



## ARIAS SOCIETY

Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services Society

(An Autonomous Body of the Govt. of Assam)

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### **Minutes of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Governing Body (GB) of the ARIAS Society held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 3.00 PM in Room No. 205, Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati.**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Governing Body of ARIAS Society was chaired by Shri Rajesh Prasad, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam (Agriculture Department), Agriculture Production Commissioner (APC) and Chairman, ARIAS Society in the presence of members of GB and other Officials of the Govt. of Assam. The list of officials who attended the meeting is annexed at **Appendix-1**.

At the outset, the Principal Secretary (Agri.), APC & Chairman, ARIAS Society welcomed all the members & officials present and then requested the State Project Director (SPD), ARIAS Society to proceed as per the Agenda. A detailed presentation was made on the Agenda Items for discussion and after threadbare deliberations the following decisions have been taken by the GB in the meeting:

**Item No.1: Approval of the Minutes of the 32nd Governing Body (GB) meeting of ARIAS Society:** The Minutes of the 32nd GB Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 were circulated to all the members of the GB vide memo No. ARIAS/APART/336/2018/34-A, dated 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2018. No comments/ observation on the minutes have been received. **Minutes of 32nd GB Meeting were confirmed and approved by GB.**

**Item No. 2: Review and approval of the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Minutes of the 32nd GB Meeting:** The ATR on the Minutes of the 32nd GB Meeting was reviewed and approved by the GB. However, with respect to item no. 3(c), relating to the report on monitoring of demonstrations, the GB decided that OPIUs shall submit a report to PCU in the following manner:

- a. **Agriculture:** within 10 days of 33<sup>rd</sup> GB meeting
- b. **Horticulture and Food Processing:** Within 7 days of 33<sup>rd</sup> GB meeting
- c. **Sericulture:** Within 7 days of 33<sup>rd</sup> GB meeting

Further with respect to item no. 3(f) relating to collection and processing of milk from Project areas, GB suggested that Directorate of Dairy Development (DDD) may move a Cabinet note with intimation to ARIAS Society. **Action: Directorate of Dairy Development**

**Item No. 3: Appraisal of the current implementation status of World Bank financed Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project (APART):** A detailed presentation on current implementation status of APART was made before the GB. The GB noted the current status of the project and made the following suggestions:

- a) With regards to cash advance for conducting trainings, meetings etc at the district/block level, Rs. 10,000 per block per individual contractual staff may be provided as advance and the next advance shall be provided only after settlement of the previous advance. **Action: Concerned implementing Directorates/Agencies of APART; (for intimation to District offices).**
- b) As the Project is already in implementation phase, delivery of benefits/ services to the Project beneficiaries in a timely manner need to be strongly focused. **Action: Concerned implementing Directorates/Agencies of APART.**
- c) OPIU Heads shall carry out regular review of Project activities and accordingly strategies for improving the performance should be made and corrective action, if any, needs to be taken expeditiously. **Action: Concerned implementing Directorates/Agencies of APART;**
- d) GB opined that the Departmental ministers must be involved in Project activities and they should be apprised on the Project progress on a regular basis. **Action: Concerned implementing Directorates/Agencies of APART;**
- e) Regarding seed procurement for demonstrations/ trials etc, framework agreements may be done in case of paddy after consultation with the World Bank during upcoming mission (25<sup>th</sup> April-4<sup>th</sup> May 2019). **Action: PCU, ARIAS Society, OPIU-Agri, OPIU-AAU**

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- f) **Agriculture:** Expedite fodder demonstrations as the list of beneficiaries has already been shared by WAMUL. The concerned coordinators from PCU shall keep a close tab on the cross cutting activities in the two value chains and resolve any issues on immediate basis. **Action: PCU, ARIAS Society, OPIU-Agri and OPIU-WAMUL**
- g) **AAU:** In future, any minor civil/ renovation work related to OPIU-AAU, may be carried out by AAU, following APART/World Bank procedures.
- h) **AHVD:** Commissioner & Secretary shall review the performance of OPIUs under AHVD, including the district teams and ensure that pending expenditures are made swiftly and UCs are submitted to PCU, ARIAS Society by 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 positively. **Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department**
- i) **WAMUL: (i)**The matter relating to large procurements pertaining to dairy processing infrastructure shall be discussed with the upcoming World Bank mission (25<sup>th</sup> April- 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2019) and final decision needs to be arrived at by the end of the Mission. This matter cannot be prolonged any further as it has already affected the financial and physical targets of the project. **Action: WAMUL & PCU, ARIAS Society. (ii)**Regarding setting up an additional mini milk processing plant in Pathsala area of Barpeta, the matter will be discussed with upcoming World Bank mission & accordingly, a suitable decision will be taken. **Action: WAMUL & PCU, ARIAS Society**

**Item No. 4: Appraisal on the progress of work by service providers including international agencies:** The progress of work by services provider agencies (SPA) including international agencies was appraised to the GB. The GB noted the progress and decided that detailed focussed review will be held separately with SPA.

**Item No. 5: Appraisal on the current implementation status of the World Bank financed ACCSDP:** The GB opined that since State Project Monitoring & Coordination Committee (SPMCC) has now been constituted, the progress may first be reviewed by SPMCC and then a report may be placed before the joint meeting of GB & PGC, ARIAS Society. **Action: SPMCC for ACCSDP**

**Item No. 6: Approval of changes, if any, in the AWP 2018-19 of APART:**

- a. **Inclusion of a line item on salary (Feb-June, 2019) of five experts** i.e. Agri Extension Experts (2), Post Harvest Management Experts (2), Office Assistant (1) in the AWP 2018-19 of OPIU-Agriculture without change in overall outlay of AWP (Rs. 2.84 lakhs to be adjusted from the salary of Agri Splt-CPIU Rs. 12.00 lakhs): As the proposal is within the overall outlay of AWP 2018-19, the GB approved the proposal & accordingly OPIU Agri shall submit sanction and fund release proposal to PCU, ARIAS Society and the fund for salaries shall be released by PCU expeditiously. **Action: OPIU-Agri & PCU, ARIAS Society**
- b. **Inclusion of a line item on:**
- (i) **Salary (March-June, 2019) of eight Assistant Civil Engineers (ACEs)** in the AWP 2018-19 of OPIU ASAMB (Rs. 16 lakhs to be adjusted from "survey of value chain players" under MIC- Rs. 30 lakhs) without change in overall outlay of AWP: As the proposal is within the overall outlay of AWP 2018-19, the GB approved the proposal & accordingly OPIU ASAMB shall submit sanction and fund release proposal to PCU, ARIAS Society and the fund for salaries shall be released by PCU expeditiously. **Action: OPIU-ASAMB & PCU, ARIAS Society**
- (ii) **Salary (Feb-June, 2019) of one Office Assistant** in the AWP 2018-19 of OPIU ASAMB (Rs. 1.25 lakhs to be adjusted from salary amount of Accounts Manager -4.80 lakhs) without change in overall outlay of AWP: As the proposal is within the overall outlay of AWP 2018-19, the GB approved the proposal & accordingly OPIU ASAMB shall submit sanction and fund release proposal to PCU, ARIAS Society and the fund for salaries shall be released by PCU expeditiously. **Action: OPIU-ASAMB & PCU, ARIAS Society**
- (iii) **Inclusion of a line item on salary of additional Office Assistant** in the AWP of 2018-19 of AAU without change in overall outlay of AWP (Rs. 1.25 lakhs to be adjusted from the salary of Project Coordinator Rs. 12 lakhs): As the proposal is within the overall outlay of AWP 2018-19, the GB approved the proposal & accordingly OPIU AAU shall submit sanction and fund release proposal to PCU, ARIAS Society and the fund for salaries shall be released by PCU expeditiously. **Action: OPIU-AAU & PCU, ARIAS Society**
- c. **AHVD: Sanction and Fund limit proposal for additional amount to procure Cysvax for Rs. 14,25,120.** It may be re-appropriated from the savings of FMD vaccine, Anthelmintics and Iron supplements under PVC Rs. 4485516: As the proposal is within the overall outlay of AWP 2018-19, the GB approved the proposal. **Action: OPIU-AHVD**
- d. **Re-appropriation of fund for Satellite liquid Boar semen processing centre along with Boar Sty for Exotic Germ Plasm** from the unutilized fund of FMD vaccines under Formal and informal dairy Rs.185.16 Lakhs (Current FY and Spill Over) as the activity was dropped because of FMD-CP. As the proposal is within the overall outlay of AWP 2018-19, the GB approved the proposal. **Action: OPIU-AHVD**

**Item No. 7: Approval of changes, if any, in the AWP 2018-19 of APART:** No changes requested

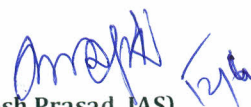
**Item No. 8: Any other matter with the permission of Chair:**

- a) **Discussion on the AWP 2019-20 of APART:** The GB decided that the draft AWPs 2019-20 submitted by the OPIUs shall be reviewed thoroughly by the SPD. In this connection, a schedule shall be provided for review (with two OPIUs per day) to OPIUs. AWPs shall be realistic and should be commensurate with (i) project requirements and (ii) capacity of the OPIUs to make expenditure. The AWPs 2019-20 shall be compared with AWPs 2018-19 and OPIUs shall provide a strategy on how they plan to spend the amount requested in the AWP 2019-20. After the review of AWPs 2019-20 by SPD, AWPs shall be placed before APC for approval and later post facto approval may be obtained in GB meeting of ARIAS Society. *However, in case of procurement of inputs for upcoming Kharif season, the concerned implementing agencies may initiate procurement process ahead of approval of AWP 2019-20 as this is a time bound activity and any delay can have adverse implications on the Project. Action: All OPIUs and PCU, ARIAS Society*
- b) **TA/DA to ATMA contractual staff for APART activities as per Govt. rules:** The Government of India rules in this regard may be referred and accordingly, TA/DA may be provided to ATMA staff as permissible. **Action: PCU, ARIAS Society**
- c) **Inclusion of a line item on salary of Office Assistant under OPIU-Fisheries in AWP 2018-19** without change in overall outlay of AWP: As the proposal is within the overall outlay of AWP 2018-19, the GB approved the proposal & accordingly OPIU Fisheries shall submit sanction and fund release proposal to PCU, ARIAS Society and the fund for salary shall be released by PCU expeditiously. **Action: OPIU-Fisheries & PCU, ARIAS Society**
- d) **Approval of annual accounts of ARIAS Society for FY 2017-18:** The GB approved the accounts of ARIAS Society for FY 2017-18. The ARIAS Society shall now place the annual accounts 2017-18 before Auditor General, Assam for conducting the Audit. **Action: PCU, ARIAS Society**
- e) **Discussion on the AWP 2019-20 of ACCSDP:** The GB decided that since State Project Monitoring & Coordination Committee (SPMCC) has now been constituted, the **AWP 2019-20 of ACCSDP** may be first approved by SPMCC and then a report may be placed before the joint meeting of GB & PGC, ARIAS Society. **Action: SPMCC for ACCSDP**

APC & Chairman, GB remarked that now the preparatory period of Project is already over and field implementation should be focused by the implementing agencies for next five years. Availability of funds is easier in APART compared to SOPD/ other GoI schemes and hence implementing agencies should maximise fund utilization and delivery of services to the beneficiaries. OPIU level review should be conducted every 15 days and SPD, ARIAS Society should review the Project progress on a regular basis. Any Departmental issues should be brought to the notice of APC for resolving. In case of sanction and fund release proposals submitted by OPIUs, if any documents are lacking, the concerned officials of OPIUs may be called to PCU, ARIAS Society and the issues should be explained to the OPIUs through meetings and discussions. Accordingly, the OPIUs shall submit correct documents without any waste of time.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.

Minutes approved by

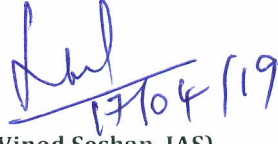


(Rajesh Prasad, IAS)  
Principal Secretary (Agriculture etc.)  
Agriculture Production Commissioner &  
Chairman, ARIAS Society

Copy for favour of information & needful to the:

1. PS to APC for information and record.
2. Commissioner & Secretaries, Departments of Panchayat and Rural Development/AR&T/ Industries & Commerce/ Agriculture/ Transport/ Finance/ A.H. & Veterinary/Handloom, Textiles & Sericulture/ Transformation and Development/ Urban Development/ Revenue & DM Department/ WPT&BC/ Information Technology/ Fisheries/ Coop.
3. Commissioner, Industries & Commerce/GMC/Transport
4. Commissioner & Spl. Secretary, Public Works Roads Deptt
5. Directors of- Land Requisition Acquisition & Reforms/ WPT&BC/ Agriculture/ Horticulture & FP/ A.H. & Veterinary/ Dairy Development/ Fishery/ Handloom & Textiles / Sericulture , Assam
6. Director of Research (Agri), Assam Agri University, Jorhat
7. Managing Director, WAMUL/ALPCO/ASWC/ AMTRON
8. CEO, ASAMB
9. Chief Engineer, PWRD (ARIASP & RIDF)
10. Resident Consultant IRRI/ILRI/CIP/WorldVeg/worldFish
11. Team Leaders: Ongoing consultancies under APART/ACCSDP
12. Internal: All concerned by email.

Forwarded by,



(Vinod Seshan, IAS)

State Project Director, ARIAS Society