

## **Minutes of Farm Review Meeting held at Kochi on 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

A meeting to review the farm activities of the year 2012-13 and to plan activities of 2013-14 was held under the chairmanship of Shri.T.K.Jose IAS, Chairman, Coconut Development Board on 23.5.2013 & 24.5.2013. The attendance is annexed. The major discussions and decisions of the meeting are as follows:

Meeting started with condolence and one minute silence prayer in memory of our two colleagues who had expired recently Shri. Ishawarappa, Driver, DSP Farm Mandya and Shri. Kanhaiyalal Kayam, watchman, DSP farm Madhepura. Chairman in his introductory remarks reminded the major targets assigned to all the farms and the importance of achieving the same. Except Coconut Development Board there are very few agencies producing quality hybrid seedlings. However, the total production from these agencies is less and Govt. of India is eagerly looking upon the DSP Farms of the Board.. There are strategic states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Tripura where seedlings are required in bulk quantities. To meet the demands of such states Board is trying to open new DSP Farms in these states. During the last year hybridization was the most important target given to all farms and only Mandya and Neriya Mangalam could achieve the promised target. Both the farms were congratulated for the achievement. He opined that there are different types of constraints in all the farms however, through efficient planning these constraints can be resolved. Intelligence, thinking, information are the three criteria which determine the achievement. Information in the form of Annual Action Plan can be given from HQ and other two factors have to be applied by the Farm Managers themselves.

All the farm managers were instructed to improve on farm management activities updated their knowledge about advancement of agro techniques and adopt them for coconut management. All farms were instructed to test the soil every year. Develop a soil nutrient trend chart based on last three soil analysis reports. Calculate plotwise fertilizer requirement based on soil test every year. At least in 2 meter of basins of palms, soil pH need to be stabilized. Farm Managers have to take advance action to plan water use efficiency by October. So that farms remain ready to face “no or low rain” situation in winter and summer months. Palm wise, block wise, variety wise, age wise, yield, fertilizer application details etc need to be kept in all farms. Chairman advised farm activities should be undertaken in the following priority.

1. Production of quality coconut seedlings.
2. Hybridization of mother palms and production of hybrid nuts.
3. Advance planning and adoption of water use efficiency.
4. Improving the production and productivity of coconut palms
5. Improve accuracy of the data and records.
6. Maintenance of intercrops
7. Trainings and transfer of technology.
8. Human Resource Management. (Proper work allotment, weekly reviews and monthly activity reports shall be undertaken by all the farms)

**(Action AD, FM and FM i/c of all DSP Farms)**

Shri.Sugata Ghose, CCDO, started the discussion requesting the Farm Managers of Mandya and Madhepura to convey heartfelt condolence to the families of our colleagues who passed away recently. He briefed about the achievements of Coconut Development Board during 2012-13. Vision for CDB during 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan was also presented by him. He mentioned that DSP farms should transform to centres of excellence and more demonstrations and trainings in DSP Farms should become part of farm activities.

**Feed back :** The farm managers pointed out difficulties such as shortage of man power for compiling palm wise, age wise, variety wise yield and fertilizer data for documentation,. It was decided to standardize a format for recording data by improving upon the format given in the Audit and Accounting Manual of the Board.. For conducting training programmes farms may make use of available infrastructure initially and the same can be improved on a later stage.

**(Action: Improve data Record Format: STO, Farms, HQ)**

**Field Research in DSP Farm: by Dr. K. Muralidharan**

Dr.K.Muralidharan, Director in his presentation explained about the responsibilities of Coconut Development Board DSP Farms. With the existing strength like farms in various agro climatic region, large germ plasm collection, two decades of experience in farm etc. farms can take up various field level research.. He listed about 25 research topics that can be under taken in the farms.

**Feed Back :** All the DSP farm have to submit a proposal indicating the proposed research topics, details of experiments to be conducted along with financial outlay for considering under TMOC.

**(Action: All ADs/ FMs/Farm (i/c))**

Dr. Remany Gopalakrishnan, Deputy Director presented on Farmers Training and Study visits in DSP Farms. She explained various training tools through which DSP Farms can transfer skills and knowledge to farming community. Besides she gave a brief historical background regarding origin and establishment of DSP farms. She stressed on the point that the DSP farms have to act as knowledge and resource centres in coconut culture and industry, which should aim at developing and disseminating of location specific technological modules through Demonstration

**Feed Back:** All the farm managers opined that a nominal fee for training should be collected from the trainees. Exemptions may be considered for SC/ST/PWD/Women Trainees. All the Farm Managers were asked to submit proposal for conducting trainings in the farm as per the enclosed schedule. (Annexure-I) **(Action: All ADs/ FMs/Farm (i/c))**

Shri. Sabareenathan, Finance Officer presented the financial position in DSP Farms. All the DSP farms were asked to send the monthly progress report alongwith break up of receipts in the farm. All Farm Managers were asked to remit the receipt at fortnight intervals to HQ. All the farm managers requested to send break up of fund released to the farm as and when online transfers are done. FO pointed out that all the farms are given an email regarding the fund heads. **(Action: All ADs/ FMs/Farm (i/c))**

Assessment of performance indicators during 2012-13 was presented by Shri.B.Chinnaraj, Senior Technical Officer. Achievements made by all the farms in production and productivity of coconut, hybridization, procurement, Vermi compost production, receipts from intercrops and total receipts were analysed. Based on the achievements made in targets Mandya farm given the top rank followed by Vegiwada. The annual action plan for the year 2013-14 was also finalized. Performance Indicator (Target) for 2013-14 is enclosed as Annexure-II. Seed nut procurement and seedlings production activities in commercial nursery attached to DSP farms were listed and deadline for each activity was given.. The deadline for procurement, sowing, seedling production fixed for various farms are as follows:

**Commercial nursery- III (13-14)deadlines for all farms**

<b>Deadline for</b>	<b>ABHAY</b>	<b>MADHE</b>	<b>KONDA</b>	<b>PITAPA</b>	<b>VEGIW</b>	<b>MANDY</b>	<b>NERIA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Target for seedling production in lakh	1.80	1.50	1.50	1.20	1.50	1.50	1.20	10.20
Target for seednuts sowing in lakh	3.00	2.30	2.30	2.00	2.50	2.50	2.00	16.60
Procurement	Nov 13	Aug 13	Aug 13	Nov 13	Nov 13	Continued round the year basis	Aug 13	-
Sowing	Dec13	Sep 13	Sep 13	Dec13	Dec13		Sep 13	-
Seedling production	July 14	June 14	June 14	Aug 14	Aug 14		June 14	-

The following are the decisions during the discussions:

- All the dwarf palms above 8 years should be given good management support so as to stabilize the yield and to be used as mother palms.
- Good quality dwarf and hybrid seedlings in poly bags should be kept apart at DSP farm Mandya and Vegiwada 4000 seedlings each for planting in new DSP Farm in Palghar, Maharashtra.
- Technical Officer DSP Farm Pitapally reported that there are 2000 dwarf palms in the farm. It was decided to divide the responsibility for looking after these dwarf palm among Assistant Director, Technical Officer and Field Officers . These persons have to improve the productivity of dwarf palms in Pitapally through effective management practices. Button setting in these farms have to be recorded regularly upto 3 months. The same has to be reported to HQ on fortnight intervals.
- The achievement in hybridization in DSP Farm Vegiwada is only 732 against the target of 6000. The Assistant Director, DSP Farm Vegiwada reported that the hybridization is done for the first time in the farm and there is an acute shortage for trained persons. The excuses such as “doing hybridization for the first time” was not found reasonable and not accepted in the meeting. The AD was advised to give proper attention for hybridization. Secretary, Farm Manager -DSP Farm Mandya and STO-HQ were put on responsibilities for getting sufficient trained people for pollination and hybridization in various farms. The AD Vegiwada was also asked to plan differential increment system for pollinators.(**Action: Secretary, AD DSP farm Vegiwada, FM Mandya and STO Head quarters**)

- The Farm Manager, Madhepura was asked to give a report on the cold tolerant palms with details like variety, age, yield record of last five years both on farm and off farm referring to Dr.Ravi Prakash Committee Report. Seednuts should be procured from these selected palms and raised in the nursery. (Action: Farm Manager i/c.DSP Farm, Madhepura)

### **TECHNICAL SESSIONS (24<sup>th</sup> May 2013-2<sup>nd</sup> day)**

During the technical session farm in charges spoke on the topic allotted to them as detailed below.

<b>Sl.No</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Average Grade Point</b>
1	Decision Support System in crop water requirement and irrigation scheduling in DSP Farms Good management practices in DSP Farms	Shri. M.K.Singh, FM Mandya	6/10
2	Organic manuring – New techniques & concepts	Kum.Fariza Shaheed, FO Abhayapuri	7/10
3	Integrated nutrient management in DSP Farm based on soil test report	Shri.Sengar, FM, Kondagaon	4.75/10
4	Agricultural meteorology and advances in crop management	Kum.Vincy Varghese, TO, Pitapally	7.75/10
5	Principles and tools of coconut farm management	Shri.Aravazhy, AD, Vegiwada	5/10
6	Machineries in DSP Farms Maintenance and Management	Shri. Choyal, AD, Neriyamangalam	4.75/10
7	Planning and analysis of Farm Management	Shri. B.Chinnaraj, STO	4.75/10
8	Good management practices in DSP farms	Shri.I.C.Katiyar, AD i/c, Madhepura	3/10

Presentations were graded by CCDO and Director HQ. Grade points are mentioned in the parenthesis against the topics and presenter. Farm i/c were advised to put in more efforts, be aware of the technological advances and update their knowledge. Similar Technical

Sessions could be organized once in a month in each farm (in monthly review meet in farm) including all staff to orient and improve on their technical knowledge

(Action : All :Farm Managers)

**In the concluding remarks by the Chairman the following decision are taken**

- All the farms should maintain forest and fruit tree register with details of trees like, age and stem girth at one meter and for fruit trees annual yield..
- Action may be immediately initiated to appoint one Filed Officer each on contract basis for DSP Farm Mandya and DSP Farm, Abhayapuri.
- All the farms have to take up regular crown cleaning and prophylactic spray.
- Leaf analysis shall be done by taking representative samples from each plot in DSP Farm Pitapally. The analysis report shall be submitted by July 2013.
- Fertilizers requirement should be calculated as per soil testing report and standard recommendations regarding nutrient need of coconut.
- All the farms have to grow green manures crops for improving the soil nutrients status.
- All the hybrid/NCD seedlings produced in the farm shall be in poly bags only.
- The name, address, educational qualification, mobile number and e-mail id of pollinators should be provided to HQ from all farms on or before 30.6.2013
- A photo album of all mother palms should be maintained in the farm with details like variety/plot No./age/yield (last five years)/palm no.
- Commercial nursery should have provision for sprinkler irrigation system. Proposal for installation of the system including overhead tank if need be may be submitted to HQ for approval by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013.
- Audit of all the farms shall be conducted once in every year.
- All Farm Managers should submit 2-3 page report about the farm in the first week of every month by email to Chairman covering major activities and issues.
- Three video conferences shall be conducted for review and progress of farm activities during current year( once in remaining three quarters).
- All the farms should subscribe for good scientific journals and purchase relevant books. Proposed journal subscription and books list to be purchased may be submitted to HQ for approval. FOs/TOs/FM/AD shall present review of books and journals purchased in the internal monthly review meeting of the farms.
- All the technical staff including Farm managers/ADs shall submit at least one article every two months on recent advances on coconut cultivation techniques and farm management to HQ starting from July 2013.

- An i-pad or tablet PC will be given to Farm Managers who achieve the target in hybridization programme after assessment and review of their performance.
- A Laptop with internet (data cable) may be provided to Farm Manager DSP Farm Mandya immediately for best performance for the last three years.
- To improve the technical know how, all the Farm Managers are advised to identify suitable training programmes being conducted by different organizations and submit proposal to HQ for approval. Training on improving English communication skills etc will also be considered on their request.
- Purchase of diesel Gen Set for DSP Farm Vegiwada was principally agreed. The capacity of the DG set may be ascertained after consulting with qualified Electrical Engineer of AP-Transco.
- Farm Managers are requested to update fortnightly report on or before 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> date of every month in the DSP Farm-dynamic web page in Board's Website.
- All germinated seednuts should be shifted to secondary nursery to re-utilize the area and to maintain growth uniformity as followed in DSP Farm Neriamangalam. Photos of well maintained nursery may be included in weekly report.
- Bio-fertilizers shall be used in all farms. The target for Vermi-compost production in shall be 200 tons for all the farms.
- All essential meteorological equipments shall be repaired, properly maintained or may be purchased, if not available. Accurate and truthful recording of metrological data is essential in all farms.
- Decomposed poultry manure/paper mill sludge/sugar cane press mud/ Tank silt etc. may be used for improving soil texture and structure in the farm. Nutrient analysis must be done before submitting the proposal for the same with justification for use.
- In the absence of Farm Manager in DSP Farm Abhayapuri, Ms. Fariza Shaheed, Field Officer will look after the day to day activities.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 pm with vote of thanks.

Secretary