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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE
(2015-2016)**

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

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

'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2016-17)'

*[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained
in the Twenty Sixth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing
Committee on Agriculture (2015-2016)]*

THIRTIETH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August 2016/Shravana, 1938 (Saka)

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contained in the Twenty Sixth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the
Standing Committee on Agriculture (2015-2016)]*

*Presented to Lok Sabha on 11.8.2016
Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 11.8.2016*



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
August 2016/Shravana,1938 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE (2015-16)

Shri Hukm Deo Narayan Yadav — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Prof. Ravindra Vishwanath Gaikwad
3. Shri Sanganna Karadi
4. Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel
- *5. Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse
6. Md. Badaruddoza Khan
7. Shri C. Mahendran
8. Dr. Tapas Mandal
9. Shri Janardan Mishra
10. Shri Ajay Nishad
- §11. Vacant
12. Shri Nityanand Rai
13. Shri Mukesh Rajput
14. Shri Konakalla Narayana Rao
15. Shri C.L. Ruala
16. Shri Arjun Charan Sethi
17. Shri Satyapal Singh (Sambhal)
18. Shri Virendra Singh
19. Shri Dharmendra Yadav
20. Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav
21. Shri B. S. Yeddyurappa

* Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse, MP Lok Sabha, nominated to the Committee *w.e.f.* 13.04.2016
vice Prof. Richard Hay who ceased to be the Member of the Committee *w.e.f.* 13.04.2016.

§ Vacant due to sad demise of Shri Dalpat Singh Paraste *w.e.f.* 01.06.2016.

Rajya Sabha

- ^22. Vacant
23. Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury
- #24. Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa
25. Shri Janardan Dwivedi
- @26. Shri Meghraj Jain
27. Shri Vinay Katiyar
28. Shri Mohd. Ali Khan
29. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
30. Shri Shankarbai N. Vegad
31. Shri Darshan Singh Yadav

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri U.B.S. Negi — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri Arun K. Kaushik — *Director*
3. Shri Sumesh Kumar — *Under Secretary*

^ Vacant due to retirement of Shri A.W. Rabi Bernard from the Membership of Rajya Sabha *w.e.f.* 29.06.2016 *vide* CB-I Note dated 28.06.2016.

Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, MP Rajya Sabha, nominated to the Committee *w.e.f.* 23.05.2016 *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin- Part II, No.3581 dated 23.05.2016.

@ Shri Meghraj Jain, MP Rajya Sabha, nominated to the Committee *w.e.f.* 28.07.2016 *vide* Rajya Sabha Bulletin- Part II, dated 28.07.2016.

Shri Rajpal Singh Saini from the Membership of Rajya Sabha *w.e.f.* 04.07.2016 *vide* CB-I Note dated 28.06.2016.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture (2015-16), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirtieth Report on action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty Sixth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2015-16) on 'Demands for Grants (2016-17)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

2. The Twenty Sixth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2015-16) 'Demands for Grants (2016-17)' 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 02 May, 2016. The Action Taken Notes on the Report were received on 04 July, 2016.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 08.08.2016.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty Sixth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix.

NEW DELHI;
8 August, 2016

17 Shravana, 1938 (Saka)

HUKM DEO NARAYAN YADAV,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2015-16) on 'Demands for Grants (2016-17)' of 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 02 May 2016.

1.2 The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) have furnished Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 14 Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report. These replies have been categorized as under:—

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

Recommendation Para Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13

(Chapter II - Total 11)

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

Recommendation Para No. NIL

(Chapter III - Total NIL)

- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which action taken replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Recommendation Para No. NIL

(Chapter IV - Total NIL)

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

Recommendation Para Nos. 4, 11 and 14

(Chapter V - Total 03)

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 Department to implement the Recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that further Action Taken Note on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and Final Action Taken Replies to the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-V 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. Planning in the era of NITI Aayog

Recommendation (Para No. 4)

1.5 The Committee had noted that the Government are yet to initiate process of formulation of next plan after replacement of Planning Commission by NITI Aayog. In this regard, the Committee had been informed that as per Allocation of Business Rules, the NITI Aayog is mandated to evolve a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of States in the light of national objectives. NITI Aayog is also assigned the responsibility to develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of Government. To design strategic and long term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives, and monitor their progress and their efficacy, the lesson learnt through monitoring and feedback will be used for making innovative improvements, including mid-course corrections. According to the Department, they have envisaged overall allocation of 1.0% of total agricultural GDP for the Department (DARE/ICAR) for attaining required growth of agriculture sector in the country. The Department will require fund of Rs. 45878.13 crore under Plan and Non-plan Heads for next five years. However, the Committee were astonished to know that Department is not aware about future course of planning process and NITI Aayog is yet to take any decision regarding formulation of next five year plan.

The Committee were of view that formulation of long term plan is *sina-qua-non* for development of economy in general and science and technology in particular. NITI Aayog need to take up this issue on urgent basis and specify the future course of action for planning so that necessary steps could be taken up to fix targets and assign resources accordingly. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the NITI Aayog be urged to design strategic and long term policy frameworks of the Department to enable them to take initiatives and formulate action plan accordingly to achieve the physical and financial targets for the purpose. The Committee also expected the DARE/ICAR to utilize in-house mechanism and expertise for the development of long term vision and plan for all institutions under its purview for the next five years.

Reply of the Government

1.6 In its action taken reply, the Ministry has stated as under:—

“NITI Aayog has been entrusted to prepare a 15-years vision document beginning from the financial year 2017-18 along with seven years plan for execution and midterm appraisal/review during every 3 years. This will replace prevailing five year planning system, which was prepared for over six decades by its predecessor Planning Commission. NITI Aayog started deliberations for a 15-year vision document and will hold stakeholder consultations in groups over the next few months and aims to prepare the documents by the end of this year. The consultations would also seek suggestion for framing a seven year (2017-18 to 2023-24) strategy to convert the longer vision into implementable policy as part of the National Development Agenda, which will be reviewed after three years (2019-20) fiscal. In addition, the department has already considered recommendation/concern of the Committee. Institutions under DARE/ICAR have developed long term vision 2050 by utilizing in-house expertise of each sector namely Crop Sciences, Animal Sciences, Fisheries Sciences, Horticulture Sciences, Natural Resource Management, Agriculture Engineering, Agriculture Education and Agricultural Extension.”

1.7 Keeping in view the need for long term vision and strategic planning to achieve aims in the field of agriculture, the Committee had recommended the Department to take up issue with NITI Aayog for formulation of plan for the Department. The Committee had also desired the Department to utilize in-house expertise for the development of long term vision and plan for all institutions under

its purview for the next five years. In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated that NITI Aayog started deliberations for a 15-year vision document and will hold stakeholder consultations in groups over the next few months and aims to prepare the documents by the end of this year. The consultations would also seek suggestion for framing a seven year (2017-18 to 2023-24) strategy to convert the longer vision into implementable policy as part of the National Development Agenda, which will be reviewed after three years (2019-20) fiscal. The Committee have also been informed that Institutions under DARE/ICAR have developed long term vision 2050 by utilizing in-house expertise. The Committee hope that NITI Aayog would complete their deliberations for preparation of a 15-year vision document after consulting all stakeholders by the end of the current year and also frame seven year implementation policy as part of the National Development Agenda so that Department could be in a position to explain their needs and demands and formulate its action plan. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to impress upon NITI Aayog to prepare 15 year vision document within its stipulated time without further delay.

B. Promotion to cultivation of pulses

Recommendation (Para No. 7)

1.8 The Committee were distressed to note that despite being the largest producer of pulses in the world, India has to resort to import a large quantity of pulses to meet the demand in the country. The Committee had noted that production of pulses in the country is around 17-19 million tonnes during the last 3-4 years which falls short of domestic requirement of about 22.5 million tonnes processed dal. 3.09 mt of pulses were imported by the country bringing a burden of Rs. 11038 crore during 2013-14. ICAR has developed a number of area and season specific high yielding and pest resistant varieties of pulses which has positive impact of 14-16% in increasing production of pulses in the country. The ICAR has also developed crop production, management and protection technologies which can safeguard pulse crops from pests and insects. The Committee had also been informed that a scheme for enhancing indigenous pulse production to achieve self-sufficiency by 2020-21 has been initiated besides existing National Food Security Mission and Borlaug Global Rust Initiative. However, the Committee were anguished to note that failure of State and National seed companies to provide quality seeds of improved varieties, slow pace of farm mechanization in pulses cultivation, failure of the

Government to create efficient market intervention scheme, lack of liberal credit policy and poor economic capacity of the farmers to make investment are hindering country to achieve self-sufficiency in production of pulses. The Committee were of view that 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, therefore, desired the Government should invest aggressively not only in R&D for pulses but should also provide adequate incentives to the farmers in the form of support to availability of improved varieties of seeds at subsidized rate, farm mechanization and credit facility at lower interest rate. The Committee also desired that the Department should impress upon all stake holders including State Governments to expedite farm mechanization and use quality seeds of the improved varieties to achieve self-sufficiency in pulse production in the country in the near future. Further, the Government should also provide adequate financial support for the purpose so that the time bound mission to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses production do not suffer for want of funds.

Reply of the Government

1.9 In their action taken reply the Ministry has stated as under:—

“Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India are jointly working on a comprehensive action plan for attaining self-sufficiency in pulses with a two-pronged approach of productivity enhancement and increasing production through expansion of pulses’ area, since rabi 2015-16. In order to ensure self-sufficiency in pulses, a road map to achieve 21 million tonnes pulses production in 2017-18 and 24 million tonnes by 2020-21 has been envisaged. To bring 3-4 million ha additional area under pulses, promotion of summer Mung bean after the harvest of wheat, potato and rapeseed mustard in Punjab, Haryana, Western UP and parts of Rajasthan; Lentil and chickpea in rice fallows of Eastern UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal; and Mungbean/Urdbean in rice fallows of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Karnataka has been targeted. Department has planned to enhance the availability of quality seed of pulses at subsidized rate by strengthening breeder seed production and establishment of pulses seed-hubs at selected State Agricultural Universities, Krishi

Vigyan Kendras and ICAR research institutes from 2016-17. For that, a provision of Rs. 250 crore for strengthening breeder seed production at selected centers and enhancing quality seed production of pulses through proposed 150 seed-hubs have been made under National Food Security Mission (NFSM). In addition, the DAC&FW, is taking up a new sub-schemes under RKVY for pulses 'area expansion especially in rice fallow areas of Eastern India with a total allocation of Rs. 200 crore comprising central share of Rs. 130 crore. During rabi 2015-16, about 32037 demonstrations on latest varieties and production and protection technologies of rabi pulses were conducted in about 12811 ha area by 300 Krishi Vigyan Kendras of ICAR across the country, for which a budget allocation of Rs. 12 crore was made under NFSM."

1.10 The Committee are happy to note that Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) are working in coordination on a comprehensive action plan for attaining self-sufficiency in production of pulses and a road map for the purpose has been envisaged. In this regard, promotion of summer Mung bean in Punjab, Haryana, Western UP and parts of Rajasthan; Lentil and chickpea in rice fallows of Eastern UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal; and Mungbean/Urdbean in rice fallows of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Karnataka has been targeted. A provision of Rs. 250 crore for strengthening breeder seed production at selected centers and enhancing quality seed production of pulses through proposed 150 seed-hubs has been made under National Food Security Mission (NFSM). About 32037 demonstrations on latest varieties and production and protection technologies of rabi pulses were conducted by 300 Krishi Vigyan Kendras of ICAR across the country during rabi 2015-16. The Committee hope that these steps will help the Country to achieve self sufficiency in the production of pulses. However, the Committee note that the reply is silent on the issues of support to the farmers in the form of farm mechanization and credit support at lower interest rates for the cultivation of pulses. The Committee are of view that unless farmers are provided with adequate financial support in the form of subsidized seeds, farm machinery and credit at affordable interest rates, shift from wheat/paddy towards farming of pulses will not happen as farming of pulses is of long duration and is fraught with dangers of loss of crops due to diseases/ pests. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation to provide adequate incentives to the farmers in the form of support

to farm mechanization and credit facility at lower interest rate. The Committee desire the Government to make provision for the same to achieve the aims set for pulses production in country. Further, the Committee also desire the Government to allocate sufficient funds to ICAR for development of short duration and disease resistant varieties of pulses. The Committee would like to be informed about the steps taken by the Government in this regard within three months of presentation of this Report.

C. Agricultural Extension Division

Recommendation (Para No. 11)

1.11 The Committee had noted that Agricultural Extension Division has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing Plan Scheme on continuation and establishment of new Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). The KVK scheme concerns with technology assessment, refinement and demonstration of technology/products and its transfer through training of farmers and extension personnel, besides organizing extension programmes for creating awareness on improved agricultural technology. The scheme is being monitored through eight Zonal Project Directorates. ICAR has 643 KVKs in the country. Further, the Government has also approved to establish 109 more KVKs in newly created districts, one additional KVK in larger districts, border and mountainous districts during 12th Plan. However, the Committee noted that out of approved additional 121 KVKs, only 12 KVKs have been established so far. The Committee also noted that Agricultural Extension Division has been one of the recipient of lowest allocations during 12th plan. The Division has received only Rs. 2964.9 crore (BE) till 2016-17 against earmarked allocations of Rs. 5739.56 crore for 12th plan. The Committee were of the considered opinion that agricultural extension is most important link between lab and farmers. The result of investment made on R&D and efforts of scientist could not be fructified unless information regarding seeds, planting materials, fertilizers, technologies, farming methods, contingency plan etc. reaches the farmers. The Committee, in their previous Reports, had time and again emphasized upon this important aspect and called for enhanced allocations for implementation of KVK scheme. However, the Committee were distressed to note that Government have failed to provide adequate funds required for the scheme over the last few years. The Committee were of view that stated objective of doubling the income of farmers of the country in next five years could not be achieved unless agricultural extension support through KVKs are provided to them. The

Committee had, therefore, recommended that the allocations to the KVK scheme may be enhanced at RE stage to enable the Department to establish additional 121 KVKs as approved for 12th Plan. The Committee also, desired that each KVK should have an artificial insemination centre for animals with proper infrastructure and adequate Veterinary Doctors.

Reply of the Government

1.12 In action taken reply, the Ministry has stated as under:—

“The department will endeavor to enhance the allocations for the Division at RE stage during 2016-17 within the available allocations to the Department. The requirement of the Division in RE 2016-17 is being assessed in consultation with all ATARI and the same will be proposed in the Plan RE 2016-17.

Additional strength for each KVK have been approved in the 12th Plan EFC which includes a Scientist/SMS position in Veterinary Science. A proposal has been initiated and being examined in consultation with the Ministry of Finance for creating these additional positions for each KVK. In respect of developing the facilities of “Artificial Insemination” Centre for animals in each KVK, the department has noted the recommendation of Committee and will take steps to implement this in due course of time.”

1.13 Keeping in view the importance of extension services for development of agriculture sector, the Committee had recommended the Department to enhance allocations to the Agricultural Extension Division so that plan for establishment of 121 KVKs during 12th plan may be achieved. The Department in its action taken reply has stated that they will endeavor to enhance the allocations for the Division at RE stage during 2016-17 within the available allocations to the Department. The Committee have also been informed that a proposal for creation of additional positions of Scientist/SMS position in Veterinary Science for each KVK is being examined in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. The Committee trust and expect that the Department will impress upon the Ministry of Finance for enhanced allocations of funds to the division so that aims of establishment of 121 KVKs may be established within 12th Plan. Further, the Committee also hope that the recommendation of the Committee for development of an artificial insemination centres for animals in each KVK would be given logical conclusion without further delay.

D. Agrinnovate India Limited (AgIn)

Recommendation (Para No. 14)

1.14 The Committee had noted that Agrinnovate India Limited (AgIn) is DARE/ICAR owned PSU company working towards promotion and commercialization of ICAR technologies. AgIn has generated revenue of Rs. 48,99,770 during 2014-15 as compared to Rs. 1,26,34,405 during 2013-14. Similarly net profit of the Company which mostly include interest of the deposit were Rs. 2,94,16,569, Rs. 3,19,09,667 and Rs. 2,89,21,501 during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, respectively. The Committee also noted that HR policy and organizational structure of the Company is yet to be finalized. There are two permanent staff members (one Company Secretary and one Chief Executive Officer) recruited through open advertisement followed by Interview by the Directors of the Company and the rest of the employees of the Company are engaged on contract basis. The Committee also noted that Company is focusing on selected promising technologies therefore the services of AgIn is taken by few ICAR Institutes. However, if required, AgIn could facilitate commercialization of technologies to national and international clients with the technical backstopping from ICAR institutes. The Committee are were of view that there is tremendous scope for commercialization of products and technologies of ICAR institutes in domestic and international market and AgIn could be modeled on the line of Amul or NDDDB pattern for harnessing potential in agriculture sector. The Committee, therefore, recommended that HR policy and organizational structure of AgIn may be finalized without further delay and best possible talent in agricultural marketing may be recruited for the purpose. The Committee also liked to be apprised of the initiatives undertaken by the Department in this regard.

Reply of the Government

1.15 The Ministry have stated that Agrinnovate India Limited is making concerted efforts to finalize the organization structure and HR Policy of the Company. The board of directors of the company in its meeting held on 12th May, 2016 has also formed a Committee for fast tracking the process and finalization of the same. Recruitment process will be initiated as and when the organization structure gets finalized.

1.16 The Committee are anguished to note that the Government are yet to finalize HR policy and organizational structure of Agrinnovate India Limited despite a time gap of 5 years since its incorporation.

The Committee desire the Government to finalize the HR policy and organisational structure without further delay so that the company could achieve its aims of commercialization of knowledge generated by the vast network of ICAR institutions in the country.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Para No. 1)

The Committee note that the Action Taken Replies regarding the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Tenth Report of the Committee were furnished by the Government within the stipulated three months. The Committee further note that in pursuance of Direction of 73-A of the 'Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha', the Minister concerned is required to make a Statement on the status of implementation of Observations/Recommendations contained in the Original Reports of the Committee within six months of their presentation to the Parliament. The Committee note that the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural research and Education) adhered to the deadline fixed for making Statement of Minister of Agriculture under Direction 73-A of Directions by Speaker, Lok Sabha in the context of Tenth Report of the Committee which was presented to the Parliament on 27 April, 2015 and the Statement was made on 04 August, 2015. The analysis of action taken by the Government reveals that 78.26% recommendations were accepted by the Government, replies in respect of 8.68% recommendations were not accepted by the Committee and 4.34% were of interim nature. The Committee hope that the Department will continue to follow the tradition in future as well.

Reply of the Government

Noted for compliance.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
O.M. No. 7(4)/2016, dated 4th July, 2016]

Overview of Demands

Recommendation (Para No. 2)

The Committee note that a sum of Rs. 3700.00 crore has been allocated under Plan Head to the Department for the financial year 2016-17. The

Committee have also observed that the allocations to the Department under the Plan Head has been reduced by Rs. 691 crore *i.e.* 18.72% at RE stage during the financial year 2015-16. It was explained to the Committee that drastic cut in the allocation of the Department in RE 2015-16 was apparently due to the overall reduction effected by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, in the Plan allocation of DARE/ICAR in RE 2015-16. The Committee also note that the Department had failed to fully utilize allocated fund during 2014-15 when only Rs. 2268.57 crore were utilized out of RE allocations of Rs. 2500 crore under Plan Head. During financial year 2015-16, out of total allocations of Rs. 3000 crore, only Rs. 1734.82 crore could be spent till 31 December, 2015. The Committee are not convinced with the explanation of the Department that the major programmes/activities falling in the mandate of the each Subject Matter Division were not impacted by the cut due to sustained efforts made by all the constituent units falling under the purview of the various Subject Matter Divisions and some strategic planning by assigning priorities to the ongoing research programmes and allocation of adequate funds from the available budget of the department for this purpose in order to accomplish the research targets set for the year. The Committee note with a great sense of disappointment that the story of the yesteryears has been repeated by the Planners and the Government in the matter of allocations of funds to DARE during this year also. The Committee are of view that agriculture sector being a major avenue for employment generation, require significant support in terms of R&D so as to ensure cost effective and best quality seeds, insecticides, fertilizers and agricultural equipments are available to the farmers to bring down cost of cultivation significantly. The Committee, therefore, recommend that Ministry of Finance be impressed upon to allocate funds as per their requirement at RE stage so that R&D in agriculture sector do not suffer for want of funds.

Reply of the Government

Noted for compliance. Accordingly, the department has taken steps at appropriate level to get enhanced allocations. The copy of the letter is enclosed as Annexure-1

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
O.M. No. 7(4)/2016, dated 4th July, 2016]

Funds Allocation During Twelfth Plan

Recommendation (Para No. 3)

The Committee note that an outlay of only Rs. 17741 crore *i.e.* 69.42% allocations (BE) has been made during all five fiscal as against earmarked outlays for 12th plan Outlay of Rs. 25553.00 crore. It has been further observed that allocations (BE) has been drastically reduced at RE stage in first four financial year. Allocations to the Department in first four financial years (RE) is Rs. 10620 *i.e.* only 41.56% of 12th plan. Out of the allocated amount, the Department have been able to spend a sum of Rs. 8847.29 crore only upto December, 2015. The Committee have also been informed that allocations to other Scientific Ministries/Departments and related ones ranges in between 45.70 to 73.53 as percentage of XII-Plan earmarked outlay. The Committee have also been informed that due to reduced allocations during 12th Plan period, they have to prioritize research and allocate funds accordingly. The Committee have also been informed that the ICAR could not develop additional facilities in many pioneer institutes such as IARI, Pusa which is required to maintain its reputation as world class Research Institution in the area of agriculture. The Committee are concerned to note the apathy of the Government towards fund allocations to the important area of agricultural research. The Committee are of view that significant investment is required in the area of R&D in general and in the field of agriculture in particular. Scientific intervention is absolutely essential for lowering the cost of agriculture and for doubling the income of the farmers within next five years. For this purpose scientific community should not face financial constraints while addressing the challenges being faced by the farming community in the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that significant investment to the extent of 1% of agricultural GDP may be made in the field of agricultural research during next plan period.

Reply of the Government

The Department has conveyed the above concern/recommendation of the Committee to the Ministry of Finance for allocation of enhanced funds to the tune of 1% of Agricultural GDP as investment in agriculture research and education during coming plan periods (copy enclosed as Annexure-1).

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
O.M. No. 7(4)/2016, dated 4th July, 2016]

ICAR Publications in Regional Languages

Recommendation (Para No. 5)

The Committee note that ICAR through Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture (DKMA) is entrusted with responsibility to showcase ICAR's Technologies Policy and other activities through modern dissemination methods that cater various stakeholders in the field of agriculture. The Department have informed that 11 magazine/journals/periodicals are being published by DKMA. Alternative system such as ICAR website, ICAR Facebook page and ICAR Youtube channel are also being used by them for undertaking information dissemination to farmers other than publication. Besides, two magazines namely 'Kheti' and 'PhalPhool' and 'Agbiotech digest' are being published in Hindi. However, the Committee observe that no magazine/periodical is being published in regional languages. The Committee are of considered view that ICAR publications and information about the works of ICAR Institutions regarding newly developed seeds, plant varieties, farming methods, integrated pest and nutrient management practices etc. should reach among farmers of the country and that too in their regional languages. Further, the DARE/ICAR are required to bring more publications and take steps to enhance its circulation so that more numbers of farmers could be benefited from these initiatives. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take steps for availability of ICAR publications in all regional languages of the country to ensure dissemination of information about agriculture research among all farmers of the country.

Reply of the Government

The department has noted the recommendation of the Committee for compliance. Accordingly, necessary steps have been taken and accelerated by the ICAR-DKMA to make sure availability of ICAR Publications in all regional languages of the country to ensure dissemination of information about agriculture research among all farmers of the country. In this regard, following points are submitted:—

1. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is the apex body for coordinating, guiding and managing research, education and extension in agriculture including horticultural science, fisheries Science and animal sciences in the entire country. ICAR has a wide network of 109 research institutes and 643 Krishi Vigyan Kendras across the country. Besides, it also

provides technical leadership and financial support to 73 agricultural universities located across the country. All agricultural Universities and KVKs are disseminating agricultural knowledge and technological know-how among the farmers/end users in the preferred regional language of the location.

2. ICAR research institutes are engaged in regular publication of farmer friendly publications in regional languages of the respective State and are being distributed among farmer community, so that they can take benefit of recent technologies such as newly developed seeds, plant varieties, farming methods, integrated pest and nutrient management practices etc. Similarly, at district level, KVKs are regularly publishing and distributing farmer-friendly publications in farmers' vernacular language on various technologies, schemes, new varieties, animal husbandry practices and on other relevant issues. All these efforts have been accelerated to reach out to farmers of the country in their own language.
3. ICAR-DKMA maintains close coordination and provide facilitates to ICAR institutes and KVKs for publication and distribution of farmer-friendly literature among farming community.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
O.M. No. 7(4)/2016, dated 4th July, 2016]

Crop Science Division

Recommendation (Para No. 6)

The Committee note that Crop Science Division has released 81 improved varieties/hybrids of different crops during 2015. The Committee were also informed that the division has been able to produce a total of 978, 17562, 12847, 14000 and 3418 tonnes of breeder, foundation, certified, truthful labeled seeds and planting material respectively during 2015. However, the Committee note that allocations to the division has been reduced to Rs. 495 crore at RE stage from allocated Rs. 570 crore at BE stage. Accordingly, the Division has to allocate limited resources to critical areas needing focused attention for accomplishing the target. The Committee are of view that the Crop science Division needs to be

given enough resources to enable them to develop improved varieties of crops and planting materials required by the farmers of the country not only to improve productivity but also to reduce dependence on multinational companies for seeds. Better performance of the division is crucial for ensuring food security of the country and to augment the income of the farmers. The Committee, therefore, recommend that allocations to the Division may be enhanced suitably at RE stage to ensure them to fulfill expectations of the farmers and planners of the country.

Reply of the Government

Noted for compliance. Accordingly, the department has taken steps at appropriate level to get enhanced allocations (Copy enclosed).

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
O.M. No. 7(4)/2016, dated 4th July, 2016]

Promotion to Cultivation of Pulses

Recommendation (Para No. 7)

The Committee are distressed to note that despite being the largest producer of pulses in the world, India has to resort to import a large quantity of pulses to meet the demand in the country. The Committee note that production of pulses in the country is around 17-19 million tonnes during the last 3-4 years which falls short of domestic requirement of about 22.5 million tonnes processed dal. 3.09 mt of pulses were imported by the country bringing a burden of Rs. 11038 crore during 2013-14. ICAR has developed a number of area and season specific high yielding and pest resistant varieties of pulses which has positive impact of 14-16% in increasing production of pulses in the country. The ICAR has also developed crop production, management and protection technologies which can safeguard pulse crops from pests and insects. The Committee have also been informed that a scheme for enhancing indigenous pulse production to achieve self-sufficiency by 2020-21 has been initiated besides existing National Food Security Mission and Borlaug Global Rust Initiative. However, the Committee are anguished to note that failure of State and National Seed Companies to provide quality seeds of improved varieties, slow pace of farm mechanization in pulses cultivation, failure of the Government to create efficient market intervention scheme, lack of liberal credit policy and poor economic capacity of the farmers to make

investment are hindering country to achieve self-sufficiency in production of pulses. The Committee are of view that 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, therefore, desire the Government should invest aggressively not only in R&D for pulses but should also provide adequate incentives to the farmers in the form of support to availability of improved varieties of seeds at subsidized rate, farm mechanization and credit facility at lower interest rate. The Committee also desire that the Department should impress upon all stake holders including State Governments to expedite farm mechanization and use quality seeds of the improved varieties to achieve self-sufficiency in pulse production in the country in the near future. Further, the Government should also provide adequate financial support for the purpose so that the time bound mission to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses production do not suffer for want of funds.

Reply of the Government

Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India are jointly working on a comprehensive action plan for attaining self-sufficiency in pulses with a two-pronged approach of productivity enhancement and increasing production through expansion of pulses' area, since rabi 2015-16. In order to ensure self-sufficiency in pulses, a road map to achieve 21 million tonnes pulses production in 2017-18 and 24 million tonnes by 2020-21 has been envisaged. To bring 3-4 million ha additional area under pulses, promotion of summer Mungbean after the harvest of wheat, potato and rapeseed mustard in Punjab, Haryana, Western UP and parts of Rajasthan; Lentil and chickpea in rice fallows of Eastern UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal; and Mungbean/Urdbean in rice fallows of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Karnataka has been targeted. Department has planned to enhance the availability of quality seed of pulses at subsidized rate by strengthening breeder seed production and establishment of pulses seed-hubs at selected State Agricultural Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and ICAR research institutes from 2016-17. For that, a provision of Rs. 250 crore for strengthening breeder seed production at selected centers and enhancing quality seed production of pulses through proposed 150 seed-hubs have been made under National Food Security Mission (NFSM). In addition, the DAC&FW, is taking up a new sub-schemes

under RKVY for pulses area expansion especially in rice fallow areas of Eastern India with a total allocation of Rs. 200 crore comprising central share of Rs. 130 crore. During rabi 2015-16, about 32037 demonstrations on latest varieties and production and protection technologies of rabi pulses were conducted in about 12811 ha area by 300 Krishi Vigyan Kendras of ICAR across the country, for which a budget allocation of Rs. 12 crore was made under NFSM.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
O.M. No. 7(4)/2016, dated 4th July, 2016]

Comments of the Committee

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

Natural Resource Management (NRM) Division

Recommendation (Para No. 8)

The Committee note that Natural Resource Management (NRM) Division is engaged in developing location specific, cost effective and eco-friendly technologies for conservation and management of natural resources through the network of 06 central research Institutes, 03 research complexes, 03 project directorates, 01 bureau, 02 National Research Centres, 03 network projects and 10 All India Coordinated Research Projects in the country. However, the Committee note that allocations to the Division were reduced at RE stage which are not adequate to meet the responsibility assigned to them. The Committee note that allocations to the Division has been reduced from Rs. 370 crore at BE stage to Rs. 321 crore at RE stage for the year 2015-16. The Committee further observe that Division was allocated only Rs. 1061 crore (RE) till 2015-16 against earmarked outlays of Rs. 2183.5 crore during 12th plan. The Committee were informed that due to lack of funds, no new activities were undertaken during 2015. The Committee are of view that NRM Division has to perform crucial role to develop methods and technologies in the areas of soil quality assessment, micro level land use planning, integrated soil-water-nutrient management, watershed management, crop diversification etc. that are very crucial keeping in view of the decreasing land availability and deteriorating soil health and water crisis. Further, it has to devote resources for fundamental research in the field of impact of climate change on Indian agriculture. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that adequate

financial support to the Division is provided so that agricultural scientists devote their time and energy without financial constraints to address problems of farmers associated with climate change. The Committee, therefore, recommend that allocations to the Division may be augmented as per their requirement to enable them to focus on agricultural research.

Reply of the Government

The department has noted the recommendation of the Committee for compliance.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
O.M. No. 7(4)/2016, dated 4th July, 2016]

Enhancement of Research Centres and Technology Demonstration Centres under NICRA Project in Eastern India

Recommendation (Para No. 9)

The Committee note that Natural Resources Management Division has also been given responsibility for coordinating research under NICRA project. The project aims to enhance resilience of Indian agriculture to climate change and climate vulnerability through strategic research and technology demonstration. The project is being run through a network of 49 strategic research Centres, 6 sponsored grants component centres, 25 AICRPAM Centres, 23 AICRPDAA Centres and 129 technology demonstration component. However, the Committee note that numbers of Technology Demonstration Centre and Strategic Research Station are quite less in Eastern India especially in West Bengal where only 3 Technology Demonstration Centres and 01 Strategic Research Centre is working on the project. The Committee are of the view that there is need to enhance focus on climate research on agriculture in eastern parts of the country keeping in view the numbers of Agro-climatic zones and sub zones in the areas. The Committee, therefore recommend the Department to increase the number of research stations and technology demonstration centres in Eastern India especially in West Bengal so that region specific problems associated with climate change could be studied properly and appropriate solutions could be arrived at.

Reply of the Government

There are 23 Technology Demonstration Centres (TDC) under National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) in eastern

region covering Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar and Odisha to demonstrate appropriate location specific mitigation strategies to cope up with climatic aberrations. Eastern region has been allocated largest number of TDC centres compared to other regions in the country keeping in view the types and extent of climatic vulnerability projected in this region. In addition to this, 6 institutes including CIFRI Barrackpore and CSSRI Regional Centre, Canning Town are addressing the issues of climate change under Strategic Research component of NICRA. Further, the Department has noted the recommendations of the Committee for increasing the number of research stations and TDC in eastern region particularly in West Bengal and efforts shall be made in due course of time.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
O.M. No.7 (4)/2016, dated 4th July, 2016]

Agricultural Engineering Division

Recommendation (Para No. 10)

The Committee note that Agricultural Engineering Division of ICAR is mandated to plan, coordinate and monitor R&D programmes and serve as an information repository in agricultural engineering to make Indian agriculture profitable, sustainable and globally competitive enterprise through engineering interventions. However, the Committee are constrained to note that the Division has been allocated only Rs. 254 crore (RE) during first four years *i.e.* only 23.10 % against earmarked outlays of Rs. 1100 crore for 12th Plan. The Committee are of view that the mechanization of agricultural operation in the country needs to be expedited in order to reduce drudgery of farmers and reduce cost of agricultural operations for which the Division needs to focus on development of agricultural machineries and implements which can be used effectively in fragmented land holdings of small and marginal farmers of the country. The Committee, therefore recommend that allocations to the Division may be enhanced suitably at RE stage during the current year and in coming years so that the Division could fulfill the mandate entrusted upon without fund constraints. The Committee also recommend that a time bound R&D may be planned by the Department for development of region specific small and cost effective farm machineries. The Committee would like to be informed about the steps taken by the Department in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The department will endeavor to enhance the allocations for the Division at RE stage during 2016-17 and coming years. The recommendation of the Committee for development of region specific small and cost effective farm machineries has already been undertaken by the Division. The Division has initiated 5 new Consortia Research Platforms on (i) Farm Mechanization and Precision Farming, (ii) Energy from Agriculture, (iii) Secondary Agriculture, (iv) Health Foods, and (v) Natural Fibers during the XII Plan. The focus is to fastrack location and region specific development, popularization and commercialization of agricultural machineries and implements for fragmented land holdings of small and marginal farmers of the country. In case Ministry of Finance provides enhanced fund at RE stage during the current year and in coming years, the Agriculture Engineering Division anticipates to take-up following work on above platforms at large scale in due course of time:—

- Development of region specific small and cost effective farm machineries.
- Development of manufacturing technology, production process and product refinement of developed technologies
- Popularization and promotion of technologies through prototype production and supply, monitoring and feed back
- Popularization of improved technologies through exhibitions, extension literature, catalogues, electronic media, display and demonstration.
- Training of Farmers, Processors, Extension Officers, manufacturers, artisans and entrepreneurs for mechanization promotion.
- Commercialization of developed technologies.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
O.M. No.7 (4)/2016, dated 4th July, 2016]

Agricultural Education Division

Recommendation (Para No. 12)

The Committee note that Agricultural Education Division is entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining and upgrading quality,

relevance and strengthening of higher agricultural education through a network of 73 Agricultural Universities. The Division is implementing a scheme on “Strengthening and Development of higher Agricultural Education in India” for up-gradation of academic environment by modernization and strengthening of educational structures, laboratories, computer labs, ICT facilities/NISAGENET, smart classrooms, state of art equipment, support for effective course curriculum delivery, educational tours, text book/manual preparations, and strengthening library facilities including, e-resources. However, the Committee are constrained to note that the Division has not been provided with the funds as earmarked for them during 12th plan. The Division has been provided only Rs. 2371 crore during the Plan period till the current financial year against earmarked outlays of Rs. 4000 crore. As a result of lower allocation of funds, two sub-schemes namely ‘Strengthening and Enhancing Research and Instructional capabilities of Universities’ (an amount of Rs. 500 crores was allocated for this component) and ‘Support for Old/Historical colleges’ (an amount of Rs. 250 crore was allocated for this activity) could not be implemented. The Committee are of the firm view that investment in education especially in agricultural education fetch rich reward in terms of experienced human resources along with research output useful for the agriculture sector in the country. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the allocations to the Agricultural Education Division may be suitably enhanced at RE stage in ongoing financial year as well as in coming years so that important work of strengthening agricultural education does not get hampered due to paucity of funds.

Reply of the Government

Noted for compliance. Accordingly, the department has taken steps at appropriate level to get enhanced allocations (Copy enclosed).

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
O.M. No.7 (4)/2016, dated 4th July, 2016]

Vacancy in ICAR Institutions

Recommendation (Para No. 13)

Availability of adequate scientific, technical and administrative staff in Institutes of ICAR is pre-requisite for better performance. However, the Committee are anguished to note that large number of these posts continue to remain vacant over long period. The Committee

note that 893 posts of scientists, 1087 posts of administrative personnel and 1603 technical posts are vacant in institutes of ICAR. The Committee have been informed that an advertisement for 97 vacancies for ARS-2015 has already been issued. The Committee are of the view that ICAR is required to streamline the process for recruitment for all the posts in ICAR institutes including that of Scientist and the process should be completed before the vacancies arise so that R&D work do not suffer for lack of scientists, technical or administrative staff. The Committee have expressed this view in several of their earlier reports including 10th Report on examination of Demands for Grants (2015-16). However, the ICAR is yet to take the recommendation of the Committee in right spirit and take the required steps. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the existing policy for recruitment at all post in ICAR institutions including for the post of scientists may be reviewed and streamlined in order to complete the process of recruitment in a time bound manner. The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken in this regard.

Reply of the Government

Recruitment of ICAR scientists is a continuous process and requisition driven. All possible steps are being initiated by Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB) to get the vacancies of Agricultural Scientists filled up on priority basis and for other categories too. The requisitions will be processed expeditiously.

Scientific positions:

During the last year (2015-16) the ASRB has completed the process of recruitment for the following Scientific positions:—

- 228 entry level Scientists
- 158 lateral entry scientific positions
- 257 recommendations in 48 disciplines under Career Advancement Scheme (CAS)
- This year the Board has received requisition for recruiting 97 entry level scientists in different specializations. The ARS (Prelims) and the ARS (Main) Examination has been held and the recommendations are likely to be forwarded to the ICAR headquarters by ASRB by the end of 2016.

- Requisitions for 84 positions comprising of 34 Research Management Posts and 50 non-Research Management Posts for lateral entry senior scientific positions is under different stages of process.

Technical, Administrative, Finance and other positions

- During 2015-16, the ASRB has completed the recruitment process of 45 Administrative Officers and Finance and Account officers, and 11 Assistant Director (OL).
- In the Administrative category the Board has completed the recruitment process for filling up 309 positions of Assistants in the ICAR headquarters and its institutes. The final select list is being forwarded to the ICAR Hqrs. shortly.
- Further, recruitment action has been initiated for filling up 284 positions of LDCs/Steno Grade-III and approximately 500 positions of Technical Assistants and Technicians for the various ICAR institutes.
- Earlier, the ICAR Institutes were making recruitments for filling up of the posts of Technician (T-1), Technical Assistant (T-3) and Senior Technical Officer (T-6). However, it has been decided with the approval of the Governing Body of ICAR that from 2016 onwards the vacant posts of Technician (T-1) in category-1 and Technical Assistant (T-3) in Category-II may be filled through a centralised examination by ASRB. The ASRB is in the process of conducting a Common Written Examination for filling up positions of Technical Assistant (T-3) in the ICAR Institutes on 17.07.2016 and Technician (T-1) on 04.09.2016.
- It has also been decided by the department that the vacant posts of Senior Technical Officer (T-6) in Category-III, may also be filled up through a centralised examination by ASRB. Approval of this process is being sought from the Governing Body of ICAR.
- Besides the direct recruitments, vacancies are also filled by promotion as per the provisions of the recruitment rule. As the posts are scattered in the 109 institutes located in the country, the action to fill-up the vacancies under the mode

of promotion is taken at respective institutes by following laid down procedure.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
O.M. No.7 (4)/2016, dated 4th July, 2016]

CHAPTER III

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

-Nil-

CHAPTER IV

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

-Nil-

CHAPTER V

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

Planning in the ERA of NITI Aayog

Recommendation (Para No. 4)

The Committee note that the Government are yet to initiate process of formulation of next plan after replacement of Planning Commission by Niti Aayog. In this regard, the Committee have been informed that as per Allocation of Business Rules, the Niti Aayog is mandated to evolve a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of States in the light of national objectives. Niti Aayog is also assigned the responsibility to develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of Government. To design strategic and long term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives and monitor their progress and their efficacy, the lesson learnt through monitoring and feedback will be used for making innovative improvements, including mid course corrections. According to the Department, they have envisaged overall allocation of 1.0% of total agricultural GDP for the Department (DARE/ICAR) for attaining required growth of agriculture sector in the country. The Department will require fund of Rs. 45878.13 crore under Plan and Non-plan Heads for next five years. However, the Committee are astonished to know that Department is not aware about future course of planning process and Niti Aayog is yet to take any decision regarding formulation of next five year plan. The Committee are of view that formulation of long term plan is *sina-qua-non* for development of economy in general and science and technology in particular. Niti Aayog need to take up this issue on urgent basis and specify the future course of action for planning so that necessary steps could be taken up to fix targets and assign resources accordingly. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Niti Aayog be urged to design strategic and long term policy frameworks of the Department to enable them to take initiatives and formulate action plan accordingly to achieve the physical and financial targets for the purpose. The Committee also expect the DARE/ICAR to

utilize *in-house* mechanism and expertise for the development of long term vision and plan for all institutions under its purview for the next five years.

Reply of the Government

NITI Aayog has been entrusted to prepare a 15-year vision document beginning from the financial year 2017-18 along with seven years plan for execution and mid term appraisal/review during every 3 years. This will replace prevailing five year planning system, which was prepared for over six decades by its predecessor Planning Commission. NITI Aayog started deliberations for a 15-year vision document and will hold stakeholder consultations in groups over the next few months and aims to prepare the documents by the end of this year. The consultations would also seek suggestion for framing a seven year (2017-18 to 2023-24) strategy to convert the longer vision into implementable policy as part of the National Development Agenda, which will be reviewed after three years (2019-20) fiscal. In addition, the department has already considered recommendation/concern of the Committee. Institutions under DARE/ICAR have developed long term vision 2050 by utilizing *in-house* expertise of each sector namely Crop Sciences, Animal Sciences, Fisheries Sciences, Horticulture Sciences, Natural Resource Management, Agriculture Engineering, Agriculture Education and Agricultural Extension.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
O.M. No. 7(4)/2016, dated 4th July, 2016]

Comments of the Committee

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

Agricultural Extension Division

Recommendation (Para No. 11)

The Committee note that Agricultural Extension Division has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing Plan Scheme on continuation and establishment of new Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). The KVK scheme concerns with technology assessment, refinement and demonstration of technology/products and its transfer through training of farmers and extension personnel, besides organizing extension

programmes for creating awareness on improved agricultural technology. The scheme is being monitored through eight Zonal Project Directorates. ICAR has 643 KVKs in the country. Further, the Government has also approved to establish 109 more KVKs in newly created districts, one additional KVK in larger districts, border and mountainous districts during 12th Plan. However, the Committee note that out of approved additional 121 KVKs, only 12 KVKs have been established so far. The Committee also note that Agricultural Extension Division has been one of the recipient of lowest allocations during 12th plan. The Division has received only Rs. 2964.9 crore (BE) till 2016-17 against earmarked allocations of Rs. 5739.56 crore for 12th plan. The Committee are of the considered opinion that agricultural extension is most important link between lab and farmers. The result of investment made on R&D and efforts of scientist could not be fructified unless information regarding seeds, planting materials, fertilizers, technologies, farming methods, contingency plan etc. reaches the farmers. The Committee, in their previous Reports, had time and again emphasized upon this important aspect and called for enhanced allocations for implementation of KVK scheme. However, the Committee are distressed to note that Governments have failed to provide adequate funds required for the scheme over the last few years. The Committee are of view that stated objective of doubling the income of farmers of the country in next five years could not be achieved unless agricultural extension support through KVKs are provided to them. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the allocations to the KVK scheme may be enhanced at RE stage to enable the Department to establish additional 121 KVKs as approved for 12th Plan. The Committee also, desire that each KVK should have an artificial insemination centre for animals with proper infrastructure and adequate Veterinary Doctors.

Reply of the Government

The department will endeavour to enhance the allocations for the Division at RE stage during 2016-17 within the available allocations to the department. The requirement of the Division in RE 2016-17 is being assessed in consultation with all ATARI and the same will be proposed in the Plan RE 2016-17.

Additional strength for each KVK have been approved in the 12th Plan EFC which includes a Scientist/SMS position in Veterinary Science. A proposal has been initiated and being examined in consultation with the Ministry of Finance for creating these additional positions for each KVK. In respect of developing the facilities of "Artificial Insemination"

Centre for animals in each KVK, the department has noted the recommendation of Committee and will take steps to implement this in due course of time.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
O.M. No. 7(4)/2016, dated 4th July, 2016]

Comments of the committee

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

Agrinnovate India Limited (AgIn)

Recommendation (Para No. 14)

The Committee note that Agrinnovate India Limited (AgIn) is DARE/ICAR owned PSU company working towards promotion and commercialisation of ICAR technologies. AgIn has generated revenue of Rs. 48,99,770 during 2014-15 as compared to Rs. 1,26,34,405 during 2013-14. Similarly net profit of the Company which mostly include interest of the deposit were Rs. 2,94,16,569, Rs. 3,19,09,667 and Rs. 2,89,21,501 during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, respectively. The Committee also note that HR policy and organisational structure of the Company is yet to be finalized. There are two permanent staff members (one Company Secretary and one Chief Executive Officer) recruited through open advertisement followed by Interview by the Directors of the Company and the rest of the employees of the Company are engaged on contract basis. The Committee also note that Company is focusing on selected promising technologies therefore the services of AgIn is taken by few ICAR Institutes. However, if required, AgIn could facilitate commercialisation of technologies to national and international clients with the technical backstopping from ICAR institutes. The Committee are of view that there is tremendous scope for commercialisation of products and technologies of ICAR institutes in domestic and international market and AgIn could be modelled on the line of Amul or NDDDB pattern for harnessing potential in agriculture sector. The Committee, therefore, recommend that HR policy and organizational structure of AgIn may be finalized without further delay and best possible talent in agricultural marketing may be recruited for the purpose. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the initiatives undertaken by the Department in this regard.

Reply of the Government

AgrInnovate India Limited is making concerted efforts to finalize the organization structure and HR Policy of the Company. The board of directors of the company in its meeting held on 12th May, 2016 has also formed a Committee for fast tracking the process and finalization of the same. Recruitment process will be initiated as and when the organization structure gets finalized.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agricultural Research and Education)
O.M. No. 7(4)/2016, dated 4th July, 2016]

Comments of the Committee

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

NEW DELHI;
8 August, 2016

17 Shravana, 1938 (Saka)

HUKM DEO NARAYAN YADAV,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2015-16)

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY NINTH SITTING OF THE
COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Monday, the 08th August, 2016 from 1000 hrs. to 1100 hrs. in Room No. '138', Chairperson's Chamber, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Hukm Deo Narayan Yadav — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Sanganna Karadi
3. Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel
4. Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse
5. Shri C. Mahendran
6. Shri Janardan Mishra
7. Shri Ajay Nishad
8. Shri Mukesh Rajput
9. Shri Konakalla Narayana Rao
10. Shri Satyapal Singh (Sambhal)
11. Shri Virendra Singh

Rajya Sabha

12. Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury
13. Shri Janardan Dwivedi

14. Shri Meghraj Jain
15. Shri Mohd. Ali Khan
16. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
17. Shri Shankarbhai N. Vegad

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri U.B.S. Negi — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri Arun K. Kaushik — *Director*
3. Smt. Juby Amar — *Additional Director*
4. Shri C. Vanlalruata — *Deputy Secretary*
5. Shri Sumesh Kumar — *Under Secretary*

2. At the outset the Chairperson welcomed the members to the Sitting of the Committee. The Committee, then, took up the following draft Reports for consideration:—

- | | | | | | |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| *(i) | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** |
| *(ii) | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** |
| *(iii) | *** | *** | *** | *** | *** |

- (iv) Thirtieth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty Sixth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2016-17)' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

3. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the draft Reports without any modification and authorised the Chairperson to finalise the Reports on the basis of factual verification from the concerned Ministry/Department and present the same to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

* Matter not related to this Report.

APPENDIX

(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE TWENTY
SIXTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2015-16) ON 'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2016-17)' OF
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS
WELFARE (DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION)

- | | | |
|-------|---|-----------------------------------|
| (i) | Total number of Recommendations | 14 |
| (ii) | Recommendations/Observations which have been Accepted by the Government:
Para Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 | Total : 11
Percentage : 78.57% |
| (iii) | Recommendations/Observations which the Committee Do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies:
Para No. Nil | Total : NIL
Percentage : 0% |
| (iv) | Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:
Para No. Nil | Total : NIL
Percentage : 0% |
| (v) | Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited:
Para Nos. 4, 11 and 14 | Total : 03
Percentage : 21.43% |

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The Souvenir Items with logo of Parliament are also available at Sales Counter, Reception, Parliament House, New Delhi. The Souvenir items with Parliament Museum logo are available for sale at Souvenir Shop (Tel. No. 23035323), Parliament Museum, Parliament Library Building, New Delhi. List of these items are available on the website mentioned above.”
