

Proceedings of Zonal Research and Extension Advisory Committee (ZREAC) Rabi Meeting 2023

Zonal Research and Extension Advisory Committee Meeting for Rabi season was held in conference Hall of SKUAST Jammu, Main Campus Chatha on 02.11.2023 under the Chairmanship of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice chancellor SKUAST Jammu.

Among the statutory officers of the University including Dr. Surinder Kumar Gupta, Director Extension, Dr. R.K. Samnotra, Director Research, Dr S.K. Gupta Registrar and Dean, Dr. M.S. Bhadwal Dean FVSc & AH and Dr. B.C. Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture were present during the meeting. Shri Ram Sewak, Director Agriculture and Director Horticulture, Jammu, Ms. Shubra Sharma (JKAS), Director Animal Husbandry, Shri A.K Sharma Additional Director Sericulture Jammu, Dr. Surinder Gupta, Deputy Director (C), Jammu and Shri Sunil Singh, Deputy Director, Floriculture, Jammu presented the agenda of their respective departments.

Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice chancellor SKUAST Jammu and Chairman, ZREAC meeting, in his opening remarks elaborated the rationale behind organization of meetings in Kharif and Rabi seasons. He highlighted the importance of feedback from the officers of the Line Departments for carrying out need based research by the scientists of the University. He proposed to change the nomenclature of ZREAC to incorporate sectors such as animal husbandry, sheep husbandry and fisheries for discussing all the issues pertaining to Jammu region in the upcoming season.

Dr. S. K. Gupta Director Extension welcomed the Chairman and members of ZREAC in the meeting and also presented research highlights of the university. Dr. S. K. Gupta Director Extension welcomed the Chairman and members of ZREAC in the meeting and also presented a PowerPoint presentation on research highlights of the university.

Technical Session 1

Agenda No. 1: Confirmation of proceedings

The proceedings of ZREAC Meeting Rabi 2020-21 organized on 26-11-2020 were confirmed by the Chairman.

Agenda No. 2: Action taken report

The action taken report on the problems raised in previous ZREAC Meeting was deliberated. The Chairman suggested to present the report in power point for a common view of large audience. Director Horticulture, Shri Ram Sewak highlighted the persistence of problem of blackening of pecan nut in Rajouri and Poonch. The Chairman directed Division of Fruit Science for arranging a joint visit with the

department officers in pecan nut growing areas to identify the real problems and create awareness among farmers to adopt remedial measures in collaboration with KVKs.

Agenda No. 3: Research Highlights / Recommendations

Some of the major recommendations for rabi crops based on the research trials conducted in the University and KVKs are presented as below:

- Keeping two stems in cherry tomato variety SJCT-01 and planting it in 2nd week of October (15th October) under low cost poly-house resulted in maximum number of fruits per truss (10-12), maximum fruit weight (7.0-9.0 g), maximum yield per plant (3.0-3.5 kg) and maximum fruit yield (500-600 q/ha).
- Jammu Pea-1 variety found to be superior than P-89 in terms of yield by 5.2%. The variety is also highly resistant to powdery mildew and rust disease and thus recommended for subtropical conditions of J&K.
- Application of 85 % of Rec. N through Neem Coated urea (NCU) + ZnCu + Rec. P & K was found to be the optimum dose for maximizing yield of wheat
- Application of paddy straw mulch (6 t/ha) + one hand weeding at 30 DAT gave 14.1% higher yield of broccoli under organic basmati rice-broccoli-sesbania cropping system
- 'Clodinafop-propargyl + metsulfuron (60 + 4 g/ha)' at 30 DAS provides effective management of weeds under the conditions of Zero-till wheat production.
- Chickpea intercropped with linseed (1:1) and mustard taken as border crop is recommended for reducing pod borer damage by gram pod borer and achieving higher chickpea equivalent yield (1151.91 kg/ha).
- In chickpea, the soil application with cow urine @20% reduced the collar rot incidence by 11.58% and increased the grain yield to 14.24q/ha.
- In lentil, the soil application with cow urine @20% reduced the incidence of collar rot 12.02% and increased the grain yield to 2.63q/ha.
- Chickpea should be treated with CaCl₂ (2%) + Foliar Spray of NAA (40 ppm) at flowering & fruit set to obtain the optimum yield under rainfed conditions.

The chairman invited specific inputs from departments on the research recommendations. The department officials appreciated the research initiatives and suggested to involve the department in research trials of the University.

(Action: Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu)

Agenda No 4: Inputs from Line departments

The issues pertaining to various development departments were deliberated by their respective heads and representatives as given below:

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, JAMMU

While appreciating the efforts of SKUAST-Jammu, Ms. Shubra Sharma suggested to build strong linkage between the department and university. She put forth the need for imparting trainings on Artificial Insemination, infertility management in cattle, expansion of lactation period and conservation of indigenous breeds. She also highlighted the issues of antibiotic resistance, silage making and fodder production under hydroponics. Hon'ble Chairman addressed some of the queries raised by the Director Animal Husbandry in light of the prevailing research recommendations at national level. He further directed Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry to initiate trainings on Artificial Insemination with limited participants. Keeping in view the lack of boarding and lodging facilities at SKUAST-Jammu, it was discussed that the accommodation and food for the trainees shall be arranged by the Department of Animal Husbandry (FVSc. & AH) and the technical expertise in the trainings shall be provided by the FVSc. & AH, R.S. Pura. The Chairman further advocated to share the reasons and management of infertility in livestock in Jammu region.

(Action: Dean, FVSc. & AH, R.S. Pura)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, JAMMU

Shri R.K. Hitashi, Joint Director (Extension), Department of Agriculture highlighted some general as well as district specific issues. Some on-spot solutions to the queries raised by the department were also discussed. With respect to issues related to pest and disease management, it was recommended to consult the Package of Practices (PoPs) of the University. Director Extension informed that new PoPs shall also be published at the earliest and provided to different departments.

Hon'ble Chairman suggested that in addition to the circulation of soft copy of PoPs, indents for hard copies from different departments shall be obtained for ensure availability at local level. He further directed to publish PoP on Veterinary and Animal Husbandry on similar lines for providing technological backstopping to veterinarians.

(Action: Director Extension; Dean, FVSc. & AH, SKUAST-Jammu & Directors of line departments)

Further, on the demand of the department, Hon'ble Chairman directed Dr. Vikas Sharma to organize training on remote sensing after the receipt of nomination from the department.

(Action: Head, Division of Soil Science, SKUAST-Jammu)

Regarding the revival of awnless var. of wheat (Mund), Dr. Tuhina Dey discussed the constraints and possibilities of seed production of awnless varieties. She also assured the support for its revival and potential replacement. The department has also requested for contingent plan for fallow irrigated rice belt of Poonch district.

(Action: Head, Division of Plant Breeding & Genetics, SKUAST-Jammu)

While discussing the issue of promotion of niche crops under HADP, Dr. S.K. Gupta, Dean Faculty of Horticulture and Forestry assured the provision of some quality seed of Kalazeera and requested department to identify potential farmers for seed multiplication. Dr. R.K. Samnotra, Director Research also assured the provision of 1 quintal Rajmash seed for multiplication and maintaining purity by the department.

(Action: Dean, Faculty of Horticulture & Forestry & Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu)

While discussing the issue of GI Tagging, Hon'ble Chairman directed Dr. R.K. Salgotra to ensure acknowledgement to the University for providing technical support in obtaining GI tagging for niche products of Jammu region.

(Action: Dr. R.K. Salgotra, I/c IPR Cell, SKUAST-Jammu)

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE, JAMMU

Shri Ram Sewak, Director Horticulture and Director Agriculture Jammu requested for nominating nodal officers, one each from the department and the University to follow-up the achievements under HADP.

(Action: Department of Horticulture & Director Extension, SKUAST-Jammu)

The department also raised issues standardization of technologies for Dragon Fruit and Dates, canopy management in sub-tropical fruits, zonalization and climate catch for Pecanut and Grapes grafting, developing training modules for capacity building in Tissue Culture, Virus Indexing, Hydroponics (NFT) system, standardization of nursery protocols for plant production, initiation of 06 month skill development courses in Budding/Grafting, maintenance of farm machinery and fruit processing, varieties evaluation and budding /grafting of Ber and Fig varieties, dwarfing root stock for sub-tropical fruit plants, demonstration of newly released cultivars in public sector nurseries, low cost food processing machinery, especially for Aloe vera extraction and strawberry.

Hon'ble Chairman directed Dean, Faculty of Horticulture and Forestry, Division of Fruit Science, ACHR, Udheywala and Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering to undertake the research issues and communicate the solutions to the department.

(Action: Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering, Head, Division of Fruit Science & ACHR Udheywala)

Dr. S.K. Gupta, Director Extension requested Director Horticulture to confirm a date for organizing joint visit and meeting of scientists of Division of Fruit Science & KVKs (Rajouri, Poonch and Reasi) and officers of department at KVK Rajouri to discuss the issues faced in pecan nut production.

(Action: Division of Fruit Science & Department of Horticulture)

DEPARTMENT OF FLORICULTURE, JAMMU

Shri Sunil Singh, Deputy Director (Floriculture) highlighted the issue of drought tolerant varieties of marigold and requested for organizing training programmes on protected cultivation of flowers. Further, he has requested for mass production of cut green/live plants like Ruscus, Asparagus, Fern, Palms etc., introduction of exotic plants like Zantedeschia, Anthurium, Heliconia, Caladiums, Orchids and mass production of tissue culture plants/rooted cutting of Marigold cv. Calcuttia Orange.

(Action: Division of Floriculture & Landscaping & Department of Floriculture)

Dr. R.K. Pandey, Head, Division of Floriculture and Landscaping informed that planting material can be provided after the receipt of advance indent by the department.

(Action: Department of Floriculture)

DEPARTMENT OF SHEEP HUSBANDRY, JAMMU

Dr. Surinder Gupta, Deputy Director asked for the implantation of fecundity gene in sheep and goat, regular surveillance, monitoring and mapping of various economically important sheep and goat diseases, standardization of Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) Technique and organization of specialized training programmes for veterinarians by KVKs.

(Action: Dean, FVSc. & AH, R.S. Pura, Director Sheep Husbandry Department)

In his concluding remarks, Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu & Chairman ZREAC stressed upon the effective collaboration between department and university work. He called for departmental support to carry the technologies from lab to land with technical support of university scientists. Hon'ble Chairman also suggested to form a Whatsapp Group, involving officers of university and line departments to share the progress of different projects and technical advisories related to filed problems.

(Action: Director Extension & All line departments of Jammu region)

Dr Pawan Kumar Sharma carried out the proceedings of the meeting and Dr. Jasbir Manhas presented formal vote of thanks. Dr. Sanjay Khajuria and Dr. Banarsi Lal were rapporteurs.

The list of members and participants of ZREAC 2023 is enclosed with the proceedings as Annexure I (i to iv).