

# MINUTES OF 71<sup>st</sup> RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING OF CMER&TI, LAHDOIGARH (09.05.2024)

The 71st Research Council Meeting of CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh was held on May 9, 2024, under the chairmanship of Dr. Kartik Neog, Director. All scientists from the Main Institute and the nested units attended the meeting and discussed the R&D activities of the Institute as per the following agenda.

## **AGENDA NO. 1: CONFIRMATION OF LAST RC MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the 70<sup>th</sup> Research Council meeting held on 21.03.2024 were circulated to all members, and as no comments were received, the minutes were confirmed.

## **AGENDA NO. 2: NEW CONCEPT NOTES**

### **1. Raising of Autumn/3rd crop in Oak tasar silkworm, *Antheraea proylei* Jolly in Manipur.**

Dr. Reeta Luikham, Sc-D presented a new concept note in front of the committee and the suggestions were made during the meeting;

- Modify the project title to “Development of Suitable Technology for Rearing Oak Tasar Silkworm During Autumn Crop” to align with the objectives of the proposed work.
- Define the primary objective of the project as enhancing oak tasar cocoon production by utilizing well-established and standardized technologies to break diapause and address issues of erratic emergence. Include a detailed work plan for achieving this in the concept note.
- Explain the current research and field-level gaps, justifying the necessity of the project by considering the advantages and disadvantages of adoption. Additionally, include the present rearing schedule of events throughout the year.
- Concept note approved and submit the revised concept note within 31<sup>st</sup> May in RMIS 01 format for onward submission to CO, CSB and upload the same on e-submis portal.

### **2. Isolation of shorter larval duration line of Oak Tasar silkworm - *A. proylei* through selection from the mass population**

Dr. L Somen Singh, Sc-B presented a new concept note to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;

- Strengthen the identified research gaps in the proposed work by considering whether such lines are naturally available or if any lines/ecoraces have been collected or documented to date. Ensure the conservation of the commercial and economic characteristics of the cocoons.
- Clearly estimate and present the potential advantages, including reductions in manpower, foliage requirements, and improvements in cocoon parameters.
- Concept note approved and submit the revised concept note within 31<sup>st</sup> May in RMIS 01 format for onward submission to CO, CSB and upload the same on e-submis portal.

### **3. Development of a rearing technology for early spring crop rearing of oak tasar silkworm**

Dr. S Subharani, Sc-D presented a new concept note to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;

- Combine the previous concept “Raising of Autumn/3rd crop in Oak tasar silkworm” with this concept and repropose into single project with tentative tile “Development of rearing technology in Early and late (autumn/spring crop) rearing”.
- Sinto Anto, Sc-B may be included as CI from the main institute

- The combined concept is approved and submit the revised concept note within 31<sup>st</sup> May in RMIS 01 format for onward submission to CO, CSB and upload the same on e-submis portal.

#### **4 Collection, Conservation and evaluation of oak tasar host plant germplasm**

Dr. S Subharani, Sc-D presented a new concept note to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;

- Dr. Harish, Sc-B from main Institute maybe included as CI in the project.
- Concept note approved and submit the concept note within 31<sup>st</sup> May in RMIS 01 format for onward submission to CO, CSB and upload the same on e-submis portal.

#### **5 Technology Intervention for Enhancing Production and Productivity of Oak Tasar Cocoons in Nagaland**

Dr. Subadas Singh, Sc-C presented a new concept note to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting

- The list of developed and scientifically validated technologies that will be employed in the field to be included in the methodology.
- Baseline survey of the plantation/farms available should be documented/included along with the present rearing capacity and production statistics.
- The scope of the project may be extended to include Assam and Meghalaya. Specifically, include 02 districts from Nagaland, 02 districts from Assam (mainly Dima Hasao), and 01 district from Mizoram.
- The PI may prepare to propose the concept for external funding agencies like DST/DBT etc and prepare accordingly.
- Concept note approved and submit the revised concept note within 31<sup>st</sup> May in RMIS 01 format for onward submission to CO, CSB and upload the same on e-submis portal.

#### **6 Deciphering virulent and avirulent strains of Nosema infecting muga silkworms**

Ms. Brunda, Sc-B presented a new concept note to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;

- To ensure and take care of controlled environment for Muga rearing without affecting other routine population at the Institute farms.
- Concept note approved and submit the concept note within 31<sup>st</sup> May in RMIS 01 format for onward submission to CO, CSB and upload the same on e-submis portal.

#### **7 Genetic improvement of tapioca genotypes for higher leaf yield and quality attributes through clonal selection (Revised from previous RC)**

Dr. Harish, Sc-B presented a new concept note to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;

- As the concept note was revised considering the suggestions of previous RC, the concept note is approved and PI to submit the concept note within 31<sup>st</sup> May in RMIS 01 format for onward submission to CO, CSB and upload the same on e-submis portal.

#### **8 Development of eri silk based non-woven fabrics for sustainable technical textile applications**

Dr. Manjunath R N, Sc-C presented a new concept note to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;

- As the concept note was proposed to NTTM scheme and was previously considered during the review meeting with MS, CSB and subsequently submitted to CO, CSB the concept note was ratified and PI may upload the concept note the same on e-submis portal within 31<sup>st</sup> May.

**9 Adoption of improved and sustainable technologies of Muga culture for elevation of seed cocoon production in Garo Hills district of Meghalaya**

Sh. S A S Rahman, Sc-D appraised the new concept note to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;

- Concept note approved and submit the concept note within 31<sup>st</sup> May in RMIS 01 format for onward submission to CO, CSB and upload the same on e-submis portal.

**10 Integrating Muga silk heritage with sustainable organic tea cultivation**

Dr. D K Jigyasu, Sc-D appraised the new concept note to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;

- The PI is advised to discuss with Prof. Gautam Saikia from AAU Jorhat to utilize his expertise in planning and effectively implementing project activities. If necessary, the PI may suggest collaborating with the Department of Tea Husbandry & Technology at AAU Jorhat to enhance project execution and utilization of available resources.
- Concept note approved and submit the concept note within 31<sup>st</sup> May in RMIS 01 format for onward submission to CO, CSB and upload the same on e-submis portal.

**AGENDA NO. 3: REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS OF ON-GOING PROJECTS**

**1. AIB 5013 SI: Impact of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> and temperature on muga silkworm and its primary host plant**

Dr. D K Jigyasu, Sc-D presented progress of the project to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;

- Reverify and retabulate the data showing the effects of temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> on individual cocoon characteristics, and present the significant changes accordingly.
- Continue the project as per the set objectives and target milestones.

**2. APS-05021-EF: Studies on population diversity and role of host plant volatile cues for enhancing egg laying in temperate tasar (Vanya) silk moths *Antheraea proylei*.**

Dr. S subharani, Sc-D presented progress of the project to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;

- Quantify the data pertaining to the number of cocoons collected, number of surveys conducted etc to gauge the population diversity.
- Pursue with funding agency for remaining fund release and besides seeking clarification on the continuation of JRF under the project.

**3. ARP05023CN: Muga and Eri silkworm disease monitoring in north eastern states of India**

Sh. Bitopan Das, Sc-D presented progress of the project to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;

- Pursue the development of Seri DM type app as per previously envisaged target by June 2024
- Continue the project as per the set objectives and target milestones

4. **AIT05024EF-Advanced-Level Institutional Biotech Hubs at CMERTI-Jorhat (Phase-II)**  
Dr. Arun Kumar, Sc-D presented progress of the project to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;
  - Continue the project as per the set objectives and target milestones.
5. **PIB 5025 SIC: Characterization and evaluation of Soalu (*Litsea monopetala*) accessions for muga silkworm (*Antheraea assamensis*) rearing**  
Dr. O P Patidar, Sc-C presented progress of the project to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;
  - PI to initiate actions for procuring the proposed scientific equipment immediately following GFR procedures
  - Initiate the activities under the project as per the set objectives and target milestones.
6. **SPR 5026 SIC: Development of suitable Muga and Eri based Integrated Farming System (IFS) for North East India**  
Dr. D Mech, Sc-D presented progress of the project to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;
  - Dr. Vikram Kumar, Sc-C from MESSO, with expertise in Agronomy, and Dr. Kaiho Keisa, Sc-B, with expertise in Veterinary Science/Animal Husbandry, may be included as Co-Investigators in the project to utilize their expertise for effective implementation of the project.
  - Initiate the activities under the project and continue the work as per the set objectives and target milestones.
7. **MOE 5027 SIC: Economic analysis of Tapioca based Eri-culture in Assam & Nagaland**  
Dr. Vijay N, Sc-C presented progress of the project to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;
  - PI should initiate the project as per the set objectives and target milestones and ensure effective utilization of budget.
8. **SPR 5028 SIC: Popularization of Improved Technologies of Muga Culture for Enhancing Cocoon Production in Manipur**  
Dr. Subadas Singh, Sc-C presented progress of the project to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;
  - The list of farmers selected under the project along with their details and current production to be submitted to PMCE.
  - The plan of activities and work scheduled should be included and progress against the set targets to be presented.
9. **PIT 5029 SIC: Development of clonal propagation methods in Borpat (*Ailanthus grandis* L.) for its mass multiplication**  
Dr. O P Patidar, Sc-C presented progress of the project to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;
  - PI should present year-wise break up of budget allocation and accordingly initiate actions for procuring the required items and initiate the project activities and ensure effective utilization of budget.

**10 MOE 5030 SNC: Evaluation, optimization & Popularization of Eriiculture Practices in Castor Growing Areas of Gujarat**

Dr. Mahesh D S, Sc-C presented progress of the project to the committee and the following suggestions were made during the meeting;

- Initiate the activities under the project and continue the work as per the set objectives and target milestones.

**AGENDA NO. 5: EXTENSION COMMUNICATION PROGRAMMES**

Dr. D Mech, Sc-D & Head SEEM Division presented the event plans for conducting Extension activities during the course of 2024-25.

**AGENDA NO. 6: CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

Sh. Bitopan Das, Sc-D & Head Training Division presented the event plans for conducting Training activities during the course of 2024-25.

**AGENDA No. 7: OTHER POINTS/ GENERAL SUGGESTIONS**

- Send a reminder letter to RCS, CO, CSB to inquire about the status of the new concept notes previously submitted by this institute.
- Ensure monitoring of the nested units' activities from the Main Institute and set targets for ECP and ToT programs.
- All Scientists/investigators should plan and ensure the completion of project activities related to rearing and other time-bound tasks in a timely manner.
- Revoke the proposal to shift REC Coochbehar and its activities to RSRS Kalimpong to ensure effective utilization of the unit.
- All scientists are requested to frequently visit farmers' fields to understand their problems and work towards their upliftment through focused research projects.
- Ensure that project investigators properly utilize the full budget and proactively procure scientific equipment/items in a timely manner, following GFR rules. Additionally, they should timely request funds and inform the accounts section for necessary allotment.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by PMCE.

  
(Dr. Kartik Neog)

**Director & Chairman-RC**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE 71<sup>st</sup> RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING OF  
CMER&TI, LAHDOIGARH HELD ON 09 May 2024**

1. Dr. Kartik Neog, Director CMERTI Lahdoigarh (*Chairman*)
2. Dr. Reeta Luikham, Scientist-D, CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh
3. Sh. Suraj Pal, Scientist-D, EREC, Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh
4. Dr. D. Mech, Scientist-D, CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh
5. Dr. Laishram Somen Singh, Scientist-D, RSRS, Imphal
6. Dr. Aftab A. Shabnam, Scientist-D, CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh
7. Sh. Bitupan Das, Scientist-D, CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh
8. Dr. Sinam Subharani Devi, Scientist-D, RSRS, Imphal
9. Dr. Arun Kumar K.P., Scientist-D, CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh
10. Dr. D.K. Jigyasu, Scientist-C, CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh
11. Dr. K. Subadas Singh, Scientist-C, RSRS Imphal
12. Dr. Vijay N., Scientist-C, CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh
13. Dr. Mahesh D.S., Scientist-C, CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh
14. Dr. Manjunath R.N., Scientist-C(R&S), CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh
15. Dr. Om Prakash Patidar, Scientist-C, CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh
16. Sh. Roshan Lal Meena, Scientist-B (R&S), CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh
17. Dr. Kaiho Kaisa, Scientist-B, CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh
18. Ms. Brunda B N, Scientist-B, CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh
19. Dr. Chandrakumara, Scientist-B, CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh
20. Dr. Jigyasha, Scientist-B, CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh
21. Dr. Harisha R, Scientist-B, CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh
22. Sh. Sinto Antoo, Scientist-B, CMER&TI, Lahdoigarh

**Technical staff/Research Fellows**

23. Sh. S Pertin, STA
24. Sh. Simanta Saikia, SFA
25. Sh. Akib Hussain, JRF
26. Sh. Suraj K Shah, JRF
27. Ms. Akshita Choudhury, JRF
28. Ms. Rubi Sut, JRF
29. Ms. Raisa Begum, PA
30. Shri Saif Afridi Hussain, PA
31. Shri Porag Das, Project Assistant
32. Shri Mohmudur Rohman, Project Assistant