

Resolutions of the 12th National Field Crops Research Workshop

1. The need for a mechanism to involve lead agencies in preparing and endorsing research and development proposals, screening presentations to avoid duplication and to improve the quality of presentation was discussed at great length. To this end, crop commodity leaders were asked to coordinate and take the lead role in reviewing proposals and screening presentations. **(Action: Crop commodity leaders)**.
2. The house deliberated on varietal evaluation procedures for on-station and on-farm trials which at present are long and complicated. Therefore, the forum agreed that the varietal screening procedures will be reviewed by DoA in consultation with RDCs **(Action: DoA and RNRRDCs)**
3. Regarding variety release procedures, the house felt that the existing procedures are stringent and cumbersome. Hence, the house agreed to review and simplify the existing variety release procedures in consultation with CoRRB. **(Action: CoRRB/DoA)**.
4. A Rice production mechanization initiative taken by RDC Bajo was presented. The house expressed appreciation that such an initiative is useful and will contribute towards generating database on farm mechanization and labor saving technologies. The house urged RDC Bajo to work closely with AMC in this task. **(Action: RDC Bajo and AMC)**.
5. The house acknowledged research initiatives by some RDCs on rice dry seeding culture. This system could be potential given the increasing farm labour shortage and water scarcity in rice farming. However, the method of seeding has been constrained due to unavailability of suitable dry seeder. Hence, a suggestion was made to procure a prototype drum seeder for direct seeding **(Action: DoA and AMC)**.
6. NPHC made presentation on postharvest management activities including wild animal repellent. Considering the limited human resources at NPHC and the given mandate of the centre, the house recommended that NPHC should hereafter only act as an advisory agency to implementing agencies such as NPPC and RDCs on wild animal repellent studies. Accordingly, NPHC should make arrangements to hand over the ongoing work to NPPC. **(Action: NPHC and NPPC)**.
7. Concerns regarding the fertilizer application rates for major crops and utilization of soil information at NSSC were raised. The house resolved that NSSC should review the available soil information, update the fertilizer recommendation rates

for major crops particularly rice, maize, potato and citrus and translate into usable extension messages. Further NSSC was asked to liaise with RDCs and demonstrate the recommended fertilization in farmers' fields **(Action: NSSC and RDCs)**.

8. The proposal presentation on oilseeds research and development was welcomed by the house, taking note of the increasing edible oil shortages in the country and rising concerns on oil quality. However, the house felt the need for an inclusive feasibility study before embarking on major production programs in the country **(Action: DoA and CoRRB)**.
9. The house welcomed the role of CoRRB in output/impact assessment, socio-economic surveys and screening of long term research proposals/projects. The meeting however expressed reservations on submission of annual work plans and every research initiative to CoRRB for clearance since annual activities are based on the five year plans and /or current farming issues of the regions. **(Action: CoRRB/DOA)**.
10. To improve the seeds production and supply systems, the workshop called for greater concerted efforts amongst all stakeholders, mainly RDCs and NSC, and work hand in hand to improve the current seeds system. There is also a need to mainstream and formalize the community based seed production system **(Action: NSC and RDCs)**.
11. Concerns were raised on the very high baseline and target figures of the ABSD Rice program (baseline 1.7 tons of milled rice per ha and target 2.2 t/ha) which do not seem realistic. There was some confusion on the unit of measurement (milled vs rough rice), and suggested that the figures be interpreted as un-milled rice per ha. **(Action: DoA)**.
12. The need for coordination of in-country trainings by different agencies was deliberated. In order to streamline and enhance efficiency of training, the house recommended that RDCs and central agencies develop an annual calendar of training activities which can be coordinated by commodity leaders. **(Action: DoA and RDCs)**.
13. The house raised concerns on huge variation in RNR statistics between years and sources. The forum agreed that RDCs will coordinate and conduct crop cuts in collaboration with dzongkhags in order to develop an authoritative database. **(Action: RDCs and respective Dzongkhags)**.

14. A draft proposal on realignment of RDCs with client dzongkhags for better coverage was presented by DoA. The house recommended further work in this. **(Action: DoA).**
15. The meeting raised concerns on already inadequate human resources and further departure of trained personnel from the system as per the present provisions within PCS. In this regard, the DoA agreed to streamline the procedures, especially selection criteria for opportunities outside of profession and retain trained staff in the system. **(Action: DoA).**
16. The house acknowledged introduction of crop germplasm from different international centres and sources for evaluation purposes. However, increased interactions with the providers of germplasm on the performance in different countries and locations were called for. **(Action: Crop Commodity Coordinators).**
17. The workshop recognized the impacts of climate change on agriculture and called for greater attention in aligning research programs for climate proofing Bhutanese agriculture in the future. **(Action: RDCs)**
18. The workshop discussed and endorsed the Nationally Coordinated Trials (attached) and Field Crops work plans of RDCs for the financial year 2011-2012.