

**Proceedings** of the **Third Consortium Implementation Committee (CIC)** for the sub-project “Research into Development of Decision Support Systems for Insect pests of major rice and cotton based cropping systems” (C2046) under NAIP Component 4 on **6<sup>th</sup> June at CRIDA, Hyderabad**

**Consortium Implementation Committee (CIC):**

Head of Consortium Lead Institute:	Dr B. Venkateswarlu , Director, CRIDA, Hyderabad	Chairman
Co-PIs of Consortium Partner Institutions:	Dr Gururaj Katti, CCPI, DRR, Hyderabad	Member
	Dr V.S.Nagrare, CCPI I/C, CICR, Nagpur	Member
	Dr Sujay Dutta, CCPI, SAC, Ahmedabad	Member
	Dr A. Dhanadapani, CCPI, NCIPM, New Delhi	Member
Senior Administrative Officer of the lead centre	Mr Charles Ekka, SAO, CRIDA	Member
Senior Finance Officer of the Lead Centre	Mr B.D. Sati, FAO, CRIDA	Member
Consortium Principal Investigator	Dr Y.G. Prasad, CPI, CRIDA	Member Secretary

All the CIC members participated in the meeting except CCPI, NCIPM. Special invitees who attended the meeting include:

- Sri K. Murthy, Assistant FAO, DRR
- Dr G.G.S.N.Rao, Project Co-ordinator (Agromet), CRIDA
- Dr M.S.Rao, Senior Scientist (Entomology), CRIDA

The following issues were discussed and actions suggested:

S.No.	Issue	Remarks
1	Discussion on discrepancy in SoE of DRR	DRR, Hyderabad released funds (Rs 6.004 lakhs RC and 1.20 lakhs NRC-works, Total Rs 7.204 lakhs) to its 4 associate AICRP centres and one centre at BCKV, Mohanpur to the respective Comptrollers of the University in February 2009. As a result of the procedural delay, released funds could be used partially at the centres. While submitting the SoE the funds released by DRR have been shown as expenditure. This issue was discussed at length with the FAOs of CRIDA and DRR. It was decided that the Chairman, CIC would

		consult Director, Finance, NAIP in this regard. Accordingly, the SoE of DRR needs to be revised taking into account only the actual amount spent at all the centres as expenditure and submit a revised SoE to PIU, NAIP.
2	Recruitment of staff-at Maruteru and Sirsa associate centres	<p>One position of RA at APRRI, Maruteru has been advertised and interview is scheduled for 16 June 2009.</p> <p>One post of Sr. Research Fellow in the project NAIP and Two posts of Sr. Research Fellows in the project TMC-MM-II-IRM were jointly advertised in The Tribune, Chandigarh on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 for walk-in-interview on 22/5/09. During the walk-in interview only two candidates appeared for TMC-MM-II-IRM project. In case of NAIP project no candidate appeared for interview and hence the post remains vacant.</p> <p>One SRF position at Ludhiana will be recruited as soon as the permission sanction to use the balance funds of previous year (2008-09) is conveyed.</p> <p>CCPI, Nagpur informed that it is better to recruit local talent at Sirsa than at Nagpur and post at Sirsa. In view of this, the committee felt that Sirsa centre may continue to make efforts to recruit the SRF from related disciplines so as to attract prospective candidates from the local PG educational institutes. Hence, Co-PI, Sirsa is directed to make all out efforts to expedite the recruitment in view of the ensuing season.</p>
3	Changes in CCPIs at CICR, Nagpur and NCIPM, New Delhi	<p>Director, CICR nominated Dr V.S. Nagrare, Senior Scientist (Entomology) as CCPI, Nagpur in place of Dr Dr S. Vennila on account of her ASRB selection as Principal Scientist at NCIPM, New Delhi.</p> <p>The committee was informed that Dr A. Dhandapani, CCPI at NCIPM, New Delhi will be joining as Principal Scientist at NAARM, Hyderabad and in his place Director, NCIPM is likely to nominate Dr S. Vennila as CCPI. However the services of Dr. A.Dhandapani for the project may be sought from the NAARM.</p> <p>These changes in CCPIs at CICR, Nagpur and NCIPM, New Delhi would be submitted to the CAC for approval and recommendation to PIU, NAIP</p>
4	Procurement of equipments and Works –	It was decided to implement the procurement plan as per schedule submitted to US (Procurement). Revalidation request for NRC funds for the FY 2009-10 has been submitted to PIU and approval is

	Procurement plan implementation	awaited.
5	Review of work done since inception	<p>The annual report 2008-09 was discussed. Both soft and hard copy of Annual Report has been shared with all partners, associate centres, CAC members and PIU.</p> <p>CCPIs of CICR, DRR, SAC and CRIDA presented the work done and achievements so far. It was decided that all the data generated at the crop centres is to be submitted in Excel spread sheet format to CPI for updating the database at CRIDA.</p>
6	Action plan for <i>kharif</i> 2009	<p>Consortium partners CICR, DRR, SAC and CRIDA presented the detailed activities for ensuing season in tune with the M&amp;E plan for the sub-project for the second year.</p> <p>The conceptual frameworks and hypothetical models may be further refined. Publishing the results of previous year and analysis of historical data may be accorded priority.</p>
7	Software for Web based data input and report generation system	<p>CPI presented the web-enabled software for data input and reporting system for field data. The system provides for input of cropping system wise and pest-specific data at regular intervals by logging through a user ID and password over internet. There are 11 pest-specific data sheets, 1 datasheet for weather and 1 datasheet for agronomy data. The system is user-friendly. It was decided that all the field centres would enter the field data at weekly intervals in the prescribed data formats. CCPIs and CPI would have the permissions to compile the data from all the respective centers in the form of reports. CRIDA would act as the administrator for the system.</p>
8	Financial aspects and issues for approval of CAC and requests for re-allocation of funds, if any	<p>All fund receiving consortium partners have submitted their SoEs, revalidation of NRC funds and requests for release of funds for the financial year 2009-10.</p> <p>On the request of all CCPIs, it was decided that balance funds of FY 2008-09 may be utilized for carrying out the approved technical programme for the second year to the extent of the already sanctioned amount for the financial year 2009-10. The CPI may inform the same through a letter to all the CCPIs so as to enable the associate university centres to carry out in time the envisaged activities in anticipation of the funds release.</p>

8	Financial aspects and issues for approval of CAC and requests for re-allocation of funds, if any	<p><b>CRIDA, Hyderabad</b></p> <p>One RA out of three allocated to CRIDA has been deployed at SAC, Ahmedabad. The Consortium lead centre is carrying out the work with two RAs –Entomology and Computers. Hence, one RA (Statistics) may be considered by CAC for CRIDA, Hyderabad in view of the requirement for the rest of the project period. The estimated additional cost is Rs 1.64 lakhs for 2009-10 and total cost for the project duration is 7.254 lakhs (Sep 09 to March 2012) under contractual services of RC amounts to Rs 7.254 lakhs.</p> <p>The remuneration for Office assistant has been enhanced under NAIP from Rs 6000 to Rs 8000 per month. As a result the additional amount required for OA for 2009-10 is Rs 22000 and Rs 24000 each for 2010-11 and 2011-12 amounting to Rs 0.7 lakhs for the project duration starting May 2009 to March 2012.</p> <p>Under operational expenses all the centres of the consortium have been allocated funds for hiring seasonal workers @ Rs 4000 per month for 10 months ie 40000 per worker per year. This amount is now insufficient as the rates of hiring through outsourcing through contractors have escalated.</p> <p>At CRIDA, an amount of Rs 1.6 lakhs has been provided per year for hiring 4 workers. In view of the skill that is required for maintaining continuous cultures of mealybug for lab studies, one junior assistant level skilled worker may be engaged among the 4 approved for CRIDA. As per the prevailing rates of Rs 5893 per skilled worker and Rs 6276 per highly skilled worker the additional/difference amount required @ Rs 7955 per month is Rs 0.96 lakhs for 2009-10 and works out to an amount of 2.47 lakhs for the project duration under operational expenses (starting Sep2009).</p> <p><b>CICR, Nagpur:</b></p> <p>Similar request was submitted by CCPI, Nagpur. An additional amount of Rs 2.6593 for 2009-10 under operational expenses is required in view of the additional one helper at each of three centres and escalation in rate of payments to skilled workers through contractor.</p> <p>CCPIs of CICR and NCIPM may work out the budget requirement for conducting ground truth geo-referenced pest surveys in 25 well distributed locations at Sirsa and Hissar, respectively for RS studies as suggested by CCPI, SAC.</p>
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		<p><b>DRR, Hyderabad</b></p> <p>As per the 2<sup>nd</sup> CIC proceedings, ground truth data collection at 25 locations in the district at Maruteru, West Godavari centre was under taken during rabi 2008-09. As this is proposed to be taken up at 10 days interval during <i>kharif</i> and <i>rabi</i> seasons of 2009-10, additional funds request from Maruteru centre for this activity has been proposed. Similarly the seasonal workers hiring cost has escalated to Rs 5508/ per month per worker. The additional funds request for Maruteru centre amounts to Rs 1.13 lakhs for 2009-10 and a total of Rs 3.39 lakhs for the project duration.</p> <p>CCPI, SAC suggested to have Ground truth surveys for at least one more Rice location in view of the cloud interference during Kharif season. DRR may come up with a consolidated request for all the associate centres in this regard with proper justification for consideration of the CAC.</p>
9	HRD for project scientists	<p>Dr. M.Prabhakar, Sr. Scientist &amp; Co-PI, CRIDA made a presentation on his deputation training on “Hyperspectral radiometry” undergone at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, USA during Feb15 to May 15, 2009. He shared his experiences with all the CCPIs.</p> <p>Request for international training was made by Sujay Dutta, CCPI, SAC on latest methodologies for development of remote sensing applications in the area of pest monitoring. The Committee felt that International training may be provided to all the CCPIs and CPI in the course of the project so as to equip the project scientists with relevant expertise in the areas of pest modeling and decision support systems. The CAC may consider the request favourably.</p>

**10. Next date of CIC:** The CIC will meet again in the first week of September, 2009 at CRIDA, Hyderabad

**11. Next date of CAC meeting:** The CAC meeting is overdue and will be finalized in consultation with NC and CPI, PDBC, Bangalore and may be held in July 2009

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair

Dr Y.G. PRASAD  
Member Secretary & CPI, NAIP C4/C2046 sub-project

Dr B.Venkateswarlu  
Chairman, CIC