

MINUTES OF SENIOR OFFICERS MEETING (SOM) HELD ON 01.04.2013

A meeting of the Senior Officers and Charge Officers of CDB was convened by Chief Coconut Development Officer at 3.30 pm on 01.04.2013 at the Board Room, Kera Bhavan, Kochi to review the progress of various schemes and CPS, CPF, FOCT. List of participants is attached.

At the outset CCDO appreciated the efforts put in by all the officers and staff of the Board for the noteworthy achievements made during the last financial year. Board has utilized Rs.54.99 crores against Rs.55.00 crores under the regular on going schemes. Due to lack of fund under Replanting and Rejuvenation of Coconut garden, against the provided fund of Rs.42.55 crores, achievement under R & R scheme was Rs.49.55 crores. Achievement would have been about 40% higher if additional fund as requested was provided to the Board. Much of subsidy and input supply claims were kept pending due to fund inadequacy. He thanked the entire team of CDB for the successful implementation of various schemes of Board for the benefit of coconut growers and development of coconut industry in the country.

Major observations/decisions of the meeting are as follows:

Review of ATR of SOM held on 01.03.2013:

Installation of PAS:

AAO informed that quotations are being invited for replacing the public address system (PAS) in the Board Room since the spare parts are not available in the market. He assured that it will be installed in the Board room before 29th April 2013. Ten mikes having a four pin model will be installed. **(Action: AAO)**

Statistical Survey:

Statistical Officer informed that the statistical survey will be completed by the end of April itself and the report will be submitted in the subsequent week. He further informed that in Kerala the survey is completed in nine districts and the report will be submitted soon. Similarly in Karnataka the survey is completed in 2 districts and the survey is under progress in the remaining 5 districts. In Tamil Nadu, the survey is completed in 2 districts and it is yet to begin in 6 districts. The final report for Kerala and Andhra Pradesh will be submitted by April 15th 2013. The final report Karnataka and Tamil Nadu will be submitted by 30th April 2013. It was discussed that the budget for survey should be ratified in the next Board meeting since the competent authority

has initially approved Rs.37 lakhs to undertake the survey. However it has increased to Rs.39 lakhs. So far Rs.29.73 lakhs has been incurred to undertake the survey. It was also decided that no more extension will be allowed to complete the survey. **(Action: SO)**

Neera Policy:

As discussed in the previous SOM, the message on neera was communicated to all registered CPFs. Accordingly 54 CPFs have represented regarding Neera policy to Finance Minister of Kerala and in the state Budget, separate provision was made for neera processing.

It was discussed and decided that a booklet on neera tapping, processing, usefulness and economies should be brought out and distributed among the CPFs/CPSs. The CPFs/CPSs could initiate neera processing. **(Action: AMO/PO)**

It was also decided that a detailed residential training schedule would be prepared on neera tapping and processing by the TDC and presented in the May 2013 SOM. **(Action: JPE)**

Publicity Officer informed that she has prepared posters on neera in Malayalam and English. Three articles on neera were published in INJ and Harithabhoomi. She suggested having a separate blog on neera in the Board's website. Asianet and Mathrubhoomi channel are interested to have a debate on neera policy. She further told that as discussed in the previous SOM, the unit offices should submit the report and photos of the exhibition within two weeks of their participation.

It was decided that Posters on CPS should be made available in the regional languages and English **(Action: PO)**

It was also decided that a booklet on CPS/CPF and PC shall be prepared and submitted before 1st May 2013 **(Action: AMO/PO)**

Promises and Progress for CPF/PC:

The progress of CPF/CPS was not discussed in details since most of the Charge Officers were absent. The same would be discussed in the next meeting. It was decided that in future the officers should set aside other assignments and make it a point to attend the meeting on 1st of every month without fail **(Action: Charge Officers)**

Reserving spare climbing device:

It was decided that the FOCT training shall continue as usual with the existing norms and conditions but stipend for the trainees will stand as withdrawn. Training/s

which have commenced before passing on, this information may be considered on case to case basis. Publicity officer informed that she have a reserve of 300 climbing devices at the supplier's depot. Statistical Officer informed that no stock has made for northern districts since the production of climbing devices is not sufficient.

The Director, Regional Office, Guwahati informed that the climbing device should be delivered at Abhayapuri DSP Farm so as to avoid re-transportation from Guwahati.

(Action: FOCT Co-coordinators-SO & PO)

Seed nut procurement:

More seed gardens should be identified in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Atleast 10 more gardens from Tamil Nadu and five gardens from Karnataka shall be identified during this month for dwarf seed nut procurement. Supply of one lakh dwarf seednuts requested by Kozhikode Block Panchayath will be made available by May 2013. A guide on mother palm selection and seed nut collection should also be made available to those who procure seed nuts for nursery. **(Action: STO Farm)**

Financial issues:

It was observed that the settlement of advance under CPS and FOCT training was not carried out in time. As a solution to the problem, advance on signing an MOU, reimbursements etc were suggested. It was decided that keeping in view various suggested alternatives the Finance officer shall prepare and present the draft modalities for release of advances for training in the next meeting. **(Action: FO)**

Integrated scheme for farmer's income security (ISFIS):

Board has been implementing the Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme on pilot basis since 2009-10. The scheme is now merged with ISFIS. It was proposed to be implemented as a full fledged scheme in all coconut growing states with the following modification.

1. The minimum number of palm that a farmer may have was reduced to 5 healthy palms in the age group of 4 to 60 years in contiguous area / plot against 10 palms in the pilot scheme.
2. Sum insured would be Rs. 900 per palm in the age group of 4-15 years and Rs 1725 per palm in the age group of 16-60 years as against Rs. 600 and Rs. 1150 under pilot scheme.

3. Premium rate per palm ranges from Rs. 9/- per palm in the age group of 4-15 years and Rs. 14/- per palm in the age group of 16-60 years as against Rs. 4.25 and Rs. 5.75 under the pilot scheme.
4. The premium contribution of Board would be 50%, State Govt. 25% and farmers 25% but a part of farmer's contribution could be shared up to 15% by farmers/ growers association.
5. As against the annual policy under pilot scheme, policy can be issued for a maximum period of 3 years and 2 year with rebate in premium @ 12.5% for 3 years and @ 7.5 % for 2 years to the growers.

The meeting concluded at 7.00 pm

Dy. Director (Dev)

Approved by CCDO

Distribution to:

1. PS to Chairman
2. PA to CCDO/Director/Secretary
3. All participants as per list

List of participants

1. Dr. A K Nandi ,Secretary
2. Dr. K. Muralidharan, Director
3. Shri. Rajeev P George, Director, ROG
4. Dr. Remany Gopalakrishnan, Deputy Director (Dev)
5. Shri R Madhu, Internal Audit Officer
6. Shri. P Sabareenathan, Finance Officer
7. Shri. V G Chandrasekharan, Statistical Officer
8. Smt. Mini Mathew, Publicity Officer
9. Shri. K.S. Sebastian, Asst. Marketing Officer
10. Shri. Melton Coreya, Asst. Administrative Officer
11. Shri. Chinnaraj B, Senior Technical Officer
12. Smt A Jayasree, Senior Technical Officer
13. Shri V.C. Vasanthkumar, Statistical Investigator
14. Shri. Sasikumar C Technical Officer
15. Smt. Reshmi D. S, Technical Officer
16. Ms. Mridula K, Technical Officer
17. Ms. Deepthi. R, Technical Officer
18. Ms. Preethakumari P V, Statistical Assistant
19. Shri. George Peter, Field Officer