

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY
AND FOOD PROCESSING**

(2021-2022)

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)**

'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2021-22)'

**{Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/
Recommendations contained in the Twenty Fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok
Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2020-21)}**

THIRTY SECOND REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

DECEMBER 2021/AGRAHAYANA, 1943 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on

14.12.2021

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on

14.12.2021



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

DECEMBER 2021/AGRAHAYANA, 1943 (Saka)

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL
HUSBANDRY AND FOOD PROCESSING* (2021-22)
Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar- Chairperson**

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Afzal Ansari
3. Shri Horen Sing Bey
4. Shri Devendra Singh 'Bhole'
5. Shri A. Ganeshamurthi
6. Shri Kanakmal Katara
7. Shri Abu Taher Khan
8. Shri Mohan Mandavi
9. Shri Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu
10. Shri Devji Mansingram Patel
11. Smt. Shardaben Anilbhai Patel
12. Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao Patil
13. Shri Shriniwaas Dadasaheb Patil
14. Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut
15. Shri Pocha Brahmananda Reddy
16. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy
17. Shri Mohammad Sadique
18. Shri Virendra Singh
19. Shri V.K. Sreekandan
20. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav
21. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri Partap Singh Bajwa
23. Smt. Ramilaben Becharbhai Bara
24. Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa
25. Shri Surendra Singh Nagar
26. Shri Kailash Soni
27. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
28. Shri Vaiko
29. Shri Harnath Singh Yadav
30. VACANT
31. VACANT

* Standing Committee on Agriculture renamed as Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing vide Para No. 3293, Bulletin Part-II, dated 23.11.2021.

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Shiv Kumar - Joint Secretary
2. Ms. Juby Amar - Director
3. Shri N. Amarathiagan - Under Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (2021-22), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirty Second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty Fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2020-21) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

2. The Twenty Fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2020-21) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 09 March, 2021. The Action Taken Notes on the Report were received on 15.06.2021.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 07.12.2021.

4. An Analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty Fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in **Appendix**.

NEW DELHI;
07 December, 2021
16 Agrahayana, 1943(Saka)

P.C. GADDIGOUDAR
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Agriculture,
Animal Husbandry and Food Processing

CHAPTER-I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty Fifth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2020-2021) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education), which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 09.03.2021.

1.2 The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) has furnished Action Taken Replies – in respect of all the 12 Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report. These Replies have been categorized as follows:

(i) Observations/Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government:

Recommendation No. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 and 11

Chapter- II
Total- 10

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:

Recommendation No. 12

Chapter- III
Total- 01

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Action Taken Replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Recommendation No. 10

Chapter- IV
Total- 01

- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Final Replies of the Government are still awaited:

Recommendation No. NIL

Chapter- V
Total- 00

1.3 The Committee trust that utmost importance would be given to implementation of the Observations/Recommendations accepted by the Government. In cases, where it is not possible for the Ministry to implement the Recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee with the reasons for their non-implementation. The Committee desire that further Action Taken Notes on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter - I of this Report be furnished to them at an early date.

1.4 The Committee will now deal with the action taken by the Government on some of the Recommendations in the succeeding paragraphs.

**A. BUDGETARY ALLOCATION
RECOMMENDATION (PARA NO. 1)**

1.5 The Committee had observed/ recommended :-

"The Committee note that there is a huge gap between the funds proposed by the Department and the funds allocated to the Department. The Department has proposed Rs. 10650.17 Cr as against an allocation of Rs. 8362.52 Cr at BE Level during 2020-21 and Rs.10241cr as against an allocation of Rs. 8513.62 Cr at BE Level during 2021-22. Moreover, the proposed allocation at RE Level during 2020-21 of Rs.8397.71 Cr

was further reduced to Rs.7762.38 Cr. The proportion of Budgetary Allocation at RE Stage in favour of Department of Agricultural Research and Education is 0.22% of total Central Plan Outlay in 2020-21. The Committee have been informed that the Department had sought higher allocation while submitting proposal for Revised Estimates for the Current year and Budget Estimate for the next year. The allocation made by the Ministry of Finance was less than that demanded by the Department. The Committee also note that the allocations to Department of Agricultural Research & Education has been reduced from 0.32% in 2018-19 to 0.29% in 2019-20 and the Department however, is receiving higher proportion of allocations vis-à-vis other Research Departments such as Dept of Health Research, Dept of Science and Technology, Dept of Scientific and Industrial Research. However, the allocations are far lesser vis-à-vis Dept. of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Higher Education, M/o Food & Public Distribution and D/o Fertilizers. Though the Budgetary allocation at BE Level for the fiscal year 2021-22 has been increased in comparison to Fiscal Year 2020-21 but as informed by the Department the increase in allocation at BE Level during 2021-22 is only an incremental increase on account of payment of Salary and other establishment expenses. However, Scheme-Allocation at BE 2021-22 is Rs. 2686.00 Cr, which is less than the BE of 2020-21 that was 2729.00 Cr. The Committee are of view that there is need for huge investment in the Agricultural Research and Education Sector, if the Government wants to pursue vigorously the primary

objective of improvement in the living conditions of the farmers with much more purposeful Welfare Orientation. However, the Committee are dissatisfied to note that there is stagnation in the allocations to the Sectors over a period of time. The Committee in their earlier Reports had also been stressing on the enhancement in allocations to the DARE/ICAR in order to strengthen the Agriculture Research Sector. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier Recommendation and strongly recommend the Department to pursue the matter at highest level with the Ministry of Finance in order to enhance allocations to the DARE/ICAR during the fiscal year 2021-22 at RE Level and further."

1.6 The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated :-

"DARE/ICAR has consistently pursued the issue of higher allocation for agricultural research sector with the Ministry of Finance. As a result of this pursuance, the Ministry of Finance has enhanced the allocation of DARE/ICAR during 2021-22 to Rs. 8513.65 crore which is higher than the BE 2020-21 of Rs. 8362.58 crore (an increase of 1.8%). It is further submitted that the scheme allocation of this BE 2021-22 is Rs. 2686 crore which is higher than the RE 2020-21 of Rs. 2305 crore i.e. increase of 16.53%. It may be pertinent to mention here that allocation of Rs. 2686 crore under scheme during 2021-22 is marginally less than the BE 2020-21 of Rs. 2729 crore. The matter will be pursued with the MoF at RE 2021-22 level as recommended"

1.7 The Committee had expressed their concern over stagnation in allocation of funds to the Department over a period of time. The Committee in their earlier Reports had also been laying stress on the enhancement in allocations to the DARE/ICAR – in order to strengthen the Agriculture Research Sector. And so, the Committee had recommended the Department to pursue the matter at Highest Level with the Ministry of Finance – in order to enhance allocations to the DARE/ICAR during the fiscal year 2021-22 at RE Level and further. The Department, in its Action Taken Reply, has submitted that DARE/ICAR has consistently pursued the issue of higher allocation for Agricultural Research Sector with the Ministry of Finance. As a result of this pursuance, the Ministry of Finance has enhanced the allocation of DARE/ICAR during 2021-22 to Rs. 8513.65 crore, which is higher than the BE 2020-21 of Rs. 8362.58 crore (an increase of 1.8%). The Department has also added that allocation of Rs. 2686 crore under Schemes Head during 2021-22 is marginally less than the BE 2020-21 of Rs. 2729 crore and the matter will be pursued with the MoF at RE 2021-22 level as recommended. The Committee make note of the fact that though the Ministry of Finance has gradually increased the allocation, the Department should however, continue to make persistent efforts in this direction so as to make sure that the allocations are adequately increased and are not reduced at any Stage.

**B. ALLOCATION FOR NORTH EASTERN HILL REGION
RECOMMENDATION (PARA No.4)**

1.8 The Committee had observed/ recommended :-

"The Committee are unhappy to note that the Department has not been able to fully utilize its Budgetary Allocation meant for North East Region (NER) in each of the last three Fiscal Years. The Committee also note that though the allocation of funds for NEH Region is steadily increasing but the Department is not able to utilize it optimally. Under utilization of allocated funds, defeats the very purpose of having a separate Sub-allocation for NEH Region. The Committee are of the view that it is the responsibility of the Department to ensure optimal utilization of funds allocated to NEH Region in a time bound manner for various activities meant for development of the Region. The issue needs to be addressed through coordinated approach amongst all stakeholders involved in the process removing basic constraints which hinder optimum utilization of funds. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department should study the loop holes and evolve a fool proof mechanism to ensure optimum utilization of funds earmarked for North Eastern and Hill Region. The Committee would like to be informed of the fresh initiatives by the Department in this regard"

1.9 The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated :-

"Efforts are being made to remove the constraints for achieving maximum utilization of fund under NEH and Hill region. The fresh initiatives taken for optimum utilization of fund includes; 1) rendering necessary help to the Research Centres for procurement and installation of the items, 2) Encouraging Centre's PIs/ Scientists for getting exposure and trainings on

improved technologies, high-tech laboratories, prototypes manufacturing facilities etc, 3) Regular monitoring of the expenditure of research centres in North Eastern and Hill region, 4) Monthly review meetings of funds utilisation during Senior Officer Committee."

1.10 During the course of examination, the Committee had expressed their displeasure over under utilization of funds allocated for the North Eastern and Hill (NEH) Region. The Committee were of the considered view that under utilization of allocated funds, defeats the very purpose of having a separate Sub-allocation for NEH Region and it is the responsibility of the Department to ensure optimal utilization of funds allocated to NEH Region – in a time bound manner; for various activities meant for development of the Region. In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated that efforts are being made to remove the constraints for achieving maximum utilization of funds under NEH and Hill Region. The Department has also informed that fresh initiatives have been undertaken for optimum utilization of funds. The Committee are of the opinion that under utilization of funds deprives the populace of the benefits of the Schemes, and therefore, re-emphasize their recommendation so as to impress upon the Department to devise mechanism for effective monitoring of utilization of funds.

**C. CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT
RECOMMENDATION (PARA NO. 6)**

1.11 The Committee had observed/ recommended :-

"The Committee feel that in situ Management of Crop Residue in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi has been a

matter of concern for years. The Committee note that in order to have an effective Crop Residue Management Instruments and implements have been provided for farmers on subsidies. For faster decomposition of straw, Pusa Decomposer, a Microbial Consortium consisting of *Aspergillus awamori*, *Phlebia radiata*, *Aspergillus nidulans*, *Aspergillus clavatus*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Trichoderma viride* and *Aspergillus fumigatus* has been developed, which accelerates the decomposition of paddy straw and makes the field ready for next crop sowing in 20-25 days following conventional tilling (CT) practices. CT is one of the major activities in the Govt. funded Crop Residue Management (CRM) scheme. Its use enriches the soil with Organic Carbon (OC) and nutrients while improving the soil biological properties. The Committee were of the opinion that Pusa decomposer developed by the Department is a welcome step and efforts be made to make the decomposer more and more effective as an effective solution to address concerns of the farmers to this effect. The Committee strongly recommend the use of PUSA decomposer in large scale to minimize pollution caused by parali. The Department should also take further steps to make it economically viable and cost effective."

1.12 The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated :-

"Spraying Pusa Decomposer solution accelerates process of paddy straw decomposition and field ready for potato, peas and wheat sowing in 20-25 days following conventional tilling (CT) practices. CT is one of the major activities in the Govt. funded CRM scheme. Its use enriches the soil with

organic carbon (OC) and nutrients while improving the soil biological properties. Pusa Decomposer is a long term sustainable solution for management of paddy straw in conjunction with CT, Happy Seeder and Super Seeder options.

Concerted efforts have been made to demonstrate the Pusa Decomposer Technology for crop residue management across the country. During 2020, Pusa Decomposer has been provided for 5730 ha area viz: to Govt. of Uttar Pradesh (3700), Punjab (200), Delhi (800), West Bengal (510), Telangana (100); Confederation of Indian Industry (100) and NGO and Farmers (320). In addition, Pusa Decomposer kits have been provided to the farmers of 25 states by IARI during 2020-2021. Pusa Decomposer can cover 13000 ha area at farmers fields. Pusa Decomposer technology has been licensed to eight companies for bulk production for covering larger areas in the country. Total cost of preparation of solution of Pusa Decomposer for one ha is approx. Rs. 85.50 (Rs. 50 for 4 capsules), Rs.30 jaggery, Rs. 5.5 besan). However, efforts are being made to make this technology more effective and cost efficient. "

1.13 The Committee while noting that Pusa Decomposer developed by the Department is a welcome step and it would help in mitigation of pollution caused due to burning of Crop Residue in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi, had recommended that efforts be made to make the Decomposer much more effective as an effective solution to address the concerns of the farmers and further necessary steps be taken to make it

economically viable and cost effective. The Department, in its Action Taken Reply has stated that concerted efforts have been made to demonstrate the Pusa Decomposer Technology for Crop Residue Management across the country. During 2020, Pusa Decomposer has been provided for 5730 ha area viz.: to Govt. of Uttar Pradesh (3700), Punjab (200), Delhi (800), West Bengal (510), Telangana (100); Confederation of Indian Industry (100) and NGO and Farmers (320). In addition, Pusa Decomposer Kits have been provided to the farmers of 25 states by IARI during 2020-2021. Moreover, it has been further stated that efforts are being made to make this technology more effective and cost efficient. The Committee, while reiterating their Recommendation desire the Department to undertake an effective awareness campaign on a large scale for making the farmers in the country aware about the use and benefits of Decomposer so that more and more areas can be meaningfully covered.

**D. OPENING OF ADDITIONAL KVKs
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 10)**

1.14 The Committee had observed/ recommended :-

The Committee have been informed that one KVK is to be sanctioned in each of the rural Districts. The Districts for more than one KVK are decided based on a composite index with the average of three indices viz. geographical area, rural population and net sown area. During the last three years, 41 New KVKs have been opened. Out of these New KVKs, one additional KVK has been opened in 27 districts, where a KVK already existed. In the opinion of the Committee, one KVK in a district is not sufficient to cater to the requirements of farming population in most of the rural districts of the

country and as such, the Committee are of the considered opinion that to maximise the outreach of KVKs to the framers, feasibility of opening of Sub-kendras/Centres of KVKs at Tehsil/Block level be explored. Moreover, the Committee also recommend the Department to address the problems being faced by the farmers, the facility of Toll Free Numbers in KVKs be launched so that the farmers are able to get solutions of their problems without visiting the KVKs.

1.15 The Ministry in its Action Taken Reply has stated :-

The scientific and technical staff available with each KVK is one Senior Scientist-cum-Head and six Subject Matter Specialists. In view of the limited staff of KVKs, it is difficult to open Sub-kendras/Centres of KVKs at Tehsil/Block level. However, KVKs involve the district/block level personnel of state extension departments in different activities of KVKs and share information with them, which has network at block/village level. Furthermore, KVKs are using the services of mKisanportal of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare to send the advisories and alerts to 5.36 crore farmers. KVKs have also formed different commodity-based groups using social media to reach out to large number of farmers. Besides, ICAR is utilizing the network of Common Service Centers (CSCs) established at Gram Panchayat level for providing technological solutions to the farmers visiting CSCs with agriculture related problems through KVKs. At present, 348111 farmers are registered for tele consultations. The KVKs also conduct large number of off campus activities to cover more areas of the districts.

1.16 The Committee feel that KVKs act as a link between Agricultural Research and farmers and therefore, the Committee had recommended that feasibility of opening of Sub-kendras/Centres of KVKs at Tehsil/Block level be explored so as to maximise the outreach of KVKs. In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has submitted that in view of the limited staff of KVKs, it is difficult to open Sub-kendras/Centres of KVKs at Tehsil/Block level. However, KVKs involve the District/Block Level Personnel of State Extension Departments in different activities of KVKs and share information with them, which has network at Block/Village Level. The Committee note that during the last three years, 41 New KVKs have been opened. Out of these New KVKs, one additional KVK has been opened in 27 districts, where a KVK already existed. While reiterating their Recommendation, the Committee are of the opinion that in place of opening additional KVKs in a district the Department should work out on the feasibility of opening Sub-Kendras/Centers of existing KVK at the district at Block/Tehsil Level.

Moreover, the Committee had also recommended the Department to launch the facility of Toll Free Numbers in KVKs so that the farmers are able to get solutions of their problems without visiting the KVKs. The Department, however, has not specifically submitted any reply in this regard and therefore, the Committee while reiterating their Recommendation desire the Department to apprise the Committee of the specific action taken on this issue.

CHAPTER - II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION (RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.1)

The Committee note that there is a huge gap between the funds proposed by the Department and the funds allocated to the Department. The Department has proposed Rs. 10650.17 cr as against allocation of Rs. 8362.52 Cr at BE Level during 2020-21 and Rs.10241cr as against allocation of Rs. 8513.62 Cr at BE level during 2021-22. Moreover, the proposed allocation at RE level during 202021 8397.71 was further reduced to Rs.7762.38 Cr. The proportion of Budgetary Allocation at RE Stage in favour of Department of Agricultural Research and Education is 0.22% of total Central Plan Outlay in 2020-21. The Committee have been informed that the Department had sought higher allocation while submitting proposal for Revised Estimate for the Current year and Budget Estimate for the next year. The allocation made by the Ministry of Finance was less than that demanded by the Department. The Committee also note that the allocations to Department of Agricultural Research & Education has been reduced from 0.32% in 2018-19 to 0.29% in 2019-20 and the Department however, is receiving higher proportion of allocations vis-à-vis other Research Departments such as Dept of Health Research, Dept of Science and Technology, Dept of Scientific and Industrial Research. However, the allocations are far lesser vis-à-vis Dept. of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare, Dept. of Higher Education, M/o Food & Public Distribution and D/o Fertilizers. Though the Budgetary allocation at BE Level for the fiscal year 2021-22 has been increased in comparison to Fiscal Year 2020-21 but as informed by the Department the increase in allocation at BE level during 2021-22 is only an incremental increase on account of payment of Salary and other establishment expenses. However, Scheme-Allocation at BE 2021-22 is Rs. 2686.00 Cr, which is less than the BE of 2020-21 that was 2729.00 Cr. The Committee are of view that there is need for huge investment in the Agricultural Research and Education Sector if the Government wants to pursue vigorously primary objective of improvement in the living conditions of the farmers with much more purposeful Welfare Orientation. However, the Committee are distressed to note that there is stagnation in the allocations to the Sectors over a period of time. The Committee in their earlier Reports had also been stressing on the enhancement in allocations to the DARE/ICAR in order to strengthen the Agriculture Research Sector. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and strongly recommend the Department to pursue the matter at highest level with the Ministry of Finance in order to enhance allocations to the DARE/ICAR during the fiscal year 2021-22 at RE Level and further.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

DARE/ICAR has consistently pursued the issue of higher allocation for agricultural research sector with the Ministry of Finance. As a result of this pursuance, the Ministry of Finance has enhanced the allocation of DARE/ICAR during 2021-22 to Rs. 8513.65 crore which is higher than the BE 2020-21 of Rs. 8362.58 crore (an increase of 1.8%). It is further submitted that the scheme allocation of this BE 2021-22 is Rs. 2686 crore which is higher than the RE 2020-21 of Rs. 2305 crore i.e. increase of 16.53%. It may be pertinent to mention here that allocation of Rs. 2686 crore under scheme during 2021-22 is marginally less than the BE 2020-21 of Rs. 2729 crore. The matter will be pursued with the MoF at RE 2021-22 level as recommended.

**Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
F.No.7(5)/2021, dated 15th June, 2021**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.7 of **Chapter - I** of this Report.

OPTIMUM UTILIZATION OF FUNDS (RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.2)

The Committee are deeply concerned to find that the Department has surrendered unspent balance of Govt. Grant of Rs. 321.33 Cr for the Financial year 2018-19. The surrendered amount comprises of Rs. 237.05 Cr under Scheme and Rs .84.28 Cr. under Non-Scheme. And more importantly, the unspent balance of Govt. Grant for the year 2019-20 is yet to be surrendered. During the course of examination, the Committee have been informed that in the first year of the plan, EFC approval takes time and because of lack of EFC approval, the Department don't really get expenditure completely and because of that it can't utilise that money. Subsequently, when the Budget release takes place, particularly in the last quarter, fund utilization is difficult but however now it is quite streamlined, earlier this was the main problem. The Committee are not convinced with such state of affairs and are of the considered view that the reasons cited by the Department are not acceptable in the light of the fact the Department has surrendered funds for 2018-19 and for 2019-20 the funds are yet to be surrendered. The Committee urge the Department to spruce up its machinery to prepare realistic, plans in order to make optimum use of its Budgetary Grants to achieve the intended outcomes.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The unspent balance of Rs.185.36 crore for the year 2019-20 has already been refunded to the MoF in March, 2021. It is further submitted that the Department

has spruced up its monitoring mechanism which includes monitoring of expenditure during the Senior Officers Committee meeting on monthly basis in order to make optimum use of its budgetary grants to achieve the intended outcomes. As a result of this scrupulous monitoring at the highest level, the utilization of fund has shown an upward trend resulting in less amount being surrendered. Thus, while Rs. 399.27 crore was surrendered during 2017-18, it came down to Rs. 321.33 crore during 2018-19 and to Rs.185.36 crore during 2019-20 which was just 2.36% of the total allocation. It is likely to become much lower in 2020-21 which will be known after the preparation of Annual Account of 2020-21.

**Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
F.No.7(5)/2021, dated 15th June, 2021**

**ALLOCATION UNDER SCHEME HEAD
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO.3)**

The Committee are aware of the fact that out of total allocation of funds, around 70-75 Percent are spent on salaries, pensions, etc by the Department and merely 25-30 percent of the total allocation is earmarked for Scheme Head. The Committee have been informed that though the total Budgetary Allocation for 2021-22 has been increased in comparison to 2020-21 on account of payment of salary and other establishment expenses, the allocation under the Scheme Head is less than the Budget of 2020-21. During the year 2020-21, the funds allocated under Scheme Head at BE stage was Rs. 2729 Cr which was further reduced to Rs. 2305.00 Cr at RE Stage. The Committee are however displeased to note that the Department has been able to utilize less than 50 percent i.e Rs.1098.60 Cr (till December 2020) during the fiscal year 2020-21. Moreover, for the year 2021-22, the allocation under Scheme Head at BE level has further been reduced to Rs. 2686.00 Cr, which is lowest in comparison to allocation made during the last three Fiscals. In this regard, the Department has informed that the reduced Revised Estimates for 2020-21 vis-à-vis Budget Estimates is due to overall cut by Ministry of Finance. Reduced allocations at RE Stage have led to downsizing of some of the Programs and postponement of some activities for later years. Due to Covid, in every quarter, the Department was given five per cent less up to the Third Quarter, which means, in three quarter 15 per cent of BE was deducted. As there can't be deduction in salary and pension, the deduction was with respect to the Research Grant only, the Scheme Budget, 15 per cent of it was cut. The reduction of funds under Scheme Head is simply not acceptable to the Committee because it adversely affects the implementation of the Schemes. The Committee express their displeasure over the fact that instead of enhancing the allocation of funds under Scheme Head, the same have been considerably reduced. The Committee are of the considered view that the allocation of funds under the Scheme Head should not be reduced at any Stage so that the Department does not have to downsize or postpone different Schemes. The Committee strongly recommend the Department to take up the

matter with the Ministry of Finance. The Committee would like to be apprised of the efforts made by the Department to make sure the same.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Ministry of Finance had issued Cash Management Guidelines in which the Department was eligible to draw only 20% of its budgetary allocation in one quarter instead of 25%. This implies that there was a cut of 5% of budget in each quarter i.e. 20% for the complete financial year and budget would have got reduced by 20% at RE 2020-21 stage. However, actual reduction was only 7.17% due to pursuance of the issue in the budget meetings. As advised by the Committee, the Department will further take up the matter with Ministry of Finance at RE 2021-22.

**Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
F.No.7(5)/2021, dated 15th June, 2021**

ALLOCATION FOR NORTH EASTERN HILL REGION (RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 4)

The Committee are unhappy to note that the Department has not been able to fully utilize its Budgetary Allocation meant for North East Region (NER) in each of the last three Fiscal Years. The Committee also note that though the allocation of funds for NEH Region is steadily increasing but the Department is not able to utilize it optimally. Under utilization of allocated funds, defeats the very purpose of having a separate Sub-allocation for NEH Region. The Committee are of the view that it is the responsibility of the Department to ensure optimal utilization of funds allocated to NEH Region in a time bound manner for various activities meant for development of the Region. The issue needs to be addressed through coordinated approach amongst all stakeholders involved in the process removing basic constraints which hinder optimum utilization of funds. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department should study the loop holes and a full proof mechanism be evolved to address the issue ensuring optimum utilization of funds earmarked for North Eastern and Hill Region. The Committee would like to be informed of the fresh initiatives by the Department in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Efforts are being made to remove the constraints for achieving maximum utilization of fund under NEH and Hill region. The fresh initiatives taken for optimum utilization of fund includes; 1) rendering necessary help to the Research Centres for procurement and installation of the items, 2) Encouraging Centre's PIs/ Scientists for getting exposure and trainings on improved technologies, high-tech laboratories, prototypes manufacturing facilities etc, 3) Regular monitoring of the expenditure of research centres in North Eastern and Hill region, 4) Monthly review meetings of funds utilisation during Senior Officer Committee.

**Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
F.No.7(5)/2021, dated 15th June, 2021**

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.10 of **Chapter - I** of this Report.

(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 5)

The Committee note that the Department is implementing Programs on Soil Test Crop Response (STCR), Micro- and Secondary Nutrients and Pollutant Elements (MSNP) in soils and Plants, Long Term Fertilizer Experiments (LTFE) and Network Project on Soil Biodiversity- Biofertilizers are addressing researchable issues related to soil health/fertility and balanced use of fertilizers. The Committee have been informed that the main objective of the Soil Testing is to provide Soil Test-based Fertilizer Recommendation to facilitate balanced fertilization and to prepare maps at District/Block Level for monitoring of soil health/fertility. ICAR provides technological backstopping to National Mission on Soil Health Card being implemented in the country. The Council has developed portable Soil Test Kit (Mridaparikshak) /Mini Lab to bring Soil Testing facilities at Block/Village level. The Kit meets the requirements of National Mission on Soil Health Card, providing Soil Testing Service at farmers' doorstep along with Soil Test Based Fertilizer Recommendations. So far, 11343 Kits have been sold. Most of the KVKs at district levels have been equipped with such facilities to make analysis of soil samples. The Committee are aware that unbalanced and indiscriminate use of chemicals fertilisers particularly in the States of Punjab and Haryana over the years has resulted in depletion of soil fertility and Multi Nutrient Deficiency especially the soil there being under intensive cropping. The rampant use of fertilizers has not only affected the soil health but also affecting human and animal health. They feel that this is mainly due to the ignorance on the part of the farmers about the quality of soil. The Committee, therefore recommend the Department to coordinate with DAC&FW to facilitate Soil Testing at the village level. In this context, the Committee further recommend the Department to organise an extensive Campaigns in order to create awareness among farmers about the benefits of Soil Testing and also about improvement of soil health, besides exploring the possibility of providing Mobile Soil Testing Vehicle at Village Level so as to facilitate farmers on this count as the same would also make available results of the Soil Testing to farmers instantaneously.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Department is coordinating with DAC&FW right from the formulation of National Mission on Soil Health Card and has provided scientific inputs/information

on sampling protocol, analytical techniques, soil tested based fertilizer prescription equations, assessment of fertilizer requirements, developing soil testing portal and preparation of village/block level soil fertility maps. The ICAR has developed two digital soil test kits for rapid estimation of all the 12 parameters enlisted in soil health card. The kits have been provided to KVKs funded by DAC&FW to facilitate soil testing service at district/block level. DAC&FW is also extending soil testing facilities at farmers' doorstep by way of establishing village level soil testing labs by local entrepreneurs under Soil Health Management (SHM) component of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) for sustainable soil health management and judicious application of fertilizers. ICAR is also imparting training to farmers through subordinate offices/Institutes and KVKs to create awareness on benefits of soil testing and soil test based balanced fertilization and integrated nutrient management. Skill development programs are also organised for STL staff for capacity building as and when asked for.

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**CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 6)**

The Committee feel that in situ Management of Crop Residue in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi has been a matter of concern for years. The Committee note that in order to have an effective Crop Residue Management Instruments and implements have been provided for farmers on subsidies. For faster decomposition of straw, Pusa Decomposer, a Microbial Consortium consisting of *Aspergillus awamori*, *Phlebia radiata*, *Aspergillus nidulans*, *Aspergillus clavatus*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Trichoderma viride* and *Aspergillus fumigatus* has been developed, which accelerates the decomposition of paddy straw and makes the field ready for next crop sowing in 20-25 days following conventional tilling (CT) practices. CT is one of the major activities in the Govt. funded Crop Residue Management (CRM) scheme. Its use enriches the soil with Organic Carbon (OC) and nutrients while improving the soil biological properties. The Committee were of the opinion that Pusa decomposer developed by the Department is a welcome step and efforts be made to make the decomposer more and more effective as an effective solution to address concerns of the farmers to this effect. The Committee strongly recommend the use of PUSA decomposer in large scale to minimize pollution caused by parali. The Department should also take further steps to make it economically viable and cost effective.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Spraying Pusa Decomposer solution accelerates process of paddy straw decomposition and field ready for potato, peas and wheat sowing in 20-25 days

following conventional tilling (CT) practices. CT is one of the major activities in the Govt. funded CRM scheme. Its use enriches the soil with organic carbon (OC) and nutrients while improving the soil biological properties. Pusa Decomposer is a long term sustainable solution for management of paddy straw in conjunction with CT, Happy Seeder and Super Seeder options.

Concerted efforts have been made to demonstrate the Pusa Decomposer Technology for crop residue management across the country. During 2020, Pusa Decomposer has been provided for 5730 ha area viz: to Govt. of Uttar Pradesh (3700), Punjab (200), Delhi (800), West Bengal (510), Telangana (100); Confederation of Indian Industry (100) and NGO and Farmers (320). In addition, Pusa Decomposer kits have been provided to the farmers of 25 states by IARI during 2020-2021. Pusa Decomposer can cover 13000 ha area at farmers fields. Pusa Decomposer technology has been licensed to eight companies for bulk production for covering larger areas in the country. Total cost of preparation of solution of Pusa Decomposer for one ha is approx. Rs. 85.50 (Rs. 50 for 4 capsules), Rs.30 jaggery, Rs. 5.5 besan). However, efforts are being made to make this technology more effective and cost efficient.

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(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
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Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.13 of **Chapter - I** of this Report.

NATIONAL INNOVATION IN CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE (NICRA) **(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 7)**

The Committee observe that the Department has been able to utilize only Rs. 27.86 Crore (up to Dec'20) as against the allocation of Rs. 49.83 crore at RE Level during 2020-21. The allocation of funds at BE level has been increased from Rs. 52 cr in 2020-21 to Rs. 55 crore for 2021-22. The Department has informed that less utilization has been due to less funds release and of the prevailing Pandemic Situation. The Committee have been informed that increased allocations shall bring in identifying and operationalizing New Projects under Competitive Grants of NICRA. Climate Change Research Infrastructure established at different locations will be upgraded. The NICRA /clusters/villages will be expanded to other Risk Prone Districts in the country based latest risk analysis. It is also proposed to establish new Eddy Covariance Towers (for creating India Flux) for precise estimation of GHG emissions from different production systems at landscape level. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to allocate adequate funds so that the research activities and preparedness for facing challenges that Climate Change will pose to Indian Agriculture are not

hampered. The Committee feel that the proposal of establishing new Eddy Covariance Towers for precise estimation of GHG emissions is a welcome step and desire the Department to apprise the Committee regarding progress made in this regard.

Further, regarding target set for training of farmers to create awareness on successful Climate Resilient Practices and Technologies under NICRA Projects, the Committee have been informed that approx. 1500 Training Programs covering 60,000 farmers and other stakeholders are being conducted every year. In the coming years the targets have been set to conduct 2,000 Training Programs and cover more than one lakh farmers every year. The Committee are of the considered view that the number of Training Programs conducted by the Department every year are quite less and with such pace it would be quite impossible to cover considerable number of farmers. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take urgent steps to increase the frequency and number of Training Programmes so that more and more farmers could be made aware and get benefitted and make an Annual Plan covering all Agro Climatic Zones. The Committee also recommend the Department to start awareness campaign to educate farmers about Climate Resilient Practices and technologies through the Print and Electronic Media.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The NICRA Expert Committee has recommended 17 projects for funding in the next 3 years under different themes representing various agro ecologies. Outcomes of these projects facilitate to better understand the impact of climate change on fisheries, livestock, natural resources, crops, etc. The NICRA model villages will be expanded to 50 villages every year from 1st April, 2021 for more risk prone districts. The ICAR-Eddy Flux Network was established in the previous phase at Cuttack for rice and New Delhi for wheat. It is proposed to establish the Eddy Flux at 10 different locations to estimate GHG emissions from different cropping systems. The technology demonstrations will be taken up in 122 very high and high risk prone districts in the country. It is proposed to conduct 2500 training programs across the country benefitting about 1.5 lakh farmers every year. Further, the NICRA team is working to establish linkages with NABARD, Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare etc. for up scaling resilient practices by convergence with ongoing schemes. The resilient technologies will be made widespread by publishing in newspapers and by posting in electronic and social media like twitter/Facebook/Youtube.

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CROP SCIENCE
(RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 8)

The Committee note that the Crop Science Division undertakes Research Programs in the areas of management of Genetic Resources, Crop improvement, Crop Management (production and protection). The focus of Crop Science Division Programs are on genetic enhancement of field crops for yield, tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses and quality, and it has released 345 High Yielding Stress Tolerant Varieties in different Field Crops. 17 BioFortified Varieties of different Field and Horticultural Crops have also been released and dedicated to the Nation by Hon'ble Prime Minister on the occasion of World Food Day on 16 October, 2020. The Committee have been informed that during the last five years, the Varietal Improvement Programme has been expedited and a total of 1366 Varieties including Cereals (644), Oilseeds (200), Pulses (214), Forage Crops (89), Fibre Crops (158), Sugarcane (51) and other crops (10) have been developed which include 62 Biofortified Varieties. Out of 1366 Varieties, 1109 varieties have resilience to one or the other biotic and abiotic stresses. Use of Genomic Tools has also been demonstrated successfully by breeding 51 varieties with improved stress tolerance and quality traits. The Committee were further informed that the first set of biofortified varieties in case of wheat, rice and mustard was released during 2015-16 and some of the varieties were put under the Breeder Seed Production during 2016-17. The Certified Seeds of these varieties have been made available for commercial cultivation by the farmer during 2019-20. Presently eighteen varieties of Wheat, five varieties of Rice, four Hybrids of Pearl Millet, two varieties of Lentil and two varieties of Mustard are in Seed chain and 7466 q of Breeder Seed has been produced since 2016-17. The Seeds are being converted to Certified Seed by the various Seed Producing Agencies in different states to make Bio-Fortified Seeds available to the farmers in coming years. Further, the Bio-Fortified Varieties of wheat, rice, maize, mustard and soybean have been licensed to more than 300 Private Seed Companies, which produce and market the quality seed of these varieties. According to the Department, different bio-fortified seeds have been developed for different Regions. The emphasis is also being given on development of Local Varieties. Earlier the stress was on increase in production but now it is on increase of yield with preserving the qualities of local and traditional varieties. The Committee appreciates the efforts made by the Department and at the same time, desire the Department to take further steps and redouble its efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in production of Pulses and Oilseeds so that import dependency be minimized. The Committee note that since Pulses are a major source of protein for majority of people in India and availability of adequate quantity of Pulses at reasonable prices is a way to deal with the problem of malnutrition in the country. The Committee also desire that efforts be made to maintain natural and intrinsic qualities of Local and Traditional Seeds while developing new seeds. The Committee further desires that Local Endemic Varieties of crops should also be propagated and preserved alternate Cropping patterns should be encouraged by way of preparing an Action Plan to this effect.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

During 2014 till January 2021, a total of 1575 varieties of 70 field crops have been developed, which include 770 of cereals, 235 of oilseeds, 242 of pulses, 170 of fibre crops, 104 of forage crops, 52 of sugarcane and 8 of other crops. These varieties are released at central and state levels after multilocation trials over years in different agroclimatic conditions of the country. Special efforts have been made and as a result 242 varieties of 10 pulses have been released which include Chickpea (61), Lentil (32), Fieldpea (20), Mungbean (35), Urdbean (28), Pigeonpea (37), Cowpea (13), Horsegram (7), Rajmash (3), Cluster bean (1), Faba bean (1), Moth bean (1), Indian bean (2) and *Lathyrus* (1). Special efforts are being made to develop biofortified varieties of pulses and two biofortified varieties of lentil viz., Pusa Ageti and IPL 220 have been released with high iron and zinc content. The dissemination of region-specific, cost effective and system based technological know-how and package of practices for pulses have led to increase in seed replacement rate (SRR) of pulses from <10% in 2004-05 to the current around 30%. Improved varieties of pulses (<10 years) have replaced the old varieties in seed chain under Breeder Seed Production to the extent of more than 70% during last two years (2017-19). With a record production of pulses to the tune of 25.41 million tonnes during 2017-18, the country has reached close to self-sufficiency in the sector. India has witnessed an impressive growth in pulses production during last decade (4.7%) and has led to increase per capita availability of pulses (55.9 g/capita/day from the earlier 35.4 g/capita/day in 2010).

Special attention is being given to conserve and preserve the local and traditional varieties of all the crops. The following Landraces/ Traditional Cultivars/ Folk Varieties have been conserved in National Genebank at NBPGR, New Delhi. Genebank has total 90580 accessions of different crops, which includes 18886 of Cereals, 16460 of Millets, 31559 of Oilseeds, 10985 of Grain legumes, 1528 of Forages, 307 of Fibre, 1710 of Pseudocereals, 1143 of Medicinal & Aromatic plants, 6543 of Vegetables, 11 of Fruits & Nuts, 1084 of Spices, 346 of Agroforestry and 18 of Ornamental crop groups. In addition to preservation and conservation of these local endemic varieties of different crops, efforts are now being made for cultivation and marketing of the produce of these varieties through DAC&FW's programme on "One District One Product".

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KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRAS (RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 9)

The Committee have time and again emphasized the importance of KVKs in the Scheme for Agricultural Extension. Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs),

part of Frontline Extension System, are mandated for Technology Assessment and Demonstration for its application and capacity development under different farming situations across the country. The Committee are pleased to note that the allocation for Agriculture Extension for the year 2021-22 at BE Level has been substantially increased. The Department has informed that RE for 2020-21 was 237.49 crore and allocation for 2021-22 is Rs. 318.00 crore with increase of about 38 % of the RE of 2020-21. The more allocation is proposed in view of increasing number of KVKs, creating the required infrastructure for setting up new KVKs and strengthening of infrastructure in the old KVKs. The Committee are however, distressed note that more than 100 KVKs do not have farmers' hostel and more than 50 KVKs do not have Administrative Buildings. And importantly, more than 1000 posts at different Levels are vacant in KVKs. The Committee are of the view that sufficient funds, inadequate infrastructure, vacant positions are defeating the very purpose of establishment of KVKs. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to expedite the work related to filling up of vacant posts in KVKs in consultation with different stakeholders and the infrastructural inadequacies be completed as early as possible. The Committee would like to be apprised about the action taken by the Department in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Appointments in the KVKs are done by the respective Host Organizations. Majority of the KVKs are with State Agricultural Universities which are under the administrative control of State Governments. Letters have been written by the Competent Authorities to the concerned dignitaries and offices of the States Governments and Vice Chancellors of the Agricultural Universities, to fill up the vacant posts of KVKs on priority. Filling of the vacant positions in KVKs on priority basis was taken up with the Vice Chancellors of Agricultural Universities in the meetings of Regional Committees of ICAR and Vice Chancellors' Conference. Infrastructure of the KVKs upgraded/ strengthened as per requirement and availability of funds.

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AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION (RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 11)

Agriculture Research in the Country is led by National Agricultural Research System, which comprises Research Institutes, Central and State Agricultural Universities, Deemed-to-be Universities and Agricultural Colleges. The Country has a net work of 103 Research and Education Institutes, 74

Agricultural Universities and 721 Krishi Vigyan Kendras spared across the country. However, the Committee are distressed to note that the allocation at BE level and RE level has a decreasing trend since 2018-19. The allocation at BE level and RE Level was Rs.618 Cr and Rs. 525 Cr respectively during 2018-19 whereas the allocation of funds at BE level and RE level for the year 2020-21 was Rs. 480 Cr and Rs. 319 Cr respectively. Not only this, the allocation of funds at BE level for 2021-22 has been further reduced to Rs. 355 Cr. The Department has informed that the reduction imposed by Ministry of Finance on allocations of the Department at BE and RE Levels from 2018-19 to 2021-22 impacted the proportionate reduction in allocations of the Division. The Committee express their deep concern over the matter and are not able to comprehend rationale behind reduction of funds for Agricultural Education over the years. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that allocation made to the Division may be reviewed at RE Stage and the matter may be taken up with the M/o Finance at RE stage for allocation of adequate funds at RE stage so as to ensure effective and efficient implementation of its various activities/Research programmes.

The Committee also note that there is huge difference between number of applicants and number of candidates selected for admission in UG/PG Courses in Agriculture from 2008-09 to 2020-21. The Department has informed that ICAR Admission Test for UG/PG courses in Agriculture and Allied Sciences are conducted under the aegis of ICAR. However, only 15 percent of successful candidates are admitted through ICAR in different Universities/Institutes and rest of them are admitted in the State Agricultural Universities. The State Governments conduct State Level entrance exams for admission in State Agriculture Universities. The Committee are of the considered opinion that the Department in consultation with all stake holders explore the feasibility for conducting Common Admission Test at All India Level for admission in UG /PG Level in Agriculture and Allied Sciences and simultaneously propose to increase the number of seats in different Colleges/Universities

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Agricultural Universities (AUs) under the ICAR-AU system, which comprises of State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Central Agricultural Universities (CAUs), ICAR-Deemed-to-be-Universities (DUs), Central Universities (CUs) with Agriculture Faculty, have made an arrangement to fill a specified percentage of their seats through the All India Entrance Examinations conducted by ICAR. The examination is conducted with the primary aim to curtail academic inbreeding in agricultural education by promoting national integration through mobility amongst students, infuse merit, encourage talent and promote uniform examination standards across the universities, thereby leading to an overall improvement in the quality of Higher Agricultural Education in the country. Accordingly, the AUs annually provide 15% (UG) and 25% (PG and Ph.D.) of their existing seats as ICAR quota seats for filling up through the entrance examinations. As Agricultural Education is a state subject, the remaining 85% (UG) and 75% (PG and Ph.D.) seats are filled by the SAUs and Agriculture Faculties under the CUs through the state quota. However, ICAR fills 100 % PG and Ph.D. seats at ICAR-DUs, viz. NDRI, Karnal, IARI, New Delhi, IVRI, Bareilly and CIFE, Mumbai and two CAUs, viz. Dr. RPCAU, Pusa (PG and Ph.D.) and RLBCAU, Jhansi (PG only) and 100% UG seats at NDRI, Karnal and two CAUs. On account of this specified ICAR quota, the applicants are admitted through ICAR on 15% of existing UG seats in different universities/institutes.

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CHAPTER III

OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION TAKEN REPLY

PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 12)

The Committee have been informed that in order to encourage Private Investment in the Agricultural Research ICAR has revised and reoriented its Guidelines to work closely with wider community including Private and Public Sector by implementing i.e. ICAR Rules and Guidelines for Professional Services Functions (Training, consultancy, contract Research and Contract Service) 2014 and ICAR Guidelines for Intellectual Property Management and Technology Transfer/Commercialization (IPMTT/C) revised 2018. Further, to accelerate dissemination of innovative technologies, Agrinnovate India Limited a Registered Company, was established by Government of India in Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE). The Committee are of the view that there is tremendous scope for commercialisation of products and technologies of ICAR Institutes both in domestic and International Market. The Committee feel that to give fillip to Agricultural Research more and more Investment is required and therefore desire that initiatives be taken by the Department to increase Private Investment in this Sector by making Policy changes wherever further necessary for attracting the Private Investment.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Implementation of the revised IPR rules and guidelines of 2018, the scope for technology transfer to public and private institutions, individual entrepreneurs and companies through Agrinnovate has widened. Since 2018-19, and till date 2020-21, Agrinnovate has transferred 175 technologies to around 88 private/public institutions on 'non-exclusive' licensing basis for commercial scale production and sale, under a set of mutually agreed terms and conditions. The ICAR technologies licensed have started enterprises for commercial scale production and sale. Regular efforts are being made to enhance participation of private institutions for increasing private investment into agricultural research and development.

ICAR has developed Guidelines for utilization of Corporate Social Responsibility Funds (2020) for investment of CSR Funds by the Private Sector to Research in ICAR. Till now the companies were providing some funds to ICAR Institutes under contract research where a specific problem was given by the private company and ICAR Institutes were working on that. As of now the clear-cut guidelines are available for investment of CSR funds by the private companies, the investment is likely to increase in agricultural research. As an initiative Rs 50.00 Lakh have been received from Corteva AgriScience, Hyderabad at NBPGR, Regional Station Hyderabad during 2020-21. Earlier also funding was received by private sector in agricultural research to ICAR Institutes by M/S MARICO as a research project (Budget: Rs.148.79 lakhs) for development of high oleic safflower variety at ICAR-IIOR, Hyderabad. Since 2019, research projects undertaken on post-harvest processing, pre-cleaning and ginning of cotton in Public Private Partnership mode with two industries worth Rs. 28,53,160/-.

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(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
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CHAPTER IV

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

OPENING OF ADDITIONAL KVKs (RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 10)

The Committee have been informed that one KVK is to be sanctioned in each of the rural Districts. The Districts for more than one KVK are decided based on a composite index with the average of three indices viz. geographical area, rural population and net sown area. During the last three years, 41 New KVKs have been opened. Out of these New KVKs, one additional KVK has been opened in 27 districts where a KVK already existed. In the opinion of the Committee, one KVK in a district is not sufficient to cater to the requirements of farming population in most of the rural districts of the country and as such, the Committee are of the considered opinion that to maximise the outreach of KVKs to the framers, feasibility of opening of Sub-kendras/Centres of KVKs at Tehsil/Block level be explored. Moreover, the Committee also recommend the Department to address the problems being faced by the farmers, the facility of Toll Free Numbers in KVKs be launched so that the farmers can get solution of their problems without visiting the KVKs.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The scientific and technical staff available with each KVK is one Senior Scientist-cum-Head and six Subject Matter Specialists. In view of the limited staff of KVKs, it is difficult to open Sub-kendras/Centres of KVKs at Tehsil/Block level. However, KVKs involve the district/block level personnel of state extension departments in different activities of KVKs and share information with them, which has network at block/village level. Furthermore, KVKs are using the services of mKisanportal of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare to send the advisories and alerts to 5.36 crore farmers. KVKs have also formed different commodity-based groups using social media to reach out to large number of farmers. Besides, ICAR is utilizing the network of Common Service Centers (CSCs) established at Gram Panchayat level for providing technological solutions to the farmers visiting CSCs with agriculture related problems through KVKs. At present, 348111 farmers are registered for tele consultations. The KVKs also conduct large number of off campus activities to cover more areas of the districts.

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Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.16 of **Chapter - I** of this Report.

CHAPTER V

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

- N I L -

**NEW DELHI;
07 December, 2021
16 Agrahayana,1943 (Saka)**

**P.C. GADDIGOUDAR
Chairperson,
*Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal
Husbandry and Food Processing***

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND
FOOD PROCESSING
(2021-22)**

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 7th December, 2021 from 1500 hrs. to 1635 hrs. in Committee Room No.2, Block-A, PHA Extension Block-A, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri P. C. Gaddigoudar – Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Horen Singh Bey
3. Shri A. Ganeshamurthi
4. Shri Abu Taher Khan
5. Shri Mohan Mandavi
6. Shri Devji Mansingram Patel
7. Smt. Shardaben Anilbhai Patel
8. Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao Patil
9. Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil
10. Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut
11. Shri Pocha Brahmananda Reddy
12. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy
13. Shri V.K. Sreekandan

RAJYA SABHA

14. Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa
15. Shri Kailash Soni
16. Shri Vaiko

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Shiv Kumar | – | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Smt. Juby Amar | – | Director |
| 3. | Shri Prem Ranjan | – | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration the followings Action Taken Reports:

* (i) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

(ii) Draft Action Report on Action Taken by the Government on Observations / Recommendations contained in the 25th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2020-21) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education);

* (iii) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

* (iv) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

* (v) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

3. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the Draft Action Taken Reports without any modifications and the Committee authorized the Chairperson to finalize and present these Reports to Parliament.

*4. XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

*5. XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

*6. XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

The Committee then adjourned.

(A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the Sitting has been kept.)

*Matter not related to this Report

APPENDIX - I

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE TWENTY FIFTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (17TH LOK SABHA)

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	12
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been Accepted by the Government Recommendation Nos. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 and 11	
	Total	10
	Percentage	83.34%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies Recommendation Nos. 12	
	Total	01
	Percentage	08.33%
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee Recommendation No. 10	
	Total	01
	Percentage	08.33%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited Recommendation No. NIL	
	Total	00
	Percentage	00.00%