving country's loss of Rs. 3000 crore annually which happens to be 9 times of the total plan allocations (Rs. 331.17 crore) made for Agricultural Research for 1997-98.

The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that project on PHT of Fruits and Vegetables should continue as a separate project with all the infrastructural facilities provided and all the bottlenecks coming in the way of developing technologies suited for Post Harvest Management (PHM) of Fruits & Vegetables should be removed as this is the need of the hour with a clear goal to save Rs. 3000 crore annual loss due to wastage of fruits and vegetables for it is not only a greater loss but all the efforts of the Research Departments, farmers and everybody involved in the task of increasing production and productivity yield of fruits and vegetables also finally going down the drain. Therefore, the department

should reconsider the merger of PHT fruits and vegetables with another project as in the opinion of the Committee it can function better with a separate identity and single minded dedicated efforts to achieve its goal with better planning, efficient management and execution of research work.

### **Reply of the Government**

3.4 The reply of the Government was as under:—

Attempts will be made to utilise the allotted budget fully.

Presently there is one AICRP on Post Harvest Technology of Horticultural Crops with 9 centres located in 9 State Agricultural Universities. Also programmes are being undertaken under the erstwhile Indo-US Project on Post Harvest Technology at four ICAR based Institutions. During the IX Plan, it has been proposed to merge both the projects under one comprehensive All India Coordinated Project without changing or reducing research efforts in each of the centres. The merger proposal has been made mainly for administrative convenience and better monitoring. Since there is only one sanctioned post of Project Coordinator for the AICRP on Post Harvest Technology, it was thought desirable to bring one merged comprehensive project with nine Universities Centres and four ICAR Institutions based centres under the project. This will enable closer supervision and avoidance of duplication of efforts. Keeping in view that the merger will not adversely affect in any way the research programme and its implementation and will effect better administration and monitoring, the merger has been suggested in the IX Plan Proposals.

### **Recommendation Sl. No. 17 (Para No. 3.39)**

#### *In-Vitro Fertilisation Technique of NDRI*

3.5 In their Tenth Report (Para No. 3.39) the Committee had made the following observations/recommendation:—

The Committee understand that the work in the area of in-vitro fertilisation has been standardised in buffaloes and the World's first in-vitro fertilized buffalo calf was born at NDRI and technology is now being given to the other institutes. Thereafter, no progress in this areas has been reported. The Committee would like the ICAR Animal Science Division to use this technique at all its institutional farms.

### **Reply of the Government**

#### **3.6 The Government in their reply have stated as under:—**

It is a fact that world's first IVF calf in buffalo is born at NDRI. Various aspects of In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) technique with respect to buffalo system were standardised at NDRI including recovery method of buffalo oocytes, in-vitro maturation of oocytes, in-vitro capacitation of spermatozoa. However, the technique is being improved in terms of obtaining higher oocyte collection, oocyte maturation and fertilization and post-fertilization development. The procedures are undergoing refinement and optimisation in response.

This being upstream activity is to be implemented in planned manner in the embryo transfer technology centres in ICAR Institutes/Agricultural Universities (10 centres), with aim of capability building in these institutions during the next 3 years. The IVF technology will be utilised where necessary infrastructure and facilities are available. Five centres are being selected depending upon manpower expertise and other facilities/collaborating funds during the IX Five Year Plan.



## CHAPTER IV

### RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

#### **Recommendation Sl. No. 12 (Para Nos. 3.30 to 3.33)**

##### *Extension through Institute-Village Linkage Programme*

4.1 The Committee in their Tenth Report (Para Nos. 3.30 to 3.33) had made the following observations/recommendations:—

The Committee observe that a considerable portion of the allocation in this sector is being utilised for construction of buildings and this leaves very little money for the procurement of essential research equipments. The Committee feel that more stress is being given to building activities than on equipping the laboratories with the latest and sophisticated research equipments etc.

The Committee further observe that the farmers are kept away from the latest technological developments as such they are not in a position to adopt such technologies. The Committee desire that the scientist-farmer linkage should be strengthened and whether it be coastal or hilly or even arid or semi-arid region of India each farmer at each place should get the latest technology suitable to his region.

The Committee has been informed that a programme of Institute—Village Linkage has been initiated and 60 institutes have been selected for the implementation of the programme. Each institute has to select one village for development and advancement of technologies. Each scientist has been advised to give 20 per cent of his time to villagers.

The Committee are happy to learn the interest taken by the Department for the dissemination of technologies to farmers. The Committee are particularly happy that the scientists are now facing the ground realities by working shoulder to shoulder with the farmers. The Committee would like to have the programme monitored and the results of its success be reported to the Committee within a year.

### **Reply of the Government**

#### **4.2 The reply of the Government was as under:—**

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has recently launched an innovative technology assessment and refinement programme called "Institution-Village Linkage Programme (IVLP)". The concept is based on participatory mode ensuring greater scientist-farmer linkage in a "bottom up" approach. Institute-Village Linkage also ensures access to agricultural technologies generated by the entire institute or for that matter by the entire agricultural research system in the country to the entire farming community in a village or a cluster of villages representing around 1000 farm families per centre. This project is at present running in forty two centres in the country.

Through these centres the farmers are actively involved in technology assessment in their field which ultimately helps each farmer of the adopted village to select appropriate technology as per individuals resource base and bio-physical conditions.

### **Comments of the Committee**

4.3 For comments of the Committee please see Para No. 1.6 of Chapter I of this Report.

## CHAPTER V

### RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

#### **Recommendation Sl. No. 1 (Para Nos. 3.1 to 3.6)**

##### *Adequate allocation for Agricultural Research*

5.1 The Committee in their Tenth Report (Para Nos. 3.1 to 3.6) had made the following observations/recommendations:—

The Committee has been informed that approved Eighth Plan outlay of the DARE/ICAR was Rs. 1300 crores against which a total amount of Rs. 1304.30 crores were provided by way of yearly allocations viz. Rs. 200 crores (1992-93), Rs. 250 crores (1993-94), Rs. 275 crores (1994-95), Rs. 290 crores (initially Rs. 310 crores were provided but brought down to Rs. 290 crores subsequently) (1995-96), and Rs. 289.30 crores (1996-97). In the year 1995-96, the approved outlay of Rs. 310 crores was reduced to Rs. 290 crores at the Revised Estimates stage which has affected the implementation of the programmes drastically and the actual shortfall later increased to Rs. 37.21 crores. Considering the total shortfall of Rs. 55.37 crores during the VIIIth Plan the shortfall of Rs. 37.21 crores during 1995-96 amount to 67 per cent of the total shortfall. The Department holds Planning Commission solely responsible for this undesirable cut of Rs. 20 crores in the later months of the financial year 1995-96.

The Committee take a serious view of this tendency of Planning Commission to cut down the original allocation at later stages which affects the implementation of the vital research programmes. Further, the Committee do not approve of the steps taken by the Planning Commission to restrict expenditure from the first year of the VIII plan period. The implementation process of five years in the field of research cannot be carried out with so many restrictions on expenditure and intervention by the Planning Commission.

On a request by the Department for higher allocation in favour of Agricultural Research, the Planning Commission and the Department of Expenditure asked the Department to generate its own resources. The

Finance Minister assured that for each rupee generated by the Department one rupee will be given as a matching grant. The Department generated more than Rs. 22 crores this year and has requested for the matching grant as assured earlier.

The Committee appreciate the efforts made by the Department for getting higher allocations and for generating resources. But, the Committee are appalled at the manner in which the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry have treated the request of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education for more plan funds.

The Committee a representative body of the people of the nation has been requesting year after year for an increase in the allocation equivalent to 1 per cent of agricultural Gross Domestic Product for the conduct of research in this most important sector. But the request has fallen on deaf ears.

The Committee, therefore, make a fervent appeal to the Planning Commission for higher allocations to Agricultural Research and Education as recommended by it in their earlier Reports and not to apply the brakes on the smooth conduct of research by the Department by imposing restrictions in incurring expenditure and slashing allocations at the R.E. stage. It also appeals to the Ministry of Finance to abide by its assurance to pay one rupee for every rupee generated by the Department lest the zeal of the Department should be lost in generating their own resources.

### Reply of the Government

#### 5.2 The reply of the Government was as under:—

The DARE thanks the Committee for their useful observation on cutting down of original allocation and imposing restrictions on expenditure by the Planning Commission from first year of plan period. The observation is being brought to the notice of Planning Commission so that in future:


- (i) Reduction in original allocation is not made which seriously affects the implementation of research programmes vital to the growth of agricultural sector.
- (ii) Implementation process in the field of research is not hampered.

The DARE is making efforts to get matching grants from the Ministry of Finance (Deptt. of Expenditure) against the commercial rupee earned, as has been announced by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget speech 1997-98.

The valuable observations of the Committee are being brought to the notice of Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance with appeal to provide adequate financial support to boost agricultural production and productivity of the country.

NEW DELHI;  
July, 1998  
Asadha, 1920 (Saka)

KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU,  
Chairman,  
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

AUTHENTICATED  
  
Chairman  
Standing Committee  
on Agriculture

## APPENDIX I

### MINUTES OF THE SECOND SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17TH JUNE, 1998 AT 1100 HRS. IN COMMITTEE ROOM 'B', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI

The Committee sat from 1100 hrs. to 1300 hrs.

#### PRESENT

Shri Kinjarapu Yerranna — *Chairman*

#### MEMBERS

*Lok Sabha*

2. Shri Ramchandra Baidu
3. Shri D.C. Sreekantappa
4. Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria
5. Shri Baliram Kashyap
6. Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo
7. Shri M. Master Mathan
8. Shri Raj Narain Passi
9. Shri Virendra Verma
10. Shri Sudhakar Rao Rajusing Naik
11. Shri Ramkrishna Baba Patil
12. Shri Maganti Venkateswara Rao
13. Shri Kantilal Bhuria
14. Shri Mahaboob Zahedi
15. Shri Abdul Hasnat Khan
16. Shri Mitrasen Yadav
17. Shri K.P. Munusamy
18. Shri Anup Lal Yadav
19. Shri Bashist Narayan Singh
20. Shri Ram Shanker
21. Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora

*Rajya Sabha*

22. Maulana Habibur Rahman Nomani
23. Shri Ramji Lal
24. Shri Devi Prasad Singh
25. Shri Shiv Charan Singh
26. Shri Ramnarayan Goswami
27. Shri Sharief-Ud-Din Shariq
28. Shri Sukh Dev Singh Dhindsa

## SECRETARIAT

- |                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Shri G.C. Malhotra | — <i>Additional Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri S. Bal Shekar | — <i>Deputy Secretary</i>     |
| 3. Smt. Anita Jain    | — <i>Under Secretary</i>      |
| 4. Shri K.L. Arora    | — <i>Assistant Director</i>   |

Chairman (AC) took the Chair and welcomed the Members. Thereafter the Committee took up for consideration the draft Reports on Action Taken by the Government in respect of the recommendations/observations contained in the following reports:

1. 1st Report on Demands for Grants (1996-97) relating to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation).
2. 9th Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) relating to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Co-operation).
3. 10th Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) relating to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research & Education).
4. 11th Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) relating to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying).
5. 12th Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) relating to Ministry of Water Resources.
6. 13th Report on Demands for Grants (1997-98) relating to Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

The Committee considered the draft comments of the Committee and adopted the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Action Taken Reports (1998-99) one by one with minor additions.

The Committee, then, authorised the Chairman to present all the six Action Taken Reports (1998-99) of the Committee to the House on a date and time convenient to him.

The Committee then adjourned to meet again soon after the lunch at 1400 hrs. on the same day.



## APPENDIX II

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

*Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the 10th Report of  
Standing Committee on Agriculture (11th Lok Sabha)*

(i)	Total Number of Recommendations	20
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government Serial Nos. 2 (Para Nos. 3.7, 3.8 and 3.13), 4 (Para No. 3.4), 5 (Para Nos. 3.15 to 3.17), 6 (Para No. 3.18), 7 (Para No. 3.19), 9 (Para Nos. 3.22 to 3.25), 10 (Para Nos. 3.26 to 3.28), 11 (Para No. 3.29), 13 (Para Nos. 3.34 & 3.35), 14 (Para No. 3.36), 15 (Para No. 3.37), 16 (Para No. 3.38), 18 (Para Nos. 3.40 & 3.41), 19 (Para No. 3.42) and 20 (Para No. 3.43)	
	Total	15
	Percentage	75%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies Serial Nos. 3 (Para Nos. 3.9 to 3.12), 8 (Para Nos. 3.20 & 3.21) and 17 (Para No. 3.39)	
	Total	3
	Percentage	15%
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee Serial No. 12 (Para Nos. 3.30 to 3.33)	
	Total	1
	Percentage	5%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited Serial No. 1 (Para Nos. 3.1 to 3.6)	
	Total	1
	Percentage	5%