“Priority setting, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) of Agricultural Research Projects”

Conference held on

3rd August, 2019

At

ICAR-DMAPR, Anand

PROCEEDINGS
**Preamble**

In the growing world of scarcity of resources, which calls for efficient and effective use of the resources, an important intervention is the integration of a system that provides both transparency and accountability in any undertaking. The Indian Council has institutionalized the Priority Setting, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) Cells/Units in all the ICAR institutes towards this end as a tool for management decision making. Without exception agricultural research, especially in the developing world, requires that PM&E becomes an integral part of management. Since the introduction of the concept of PME Cells in ICAR in early 2010s, ICAR has made significant strides in formalizing the roles and responsibilities of these Cells. The Professional Service Function Guidelines of ICAR envisions a central role for the PME Cells in terms of research and technology management. PME Cells serve as the nodal point for all communications between the respective institutions and the Council/external agencies.

For the agricultural research managers, planning research projects and monitoring and evaluation of ongoing research and completed research is of most importance. For ongoing research, the concern is more on the effectiveness of the project and the attainment of objectives. Impact assessment, of research projects is crucial to policy making and the information from PME Units is essential to conducting impact assessment. It is therefore necessary that evaluation of ongoing and completed research projects are carefully done. The evaluation of research should be conducted not as an "end" in itself, but rather as a "beginning" of another cycle.

The In-charges and the members of the PME Cell are appointed by the Director, as per the requirement and the envisaged work load. Thus, the Scientists involved in the activities of the PME Cell, irrespective of their subject specialization, are expected to be conversant with the general principles and concepts in planning, monitoring, and evaluation of research projects, so that they provide the best council to the Director for management decision making.

In this direction ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), hhyderabad has given responsibility to organize MDP on PME aims at providing the participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to make them to be more systematic in research management so that they aid in evidence-based decision making. Accordingly, the NAARM is conducting the training with following main objectives:

1. To understand the core principles of Priority setting, monitoring and evaluation as envisaged by ICAR and assess the current status in their respective institutes.

2. To design new projects and critically evaluate other projects that meet national programs and goals.

3. To identify key parts of a research proposal and Use the logical framework approach to identify basic elements of a project proposal to institutionalize an M&E system.
4. To appreciate the frameworks and metrics used to measure the performance of the institutions, research journals and individual researchers.

5. To understand the key principles of financial planning for implementation of research programs in ICAR and the strategies for revenue generation through research.

6. To appreciate the tools and applications available for research project management and scientific communication.

In addition to project management, NAARM sensitizes all operational aspects of the PME Cell including budgetary planning (EFC Memo), communication (answering queries from Council / Parliamentary questions), promoting and facilitating publication of research papers in impactful journals. They also provided an overview of the frameworks and metrics used to measure the performance of the institutions, journals and individual researchers to the participants. The module is usually conducted through introduction of concepts, experience sharing, and brief activities to integrate the ideas into practices.

A training on, “Priority setting, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) of Agricultural Research Projects”, organized by ICAR-NAARM during 18-23 July 2019 was organized at NAARM and from DMAPR, Dr. P. Manivel, PME-Incharge attended the training. A total of 37 PME In-Charges from 37 ICAR institutes participated the training!
As per the suggestion of the organizers, this one-day conference on “Priority setting, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) of Agricultural Research Projects” was organized on 03-08-2019 at ICAR DMAPR, Anand Guajrat for the benefit of all scientist working in ICAR-DMAPR and other ICAR institutes located in Gujarat.
Conference on

“Priority setting, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) of Agricultural Research Projects”

Date: 03/08/19
Time: 10 am to 6.00 pm
Venue: Conference Hall, ICAR-DMAPR, Anand

Introduction

In the growing world of scarcity of resources, which calls for efficient and effective use of the resources, an important intervention is the integration of a system that provides both transparency and accountability in any undertaking. The Indian Council has institutionalized the Priority Setting, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) Cells/Units in all the ICAR institutes towards this end as a tool for management decision making. Without exception agricultural research, especially in the developing world, requires that PM&E becomes an integral part of management. Since the introduction of the concept of PME Cells in ICAR in early 2010s, ICAR has made significant strides in formalizing the roles and responsibilities of these Cells. The Professional Service Function Guidelines of ICAR envisions a central role for the PME Cells in terms of research and technology management. PME Cells serve as the nodal point for all communications between the respective institutions and the Council/external agencies.

For the agricultural research managers, planning research projects and monitoring and evaluation of ongoing research and completed research is of most importance. For ongoing research, the concern is more on the effectiveness of the project and the attainment of objectives. Impact assessment, of research projects is crucial to policy making and the information from PME Units is essential to conducting impact assessment. The scientists of ICAR are the integral part of agricultural research projects and play a major role in the project formulations, execution and report submissions in the forms of RPP-1, RPP-2, RPP-3 and RPP-4. The ICAR has made certain guidelines for each of them and PME of the institute has been given full responsibility to look after this. Hence, ICAR scientist should have clear knowledge of these proforma and circulars & guidelines related to them for effective project implementation. It is therefore the present conference is planned to cover all the aspects related to Agricultural Project Research Management.

Theme Area

1. The core principles of Priority setting, monitoring and evaluation as envisaged by ICAR
2. Designing of new projects that meet national programs and goals.
3. Identify key parts of a research proposal and Use the logical framework approach to identify basic elements of a project proposal to institutionalize an M&E system
4. Appreciate the frameworks and metrics used to measure the performance of the institutions, research journals and individual researchers.
5. Understand the key principles of financial planning for implementation of research programs in ICAR and the strategies for revenue generation through research.
6. Appreciate the tools and applications available for research project management and scientific communication.

Further, the delegates will be sensitized on all operational aspects of the PME Cell including budgetary planning (EFC Memo), communication (answering queries from Council / Parliamentary questions), promoting and facilitating publication of research papers in impactful journals. The participants will be provided an overview of the frameworks and metrics used to measure the performance of the institutions, journals and individual researchers.

Chairman
Dr. S. Roy,
Director, ICAR-DMAPR

Organizing secretaries
Dr. P. Manivel (9429543209)
Dr. V. Thondaiman (9427881172)

Organising Committee
Mr. Shivakumara, Scientist (9591406110)
Dr. A. P. Trivedi, Sr. Tech. Officer (9974034755)
Suresh Patelia, Personal Secretary (9428479305)
### Programme Schedule

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>10.00 - 10.30 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30 - 11.00 am</td>
<td>Inaugural Function</td>
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<td>11.00-11.15 am</td>
<td>Tea Break</td>
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<td>11.15 to 1.00 am</td>
<td><strong>Session- 1: Priority setting</strong>&lt;br&gt;➢ Research Governance Framework of ICAR &amp; Role of PME&lt;br&gt;➢ Research Project Management: An Overview&lt;br&gt;➢ Prioritization of Research Projects: Tools &amp; Practices&lt;br&gt;➢ Prioritization of Research Projects (ICAR Guidelines)</td>
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<td>1.00 – 2.00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch Break&lt;br&gt;➢ Working Lunch will be provided at DMAPR guest house</td>
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<td>2.00 – 3.00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Session- 2: Project Monitoring</strong>&lt;br&gt;➢ Monitoring &amp; Evaluation of Research Projects&lt;br&gt;➢ Logframe Approach for Monitoring and evaluation</td>
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<td>3.00-3.45 pm</td>
<td><strong>Session- 3: Project Evaluation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Impact Assessment of Research Projects&lt;br&gt;Frameworks for Measuring Research Performance</td>
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<td>3.45 – 4.00 pm</td>
<td>Tea Break</td>
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<td>4.00 – 5.30</td>
<td><strong>Session-4: Publications (Dr. P. Krishnan from NAARM) On-line</strong>&lt;br&gt;➢ Role of PME in Handling Publications: Guidelines &amp; Averting Plagiarism&lt;br&gt;➢ ICAR Guidelines on Contract Research &amp; Consultancies</td>
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<td>5.30-6.00 pm</td>
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ICAR-DMAFP has organized a Conference on “Priority setting, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) of Agricultural Research Projects” on 03rd August, 2019 at ICAR-Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research, Boriavi, Anand. The scientists from ICAR-DMAFP, Anand, ICAR-IISWC regional centre, Vasad, ICAR-CSSRI regional centre, Bharuch and ICAR-CIFA, RRC, Anand have been participated in this conference.
The event started with the ICAR song followed by welcome speech by the event organizing Secretary Dr. P. Manivel, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding). He also gave the glimpses and purpose about the conference.

Dr. Satyajit Roy, Director, ICAR-DMAPR addressed the event and while addressing, he highlighted the inception, history, functions and importance of the PME in ICAR system. He also emphasized that there is a need for setting up of PMC in all the ICAR, institute for increasing the efficiency of agriculture research.
Dr. Bhatnagar, in his address stated that implementation of PMC will strengthen the work culture of agriculture scientists in the country. Dr. Anil in his address appreciated the directorate for having organized the national conference on PME by ICAR-DMAPR. He opined that there is speedy implementation of PME guidelines established by ICAR.

Dr. Anil in his address appreciated the directorate for having organized the national conference on PME by ICAR-DMAPR. He opined that there is speedy implementation of PME guidelines established by ICAR.
There were four main sessions viz. Session- 1: Priority setting, Session- 2: Project Monitoring, Session- 3: Project Evaluation and Session-4: Publications (Dr. P. Krishnan from NAARM) On-line.

The first two sessions were taken up in the morning i.e. before lunch.

In the morning session Dr. P. Manivel, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding) has presented a lecture on Research Governance Framework of ICAR & Role of PME, Research Project Management: An Overview, Prioritization of Research Projects: Tools & Practices and Prioritization of Research Projects (ICAR Guidelines).
Discussions were made on formation of PMC, importance of PMC, role and importance of RAC & QRT, designation of secretary and member secretary, evolution of PME, institutionalization of PME, recent PME manual (2018), difference between review and evaluation, regional committee meeting, how role of PME is differ from role of ITMU with related to technology and patents. Besides, research investment trends, research output trends, core areas of research expenses, source of research funds, budgeting of research, difference between SFC/EFC, Plan/Non-plan, old EFC and new EFC.

Focuses of PME is elaborately discussed which comprised the importance of documentation and publications. RPP-1, RPP-2, RPP-3 and RPP-4 and 5 their Proforma was explained and discussed. Eligibility of PI, Co-PI and duration of the research projects, project code of institute and external funded projects also been discussed. Number of projects, sub projects, activities and programmes were distinguished and explained.

Under priority setting session, Research Governance Framework of ICAR & Role of PME, Research Project Management: An overview, Prioritization of Research Projects: Tools & Practices and Prioritization of Research Projects (ICAR Guidelines), 10 criteria for priority setting and addressing priority of national and international level have been discussed. Identification of the problem, development of hypothesis, designing of experiments for test the hypothesis, data analysis to accept or reject the hypothesis and publication after peer review was discussed under the scientific methods topic.
In Project Monitoring session, Monitoring & Evaluation of Research Projects and Log frame Approach for Monitoring and evaluation has been covered. In Project Evaluation session, Impact Assessment of Research Projects and Frameworks for Measuring Research Performance has been presented.

Besides Special session on Role of PME in Handling Publications: Guidelines & Averting Plagiarism and ICAR Guidelines on Contract Research & Consultancies and predatory journal list has been arranged from NAARM through online which was handled by Dr. P. Krishnan, Principal Scientist (Agricultural Research Management), NAARM, Hyderabad. Effective discussions were made on authorship and NAAS ratings.
The conference was ended with the feedback by the participants followed by vote of thanks delivered by Dr. P. Manivel, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding) and Dr. Thondaman, Scientists, ICAR-DMAPR.
Recommendations

The major recommendations emerged out of the conference are:

1. The ICAR-DMAPR should form Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) as per the ICAR guidelines.
2. For easy operation of project-related activities almost all the ICAR institutes are keeping IRC secretary and PMEIn-charge as same person. Hence, DMAPR, Anand also may follow the same pattern.
3. All the scientists should submit the RPP-1 for their new projects proposals to PME at least 2-3 months in advance for examining, reviewing through experts and approval.
Feedback

Dr.P.R. Bhatnagar: The effort made by Dr.P. Manivel in communicating about conference of PME & other activities is quite appreciating. However, in view of time required on each aspect at least two days should have been kept, so that each aspect should be discussed properly.

Dr. Vibhute Sagar Dattatraya: I got knowledge about the framework of PME and functionality and uniqueness its various committees. I also got detailed knowledge about the RPPs. The information that I got regarding publications and types of research projects was unique in nature and something that I never heard about. The session of video conferencing lecture from NAARM was a great experience and it was great example of effective use of technology for knowledge dissemination. Sir I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity of learning new things about PME and I look forward for more such conferences/discussions in future.

Dr. Gaurav Singh: This training on the topic “Priority setting, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) of Agricultural Research Projects” was very useful to me. It will help in proper designing of research plan proposal for effective implementation of research project. I also learned the structure and function of different committee constituted for research management in ICAR. The knowledge imparted on the proper communication of research papers in impact/peer review journal with an overview of the framework and metrics used for the measurement of performance of institutions, journals and researchers is very much helpful to me. This type of training for ICAR scientist should be organized regularly to update the scientist with latest knowledge on research management.

Dr. Anil R. Chinchmalatpure: Today’s one day workshop on PME at DMAPR was informative and Dr.P. Manivel has explained all related aspects in PME very nicely. It was very useful which a need of to is never. The discussion part was very nice and learned nicely. I am very much thankful to Director of the institute and Dr.P. Manivel, PS for invite to this event.
Dr. Nagaraja Reddy: The conference was informative and may help unleash my abilities to manage and work efficiently in the ICAR. The conference brought clarity on issues relating to project management, technology management, consultancy and contract research. Quick implementation of the PMC guidelines is expected in all ICAR institutes as it will enhance the research productivity. Further, the online lecture by Dr. Krishnan, from ICAR-NAARM on research papers, technology management was informative and an eyeopener for me. Very nice initiative.

Dr. A. C. Polaiah: The conference on “Priority Setting, Monitoring and Evaluation (MPE) of Agricultural Research Projects” organized by Dr. P. Manivel, Principal Scientist (Plant Breeding) and PME in charge on 03.08.2019 at ICAR-Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Anand is very good and He emphasized various issues related basic functions and role of PME. I have gone through the RPP I, RPP II and RIII and RPP IV. I have learnt new things in this conference on PMC and its role. The online lecture delivered by Dr. P. Krishnan from NAARM, Hyderabad is very good information regarding to research publications and ICAR guidelines given to us in this training programme. Over all the conference is excellent and I thankful to Dr. P. Manivel and Director of this Institute for giving opportunity to attend the conference on PME.

Kuldeepsingh. A. Kalariya: The one-day conference on PME was the need of the hour, especially for scientific personnel in ICAR. Some aspects with novel information particularly in relation to RPP and publication were very well addressed by Dr. P Manivel, DMAPR and Dr. Krishnan, NAARM, respectively.

However, the duration of the conference should be at least two days to cover most important topics thoroughly. Further, it should be renamed as Workshop rather than Conference.

(P. Manivel)
Organizing Secretary

(Satyajit Roy)
Director, ICAR DMAPR