

## Proceedings of Review Meeting of Oilseeds Seed Hubs

**Date:** 19-20, July 2019

**Venue:** ICAR – Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research  
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad 500030

Chairman: **Dr S.K. Malhotra**, Agriculture Commissioner  
DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

Dr S.N. Sudhakara Babu, Principal Scientist and Co-nodal Officer, Oilseeds seed hub, ICAR – IIOR, welcomed the group and highlighted the agenda of the two-day review meeting.

Dr A. Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Director, ICAR-IIOR and Nodal Officer, Oilseeds Seed Hubs welcomed the dignitaries and all the participants were introduced. Dr Anupam Barik, Addl Commissioner, Oilseeds division, DAC&FW in his introductory remarks highlighted the background of Oilseed Seed Hub to follow along the success of Pulses Seed Hub in the country. He described the major objectives of increasing SRR in oilseeds quality seed availability and the support provided to each of 35 seed hubs with Rs.100 lakhs for revolving fund and Rs.50 lakhs for Infrastructure. Providing quality seed would usher overall productivity and production of oilseeds and thus is being extended to other crops such as rice, nutri-cereals etc. He stressed on the need for promoting newer varieties and hybrids to replace the old and popular varieties and the needed seed production with the support of seed hub. He emphasized the need for further expansion of oilseeds seed hubs to large number to significantly contribute for achieving higher SRR and higher oilseeds production.

Dr S.K. Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner and Chairman of the meeting highlighted the priority of oilseeds for reducing the import bill and increase domestic availability, and the government's resolve on the urgency for achieving higher self-sufficiency in vegetable oils. Dr Malhotra narrated the various schemes on oilseeds historically (PIRCOM, TMOP, NMOOP, NFSM) and the proposed National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO). The NMEO distinguishes from NMOOP to include secondary sources, coconut and tree borne oils, post-harvest processing and by-products and consumer awareness. NMEO stresses on action-oriented approach in target setting and implementation. Sizeable funding is earmarked to include research component, quality seed supply, modernizing infrastructure and awareness creation about healthy oil consumption as per recommendation of WHO and NIN and outreach. He emphasized the creation of 35 oilseeds seed hub in the right direction towards this end to support higher domestic production of oilseeds and vegetable oils and reduce imports. He called for identifying and creating centers of excellence of oilseed seed hubs as model for learning and emulation.

A special invited presentation from ICAR-IIPR, Kanpur about the progress and challenges in implementation of pulses seed hub was made by Dr Katiyar, nodal officer of pulses seed hub. He narrated the achievements and constraints in implementation of pulses seed hub in the country since 2016 operated in 150 seed hubs. The constraints faced in implementation of pulses seed hub provided a clear way forward for steering oilseed seed hub.

Dr Katiyar briefed that the pulses seed hub with components of breeder seed production (12 centres) supporting foundation and certified seed production in 150 seed hubs. The budget provision was Rs.150 lakhs (Rs.100+50 lakhs for revolving and infrastructure). In three years,

the certified seed production was higher than the target with instances of problems of lifting and storage. This was reflected in quantum jump in pulses production thereby achieving self sufficiency of pulses in the country and significant reduction in imports. Other issues were: restriction to latest varieties of less than 10 years, creation of similar/common infrastructure across seed hubs, support of DAC in facilitating preferential lifting of seed produced in seed hubs, etc. The differential subsidy components in different states, procurement price variation, time lag in implementation of infrastructure etc. were the issues to be resolved with local administration. Comparison was made on modus operandi of NSC in fixing procurement price and providing production subsidy that was missing for the seed produced in seed hubs. Other issues were: specific recommendation of state agencies regarding varietal selection irrespective of central varietal notification, farmers' preference to popular varieties, quality preferences etc. The shortage of certification personnel causing delays and non-compliance of standards, extreme weather changes – droughts and flood etc. were significant.

Co-Nodal Officers of soybean, rapeseed & mustard, groundnut and other six crops made consolidated progress - physical and financial, of each seed hub including the constraints.

**Soybean:** Dr Kuchlan, Principal Scientist, representing Director, IISR, Indore presented the consolidated report of soybean seed hubs. Out of seven sanctioned seed hubs, one centre (Mechanized Agricultural Farm (MAF), Agricultural University, Kota, Rajasthan) did not take up the programme during 2018-19 for want of basic seed. The centre informed that it has taken up the programme during 2019-19 for the total targeted production for the centre. Overall, a total of 3960q was produced against a target of 6350q during 2018-19.

Regarding fund utilization, Soybean nodal centre was released a total fund of Rs.590 Lakhs from IIOR for seven seed hubs (Revolving Fund = Rs.290L + Infrastructure Fund = Rs.300L). Barring one centre, for six centres, IISR has released under revolving fund, Rs.290 lakhs of which Rs.166.43 lakhs was utilised. Under Infrastructure, Rs.22.05 lakhs were utilized against a release of Rs.300 lakhs. Infrastructure utilization is under process at various stages of construction and procurement.

**Action plan for 2019-20:** Against the envisaged target of 11500q for 2019-20, a total of 11889q is planned for production. The shortfall of 2018-19 is partially planned for compensation against an expected total target of 14890q for 2018-19 and 2019-20. Except UAS, Raichur and PJTSAU, Adilabad centres who had taken up sowing of JS-335 variety during *kharif* 2019, all other centres had taken up newer varieties. Now the sowing window for soybean is over.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Make good the shortfall of 2018-19 for producing the total targeted production for 2018-19 and 2019-20.
2. Include the Kota centre for release of funds as the centre has already taken up production programme for 2019-20 with the latest varieties.
3. Infrastructure facilities are to be completed at the earliest.

**Rapeseed & Mustard:** Dr P.K. Rai, Director I/C of ICAR-DRMR, Bharatpur presented the consolidated report of Rapeseed & Mustard seed hubs. From the eight functional seed hubs, a total of 3085q seed was produced against a target of 3850q during 2018-19. Though there were no

major issues in production, the shortfall in two centres was reported due to non-returning of seeds by the farmers and isolation distance compromise in others.

Regarding fund utilization, Rapeseed & Mustard nodal centre was released a total fund of Rs.800 Lakhs from IOR for seven seed hubs (Revolving Fund = Rs.400L + Infrastructure Fund = Rs.400L). DRMR has released to eight seed hubs Rs.400 lakhs under revolving fund, of which Rs.65.865 lakhs was utilised. Under Infrastructure, Rs.145.44 lakhs were utilized against a release of Rs.400 lakhs. Infrastructure utilization is under process at various stages of construction and procurement. All the eight seed hubs of Rapeseed & Mustard were released of full budget as per the allocation.

**Action plan for 2019-20:** Against the envisaged target of 6765q for 2019-20 including shortfall of 2018-19, a total of 6350q is planned. The shortfall of 2018-19 is partially planned for compensation against an expected total target of 9800q for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

**Recommendations:**

1. Make good the shortfall of 2018-19 for producing the total targeted production for 2018-19 and 2019-20.
2. Infrastructure facilities are to be completed at the earliest.

**Groundnut:** Dr A.L. Ratnakumar, Principal Scientist, representing Director ICAR-DGR, Junagadh presented the consolidated report of Groundnut seed hubs. A total of nine seed hubs were sanctioned. SKNAU, Jobner centre did not participate for want of basic seed and demand for advance fund release without the programme initiation. During 2018-2019, out of eight centers, only four seed hubs were functional. A total of 2574.33q seed was produced against a target of 7450q during 2018-19. The shortfall in production is mainly attributed to the shortage of large quantity of basic seed of new varieties besides late starting of the programme that overshoot the sowing window, site & farmers selection and drought in some centres.

Regarding fund utilization, groundnut nodal centre was released a total fund of Rs.585 Lakhs from IOR for seven seed hubs (Revolving Fund = Rs.360L + Infrastructure Fund = Rs.225L). DGR has released to six seed hubs Rs.265 lakhs under revolving fund, of which Rs.93.48 Lakhs was utilised. Under Infrastructure, Rs.85 lakhs were utilized against a release of Rs.250 Lakhs. Infrastructure utilization is under process at various stages of construction and procurement. DGR has an unspent balance of Rs.75 Lakhs for releases during 2019-20. Considering the unspent balance with DGR, a total of Rs.390 Lakhs is required for 2019-20.

**Action plan for 2019-20:** Against the envisaged target of 11100q for 2019-20 including shortfall of 5199q of 2018-19, a total of 15369q is planned. The shortfall of 2018-19 is planned for compensation against an expected total target of 18550q for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

**Recommendations:**

1. Make good the shortfall of 2018-19 for producing the total targeted production for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

2. The non-functional centres during 2018-19 should plan to produce total target and budget utilization within 2019-20.
3. Infrastructure facilities are to be completed at the earliest.

Dr S.N. Sudhakara Babu, Co-Nodal Officer, ICAR-IIOR, Hyderabad presented the consolidated report of Sesame, Sunflower, Safflower, Castor, Linseed and Niger crops seed hubs.

**Sesame:** Two centers had taken up sesame seed production. 507 q seed was produced against a target of 800q for 2018-19. The shortfall was due to the shortage of basic seed and notification of new variety. Both the centres were two crop centres with budget for single seed hub. Regarding fund utilization, Sesame centres had utilized 9.95 Lakhs against a release of Rs.90 Lakhs under revolving fund. Under infrastructure, the centres had utilized 37.6 Lakhs against a release of Rs.100 Lakhs.

**Action plan for 2019-20:** Against the envisaged target of 1493q for 2019-20 including shortfall of 293q of 2018-19, a total of 1500q is planned. The total target is expected to be achieved.

**Recommendations:**

1. Make good the shortfall of 2018-19 for producing the total targeted production for 2018-19 and 2019-20.
2. Infrastructure facilities are to be completed at the earliest.

**Sunflower:** Two centers had taken up sesame seed production. 147q seed was produced against a target of 1200q for 2018-19. The shortfall was due to the shortage of basic seed of parental lines. The main Latur centre with the latest hybrid could not take up production due to acute drought and no irrigation facility. In the mid-term review, the Latur centre was closed and the entire programme was allotted to RKA, Nimpith. At IIOR, 93q of the popular hybrid DRSH-1 was produced against a target of 100q. **At IIOR, with DRSH-1 hybrid being more than 10 years old and the area is declining, it was suggested to shift the production to the new variety ISF-764 of Safflower with the same production target of 150q for 2019-20.** Both the centres were two crop centres with budget for single seed hub. Regarding fund utilization, it was shown under the other main crop. **With the identification of two new hybrids at UAS, Bengaluru (KBSH-53 and KBSH-78), it was proposed to include UAS, Bengaluru as new centre on sunflower with provision for only Revolving Fund for 2019-20 with a production target of 400q.**

**Action plan for 2019-20:** Against the envisaged total target of 3903q for 2019-20 including shortfall of 1053q of 2018-19, a total of 3500q is planned.

**Recommendations:**

1. Make good the shortfall of 2018-19 for producing the total targeted production for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

2. The sunflower hybrid DRSH-1 is more than 12 years old and the area is declining steep. It was proposed to shift the programme to safflower for the same quantity of sunflower seed for 2019-20 with the new variety ISF-764 being identified.
3. **Include UAS, Bengaluru as new centre on sunflower with provision for only Revolving Fund for 2019-20 with a production target of 400q of two new hybrids.**
4. Infrastructure facilities are to be completed at the earliest.

**Safflower:** Two centers had taken up safflower seed production. 735q seed was produced against a target of 600q for 2018-19. The shortfall at Solapur (Rahuri) was due to shortage of basic seed during 2018-19 besides acute drought. The total budget utilization was Rs.11.31 Lakhs against a release of Rs.55 Lakhs under revolving fund. Under infrastructure, the utilization of Rs.50 Lakhs is under progress.

**Action plan for 2019-20:** Against the envisaged total target of 1800q for 2018-19 and 2019-20 is planned to be achieved.

**Recommendations:**

1. Make good the shortfall of 2018-19 for producing the total targeted production for 2018-19 and 2019-20 at Solapur.
2. Infrastructure facilities are to be completed at the earliest.

**Niger:** Three centers had taken up niger seed production. 12.82q seed was produced against a target of 65q for 2018-19. The shortfall at Solapur (Rahuri) was due to shortage of basic seed during 2018-19 besides acute drought. At Semiliguda though good crop was grown, entire seed was spoiled due to cyclone during harvesting. The total budget utilization was Rs.0.5Lakhs against a release of Rs.75 Lakhs under revolving fund. Under infrastructure, the utilization of Rs.60 Lakhs is under progress.

**Action plan for 2019-20:** Against the envisaged total target of 325q for 2018-19 and 2019-20 is planned to be achieved.

**Recommendations:**

1. Make good the shortfall of 2018-19 for producing the total targeted production for 2018-19 and 2019-20.
2. Infrastructure facilities are to be completed at the earliest.

**Linseed:** Three centers had taken up linseed seed production. 1114q seed was produced against a target of 1400q for 2018-19. The shortfall at Sabor was due to shortage of basic seed during 2018-19. The total budget utilization was Rs.35.8 Lakhs against a release of Rs.100 Lakhs under revolving fund. Under infrastructure, the utilization of Rs.17.06 Lakhs is under progress against a release of Rs.150 Lakhs.

**Action plan for 2019-20:** Against the envisaged total target of 3050q for 2018-19 and 2019-20 is planned to be achieved.

**Recommendations:**

1. Make good the shortfall of 2018-19 for producing the total targeted production for 2018-19 and 2019-20 at Sabor.

2. Infrastructure facilities are to be completed at the earliest.

**Castor:** Four centers were allotted castor seed production. SDAU centre had not taken up seed production due to want of basic seed of parental lines and season boundness for production of male and pistillate lines. From two functional centers, 1840q seed was produced against a target of 2500q for 2018-19. The shortfall is only due to non-participation of SK Nagar centre. The total budget utilization was Rs.84.28 Lakhs against a release of Rs.140 Lakhs under revolving fund. Under infrastructure, the utilization of Rs.9.32 Lakhs is under progress against a release of Rs.150 Lakhs.

**Action plan for 2019-20:** Against the envisaged total target of 4800q for 2018-19 and 2019-20 is planned to be achieved.

**Recommendations:**

1. Make good the shortfall of 2018-19 for producing the total targeted production for 2018-19 and 2019-20 at SK Nagar.
2. Infrastructure facilities are to be completed at the earliest.
3. Pursue with SDAU for participation in the seed hub programme.

Dr Anupam Barik in his concluding remarks pointed out the following action points for implementation.

- All shortfall in production during 2018-19 should be carried over to 2019-20 for achieving total target production.
- Stress on promotion of recent varieties (<10 years old) and in the proposed NMEO inclusion of varieties of <5 years only.
- Linking distribution of the recent varieties through mini-kits.
- All infrastructure facilities created should be at one place (site) and Geo-tagging of all infrastructure facilities for better compliance of audit.
- Creation of Seed-hub portal at IIOR web-site for seamless monitoring of status of production and stock availability.
- The annual report for 2018-19 to be brought out of physical and financial progress. The status of infrastructure development in terms of stage to be indicated.
- Setting up of monitoring team comprising IIOR as convener and members from the concerned crop seed hub nodal centre, Scientist I/C of seed hub centre, representative of DOD/CCD of the region, representative of State department of Agriculture.
- Persuasion from DAC in monitoring of non-compliance with the highest authorities of the university/institute.
- Exploring expansion and supply of seeds to North Eastern states and in paddy fallows with relevant crops (WB and Assom states to take lead).
- Proposed to organize annual workshop during Feb 2020.
- Recognizing the best performing seed hub for each crop as lead centre for visiting and learning.

Further, Dr Anupam Barik highlighted the features of proposed NMEO wherein there will be significant boost to the oilseeds sector especially for quality seed production and distribution of new varieties and research component besides value addition and awareness on healthy oil consumption. The next level of target under NMEO will be improvement on SRR rather than production targets and called for assessment of impact of seed hubs in terms of contribution to SRR. Thus the investment on seed hubs shall be evaluated based on SRR besides supporting doubling farmers income through quality seed. Private sector investment in seed sector to be promoted with necessary licensing of varieties/hybrids for large scale outreach and tapping resources. He called for identification/creation of model seed hub centres for recognition and providing special assistance. He called for development of a common quarterly report format for monitoring by DAC and CCDs.

Dr A Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Director, IIOR and Nodal Officer, Oilseeds Seed Hubs emphasized the generous budget support provided for oilseeds centers and stressed the need for compliance to produce latest varieties as per the target and beyond.

Dr Malhotra, Chairman, stressed the need for owing responsibility for better compliance of physical and financial targets with accountability and achievement.

The two-day review meeting ended with vote of thanks by Dr S.N. Sudhakara Babu.