

**Proceedings of the 45th REAC (Research and Extension Advisory Council)
Meeting held on 20th January 2016 at Prof.G.H.Sankara Reddi Conference
Hall, Regional Agricultural Research Station, Tirupati.**

The 45th REAC meeting was held on 20th January 2016 at Prof. G.H. Sankara Reddi Conference Hall, Institute of Frontier Technology, Regional Agricultural Research Station, Tirupati. In his welcome address Dr. M. Mallikarjuna Reddy, Principal Scientist (Research), ANGRAU invited Dr. A. Padma Raju garu, Honorable Vice Chancellor, ANGRAU and the Chairman of the Council, and the dignitaries Dr. N.V. Naidu, Director of Research, Dr. K. Raja Reddy, Director of Extension, and Sri. Sridhar, Joint Director of Agriculture and representative of Commissioner and Director of Agriculture, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh on to the dais to start the session.

The REAC meeting was formally invoked by Honorable V.C., ANGRAU with warm welcome to all delegates including officials from ICAR, Department of Agriculture, Retired university officers, ANGRAU scientists, REAC members and farmers. While addressing the gathering, he suggested scientists to concentrate research on water saving technologies in rice cultivation and importance should be given to drip irrigation and aerobic rice research by imposing slight modifications in the existing practices to conserve water. Thirteen districts of Andhra Pradesh are producing food grains to a tune of 20 lakh tonnes in excess against required quantity of 60-70 lakh tonnes.

With regard to pulses, we are still importing major pulses and there is a need to increase area under pulses. The market price of pulses is encouraging and remunerative to farmers and hence the area can be maximized under pulses. He expressed his happiness towards development of YMV tolerant black gram varieties from RARS Tirupati (TBG 104), Lam farm (LBG 787) and Ghantashala (GBG 1). Later he emphasized the scientists to prioritize their research on development of pink boll worm resistant varieties of cotton apart from the existing control measures. He also expressed satisfactory remarks about the quality seed supply by ANGRAU. He told that the varieties released from ANGRAU are popular in 12 states of India apart from A.P. and 50% of popular groundnut varieties in the country are released from ANRAU.

Next, Dr. N.V. Naidu, Director of Research has presented research highlights of 2014-15 and future research plans through power point presentation. He stressed on the future research on climate resilient agriculture, value addition and organic farming.

Dr. K. Raja Reddy, Director of extension has presented extension highlights of 2014-15. While presenting, he emphasized on importance of farm mechanization and integrated farming. As a future goal, he expressed the idea of publication of book on district wise major crops and management practices. Later, the Director of Research invited the farmer members of the council who came from 13 districts of A.P., to express their views and their problems in cultivation practices.

Chittoor district:

Sri. C. Ramachandra Reddy, Progressive farmer expressed the shortage of supply of vegetable seed to the farmers and MSP of sugarcane. Regarding functioning of market yards, the farmer expressed dissatisfaction and suggested to encourage fairs to facilitate farmers to sell their produce to avoid middle men. He requested farming community to adopt newly developed technologies which reduce cost of production. Additional requisitions he made to the house that popularization of post management activities, reduction in cost of farm mechanization and timely supply or situation based clearance of government bank loans, subsidies etc.

Sri. Madhava Reddy, requested to provide senior plant protection scientists to give timely advice. Also, he has requested the farmers to conduct self testing of seed quality like viability and vigour at village level.

Sri. Prabhakar Reddy, has expressed his satisfactory remarks towards ANGRAU released varieties of cowpea (TPT-29) and ragi (Vakula) while in the two groundnut cultures (TCGS 1157 and TCGS 1073) supplied low yield was observed in TCGS 1073 during kharif.

Y.S.R. district:

Sri.N. Narasimha Reddy, told te house that the Feb-Mar sown crop of cotton was affected due to heavy stem wilt at flowering to boll development stage. Hence, he requested the house to suggest alternative varieties or time of sowing and control measures for the same. Further, he requested popularization of blackgram-YMV tolerant varies like TBG104, WBG 42; he

requested for non-lodging paddy varieties and implementation of large scale MSRI cultivation. Additionally, he requested for bengalgram varieties that germinate under water logged conditions and that having late stage drought tolerance. Further, he asked for high yielding phyllody tolerant gingelly varieties for Y.S.R.district. He requested the university to establish mini-dal mill at KVK, Utukur for the benefit of the farmers, and the DE considered the issue for immediate action.

Sri. Narasimha Reddy, told that the KVK, Utukur home science department has developed 80 different millet based products and trained the farmers for entrepreneurship. However, authentication/ certification is needed for the consumer, which in turn help to know the product quality and for commercial scale production.

Krishna district:

Sri. Chaganti Sita Reddy, expressed his satisfactory remarks on the YMV tolerant black gram varieties (. viz., PU-31, LBG-787, TBG-104 and GBG-1) by showing samples from his fields. He also stressed the importance of 'sticky traps' role in management of whiteflies. Further, the paddy variety MTU1061 has performed well with 30-42bags/acre yield and LGG-460 in green gram is performing well. He requested to reduce the middleman intervention in marketing of farm produce and requested government involvement and also requested for the threshing machinery for pulses.

Nellore district:

Sri. Babu Rao, told that in Nellore district due to the seasonal changes in paddy crop grown from last 25 years, the Nov sown crop is not performing well since climate resilient varieties suitable for Nov. sowing are not available. He expressed the view of marketing problems in NLR34449 and requested to develop a variety with BPT 5204 quality. Further, he expressed that the variety RNR-15048 though blast resistant, it performed well when it was transplanted with exactly 20-25 days old seedlings. Regarding organic farming, he has requested provision for scientific data/plan on different crops.

Sri. Madhusudhan Rao, requested for the groundnut varieties for coastal sands which are suitable for both kharif and rabi. Further, he requested for combined harvester for groundnut

along with drying ability. He expressed the necessity of the demonstration of sub-soiler on a wide scale to create awareness and it is a proven water conservation measure. Further, Dr.A. Padma Raju, Honorable Vice Chancellor expressed the need to reduce the cost of liquid bio-fertilizers as they are more user friendly than solid bio-fertilizers.

This session was followed by release of book on Research and Extension Highlights, the brochure of southern zone, compilation on farm machinery and about the groundnut variety Dharani by the dignitaries. On this occasion soil health cards were distributed to the farmers of Madabaka, the adopted village of RARS, Tirupati.

Guntur district:

Farmers requested resistant varieties and pest management practices for pink boll worm in cotton as well as micronutrient management and weed management in cotton. Further, they asked for the leaf miner management practices for pulses.

East Godavari district:

Sri. Prasad, JDA, o/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, Govt. of A.P., requested for reasons for diseases like stem rot, sheath rot, root knot nematode occurrence in Swarna and all other popular rice varieties. He spoke about bore well recharging, organic farming in paddy and suitability of farm machinery (light weight/ heavy weight) based on soil conditions.

West Godavari district:

Smt. Sathyavathi, a progressive woman farmer from 'Aachanta' expressed her strong thoughts towards encouraging "Demand based /or driven crop acreage". Further, she has requested for export oriented and nutritionally improved paddy varieties.

Sri. Chary, has spoken about importance and availability of bio-fertilizers, non-lodging paddy varieties and role of kitchen gardens in vegetables to address health issues.

Vishakhapatnam district:

Sri. K. Karunanidhi, has requested for suitable varietal recommendations to the district for the crops viz., paddy, redgram, bajra, gingelly, niger and mustard. Additionally, he asked for

grain separation machinery in maize and dryers in paddy. He requested for need of scientific trainings in agency areas.

Vijayanagaram district:

Sri. Adinarayana requested for adoption of local names for bio-fertilizers and need of Maize Research Station in the district. Further, he requested to suggest alternate crops for irrigated rice and suitable varieties in sesame crop. Additionally, he also suggested for indigenous manufacturing of farm machinery/ equipment which make low cost delivery to the farmer.

Srikakulam district:

Sri. Adinarayana Murthy, requested improved black gram varieties, suitable ragi varieties/ other crops for rice fallows and weedicides for rice fallows.

Later, the Director of Research ANGRAU invited retired university officers of ANGRAU for their views and suggestions in improving the research and extension activities.

Dr. P. Raghavulu (Retd. Dean of Agriculture, ANGRAU) suggested to focus research on contingent crop plans for rice fallows under Nagarjuna sagar project. He also suggested to conduct surveys under extreme climatic calamities for data generation and planning suitable varietal recommendations. He also recommended for in-house practice of soil test based fertilizer recommendations at research station level.

Dr. G. Lakshmikantha Reddy (Retd. Director of Research, ANGRAU) pointed that progress should be made in hybrid rice area and also suggested that the strength of the germplasm should be reflected in breeding programmes. In addition, he emphasized research for groundnut varieties suitable to sandy soils. The stable resistance to handle diseases in pulses to be developed by using diverse set of donor sources. Further, he emphasized the importance of castor research station and also research on advanced technologies viz., Biotechnology, nanotechnology and organic farming in agricultural crops.

Dr. P. Gidda Reddy (Retd. Director of Extension, ANGRAU) suggested the farmers to practice “Smart and entrepreneurship oriented Agriculture” and stressed on importance of farm

machinery to reduce the cost of cultivation. He directed the scientific group to plan for contingency research, (Research by design) and Turbo research i.e., to pick the existing technologies/ varieties for studying and for immediate implementation.

Later, the invited dignitaries from ICAR were requested to address the house. In this series, first Dr. T.G. Nageswara Rao, Project Co-ordinator and i/c Director, IIMR, Hyderabad has emphasized on value addition to millets, training farmers on value addition in millets. Secondly, Dr. K.S. Varaprasad, Director, IIOR, Hyderabad stressed on certain important points to be considered under research as detailed below:

- Improvement of already existing varieties and popularization
- The best varieties from national/ state level / private sector need to be promoted
- Eco zoning for the crop suitability
- Achieving stable resistance in varieties by utilizing diverse source of donors in breeding programmes
- The research should be focused on increasing income of farmer along with yield.
- Finally he expressed his willingness to conduct 10 FLDs on sesame using IIOR varieties for which Dr. Raja Reddy, DE has responded positively to initiate the same from Kharif 2016.

Dr. V. Ravindra Babu, Project coordinator and i/c Director, IIRR, Hyderabad, stressed on importance of bio-fortification and water saving mechanisms (by following alternate drying and wetting) in rice. He encouraged collaborative research with ICAR institutions.

Further, Sri. N.D.R.K. Sharma, Consultant, Department of Agriculture intensely discussed about organic and natural farming in different crops of A.P. He took suggestions from house about feasibility of the same for which Hon'ble VC has suggested to organize separate session to take opinion from scientists and farmers. He stressed on the availability of breeder/ foundation seed in released varieties. Sri. Z. Venkatewarlu, former JDA (Seeds) and presently Deputy Director (Planning) talked about hand in hand scale up of different practices before reaching farmers. Additionally, he emphasized on a seed bank to supply seed under contingency situations "action farming" in target mode should followed.

Sri Sridhar, JDA, o/O C & DA, felt the importance of millet research and need of awareness programmes on millet consumption in district wise millet melas.

Later, the Principal Scientists, ANGRAU of different crops addressed the queries raised by the farmers. This is followed by the declaration and presentation of mementoes to Best DAATT centre for Vijayanagaram and Best KVK to Amudalavalasa by the dignitaries on the dais.

Finally the meeting was concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. T. Giridhara Krishna, ADR, RARS Tirupati.


Associate Director of Research 22/1/16

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