

**Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the reconstituted Regional Research Advisory Committee  
held on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 at RSRS, Kalimpong, West Bengal**

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The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the reconstituted Regional Research Advisory Committee of RSRS, Kalimpong was held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at RSRS, Kalimpong, under the Chairmanship of Prof. B. N. Chakraborty, Dept. of Botany, North Bengal University, Siliguri, W. B. The list of participants is appended in **Annexure –1**.

Before the onset of the meeting, the Soil Chemistry Laboratory of RSRS, Kalimpong, was inaugurated by the Honorable Chairman Prof. B. N. Chakraborty in presence of the other honorable members.

Smt. Chandana Maji, Member-Convener & Scientist-D, RSRS, Kalimpong, conveyed her heartiest welcome to the Chairman Prof. B. N. Chakraborty, Dept. of Botany, North Bengal University, Vice Chairman Dr. B. B. Bindroo, Director, CSR&TI, Berhampore, Members of the committee Sri B. K. Mukherjee, Addl. Director, DoT (Seri.), Govt. of West Bengal, Prof. A. C. Sinha, Dept. of Agronomy, Pundibari, Coochbehar; Prof. P. Mukhopadhyay, Director of Extension Education, Pundibari, Coochbehar; Sri. R. Bhattacharya, Joint Secretary (Tech), R. O., Kolkata, farmers & reeler representative from Sikkim and Malda, West Bengal and Scientists of RSRS, Kalimpong and REC, Rangpo, Sikkim.

In his introductory speech Dr. B. B. Bindroo, Director, CSR&TI, Berhampore and Vice Chairman, conveyed his heartiest welcome to the Chairman Prof. B. N. Chakraborty, Prof. Sinha and Prof. Mukhopadhyay, UBKV, Pundibari, Coochbehar and thanked them for their presence in the 1<sup>st</sup> reconstituted RRAC meeting. He also thanked Mr. B. K. Mukherjee, Addl. Director, DoT (Seri), West Bengal and Sri R. Bhattacharya, Joint Secretary (Tech), R. O., Kolkata, farmers & reeler representative from Sikkim and Malda, West Bengal and Scientists of RSRS, Kalimpong and REC, Rangpo, Sikkim for their presence in the RRAC meeting at Kalimpong. He explained the importance of the meeting and requested all the participants to involve for the development of sericulture industry cordially hand in hand. He requested all the scientists and DoT officials to work jointly for the development of sericulture for the benefit of the poor farmers.

Prof. B. N. Chakraborty, the Chairman of RRAC, welcomed all the members and participants. In his introductory speech he addressed that the Scientists should be engaged in need based research activity for the benefit of farmers of this region. He hoped that the newly established Soil Science Laboratory at RSRS, Kalimpong will benefit the farmers of the Darjeeling and Sikkim hills. For the benefit of sericulture, he requested all the members and participants to come forward for the development of R & D activity and to express their opinion for improvement and development of the sericulture industry. He also welcomed the reeler and farmers representative for their presence as they are the real stake holders of sericulture industry.

In her brief report Smt. Chandana Maji, Scientist-D, narrated the important contributions and achievements of RSRS, Kalimpong towards the development of sericulture in the hills of Darjeeling district and Sikkim. She also stated the achievements of extension work at field level. She emphasized on specific achievements like development of Automatic Weather Station for forewarning of mulberry diseases and pests and Soil Science laboratory. She also reported about the steps taken towards Results Frame Work Documents (RFD) through different extension communication programmes and narrated the performance of Muga development programme of RSRS, Kalimpong.

The Chairman then requested Mrs. C. Maji, Scientist-D, RSRS, Kalimpong to initiate the proceedings of the meeting, as per agenda. On behalf of the Scientist-D, RSRS,

Kalimpong, Dr. M. D. Maji, Scientist-C narrated the progress of R&D activities and follow up action of the last meeting.

**Item No. 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of reconstituted RRAC held at RSRS, Kalimpong on 02.12.2010**

As no comment was received from the members and participants, the minutes of the last meeting was confirmed.

**Item No. 2: Review of Follow up action taken on the decisions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Reconstituted RRAC held at RSRS, Kalimpong on 02.12.2010**

The house reviewed the follow up actions taken on the decisions of the last meeting and found satisfactory. The Chairman expressed his happiness over the fact that almost all the decisions were taken during the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the reconstituted RRAC have been followed up properly in time.

In the last meeting, it was suggested that Bivoltine silkworm rearing of SK6 and SK7 variety will be reared at Kalimpong area on a trial basis. As the same was performed by Dr. Thakur, DO, DoT(Seri), Kalimpong, the house suggested RSRS, Kalimpong to collect the rearing performance report from Dr. Thakur DO, DoT (Seri), Kalimpong. However, Mr. B. K. Mukherjee, Addl. Director, DoT (Seri), Govt. of W. B., stated that both SK6 and SK7 are performing very well at State Govt. Farms of DoT.(Seri) in Kalimpong area.

**(Action: RSRS, Kalimpong)**

While discussing on suitable mulberry genotype for tree plantation in Kalimpong region, Dr. B. B. Bindroo, Director, CSR&TI, Berhampore, opined that Pampore being a temperate zone, performance of mulberry varieties of that area may not be suitable for Kalimpong zone. Dr. R. Bhattacharya, Joint Secretary (Tech), R.O, Kolkata opined that mulberry varieties of Dehradun may be tested here. Dr. Bindroo, Director stated that as AICEM trial is going on at Kalimpong therefore selection of mulberry varieties suitable for Kalimpong should be done after the completion of the AICEM trial. However he also opined that as BC<sub>2</sub>59 mulberry variety is performing very well at farmers' level of Kalimpong region; the same may be utilized for tree plantation by RSRS, Kalimpong at farmers' level.

**(Action: RSRS, Kalimpong)**

Regarding construction of water harvest tank for irrigation of mulberry in the farmers' field, Mr. B. K. Mukherjee, Addl. Director, DoT(Seri), Govt. of W. B. stated that, efforts are being made to release the fund as early as possible. He also stated that from this year it will be clubbed with MGNREGP. Dr. B. B. Bindroo, Director CSR&TI, Berhampore suggested that RSRS, Kalimpong should prepare a Action Plan and submit the same to DoT(Seri), Kalimpong for utilization of mandays under MGNREGP.

**(Action: RSRS, Kalimpong)**

Regarding pruning schedule, Mr. B. K. Mukherjee, Addl. Director, DoT(Seri), Govt. of W. B. expressed that, a suitable pruning schedule should be developed for Kalimpong region. He suggested that a pruning schedule is to be made in consultation with the local officer of DoT(Seri), Kalimpong. Dr. Bindroo, Director, CSR&TI, Berhampore, suggested that mulberry plants should be pruned at crown height during June and mid level (120cm from crown height) during 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December and instructed to follow the same for production of quality leaves from this year.

**(Action: RSRS, Kalimpong)**

**Item No. 3: Review of progress of the ongoing research projects/programme and Extension activities.**

The progress of the ongoing research projects/programme and extension activities were presented by the respective scientists of RSRS, Kalimpong.

**A. Research projects:**

**1. PRE 3345: Development of weather based forecasting models for mulberry pests**

*(in Collaboration with Main Institute, April, 2005 - Dec.,2015).*

The progress and achievements of the project work was presented by Dr. U. K. Bandyopadhyay, Scientist-C. The progress of the project was found satisfactory and as per mile stone.

**2. PPS 3435: Studies on micronutrients for sustained high productivity of quality mulberry in Eastern and North-Eastern India** *(in Collaboration with main Institute; January, 2010-June, 2013).*

The project was presented by Sri. S. Chatterjee, Scientist C, RSRS, Kalimpong. The progress of the project was found satisfactory and as per mile stone.

**B. Programme :**

**1. CSS 2107: Development of Forecasting and Forewarning system of mulberry diseases** *(in Collaboration with main Institute, 2009-2012).*

The mulberry diseases severity in relation to meteorological data was presented by Dr. M. D. Maji, Scientist-C. The progress of the project was found satisfactory and as per mile stone.

**2. BPP(VP)-002:Validation of technology pertaining to application of sulphur to augment mulberry production in sulphur deficient soils** (April 2010 – March 2012) *(Co-ordinated with Soil Science and Chemistry section of CSR&TI, Berhampore)*

The result of the programme was presented by Sri S. Chatterjee, Scientist-C. The progress of the project was found satisfactory and as per mile stone.

**3. B-KPG(P)-004: Studies on the leaf webber, *Glyphodes pyloalis* (walker) and its eco-friendly management** *(Period: June, 2010 – May, 2012)*

The survey data on Leaf Webber *Glyphodes pyloalis* (Walker) the mulberry pests in the fields of RSRS, Kalimpong and DoT.(Seri) farms and farmers field of Kalimpong and Sikkim was presented by Dr. U. K. Bandyopadhyay, Scientist-C. The progress of the project was found satisfactory and as per mile stone.

**4. B – KPG (P)-005: Improvement of yield and quality of mulberry leaf in sub-tropical hills of eastern india through the refinement of pruning schedules and application of Morizyme –B** *(Period : June 2010-May 2012)*

The result of the programme was presented by Sri S. Chatterjee, Scientist-C. Director, CSR&TI, Berhampore advised to conclude the programme immediately and submit a new pruning programme as suggested by him.

**(Action: RSRS, Kalimpong)**

**5. BAI(VP)-004 : Testing of new breeds / hybrids developed under the project AIB 3393**  
(Period: April, 2010 – Mar, 2012)

The performance of five pure silkworm breeds and three silkworm hybrids developed under the Project AIB 3393 was presented by Smt. R. Bhutia, Scientist-C and the progress was satisfactory.

**6. Mulberry bivoltine silkworm race authorization programme (MSRAP)**

(Period Jan, 2011 – Dec,2012)

The performance of nine silkworm hybrids under MSRAP was presented by Smt R. Bhutia, Scientist-C and the progress was satisfactory.

**7. All India co-ordinated experimental trial for mulberry varieties (AICEM ) (PHASE -III) (Period: Oct 2010-Sept 2015)**

The progress of the AICEM programme was presented by Dr. M. D. Maji, Scientist-C. In this connection he informed the house that at Matigara Sericultural Farm proper irrigation facility is not available and also there is no fencing at the selected experimental site. Mr. B. K. Mukherjee, Addl. Director, DoT(Seri), Govt. of W. B. suggested to shift the AICEM programme from Matigara Sericultural Farm to Ambari Falakata Sericultural Project Farm, Jalpaiguri, where the land is properly fenced and having irrigation facilities. He also suggested to contact the In-charge of Ambari Falakata, Jalpaiguri, DoT(Seri) Farm for further necessary action and take up the layout of the experiment as per set design.

(Action:RSRS,Kalimpong/DOS,Jalpaiguri)

**8. Muga seed multiplication programme**

The progress of muga plantation and achievements of muga silkworm rearing and grainage under muga seed multiplication programme was presented by Dr. M. D. Maji, Scientist-C. Mr. B. K. Mukherjee, Addl. Director, DoT (Seri), Govt. of W. B. suggested to increase the quantum of muga plantation and mandays required for this may be utilized from MGNREGP.

(Action: RSRS, Kalimpong)

**ITEM NO. 4: REVIEW OF CONCLUDED RESEARCH PROGRAMME**

**1. Testing of rearing package (Emanated from the Project APR-3250)**

(Period: April, 2009 – July, 2010)

The progress and achievements of rearing of favourable Spring (Apr-May, '10) crop and unfavorable summer (June-July, 10) crop was presented by Smt R. Bhutia, Scientist-C in details. The house suggested to popularize the technology.

**ITEM NO. 5: REVIEW OF PROGRESS OF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES**

The progress of Extension activities was presented by Dr. U. K. Bandyopadhyay, Scientist- C. He reported that the entire programme under extension activities was achieved as per the target.

**ITEM NO. 6: CONSIDERATION OF NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS/  
PROGRAMME, IF ANY**

No new research project/programme was submitted in the House

## **ITEM NO 7: SUBJECT, IF ANY, WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR**

Mr. B. K. Mukherjee, Addl. Director, DoT(Seri), Govt. of W. B raised a question about the absence of local DoT(Seri) officials and farmers representative of Kalimpong area who are real stake holders and / or actively engaged for dissemination of different technologies of CSB and other field programmes. He opined that provision should be made to include them in the committee as members of the committee.

The Chairman requested to the Director, CSR&TI, Behampore to look into the matter and the Director, CSR&TI, Berhampore, advised the Scientist-D to include them as invitee. He also advised the Scientist-D to include one person from reeling side as invitee preferably In-charge, SCTH, Malda.

**(Action: RSRS, Kalimpong)**

Director, CSR&TI, Behampore requested the Addl. Director, DoT (Seri), Govt. of West Bengal for deputing their technical officials for Short Term Training Programme for Skill Upgradation. Additional Director informed that at present, they have shortage of staff and also do not have any provision for payment of course fee for the training programme. He requested to the Director for exemption of course fee, so that he can depute officials for the said training programme. Director agreed to exempt the course fee as a special case subject to the condition that the Additional Director will depute more officials to RSRS, Kalimpong during the year 2012 & onwards for Skill Upgradation under short term training programme.

**(Action: RSRS, Kalimpong)**

Farmers' representative from the Sikkim requested to the house for opening of one muga unit in Sikkim to look after muga activities. In this regard, it was opined that DOS, Sikkim should submit a proposal to RSRS, Kalimpong for further action.

**(Action: RSRS, Kalimpong)**

At the end, Prof. B. N. Chakraborty, Honorable Chairman of the RRAC suggested the following points for taking into consideration:

- Mention fund allocation and expenditure of each and every project/ programme.
- Constraints of each and every programme may be reflected.

Finally, the Chairman conveyed his thanks to the Scientist-D, RSRS Kalimpong for organizing the meeting in a very systematic and well planned manner.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

**CHAIRMAN  
RRAC, RSRS,  
Kalimpong**

**LIST OF MEMBERS AND SCIENTISTS ATTENDED IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE  
RECONSTITUTED REGIONAL RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> NOV. 2011  
AT REGIONAL SERICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION, KALIMPONG, W. B**

Sl. No	Name	Position
1.	Prof. B. N. Chakraborty, Dept. of Botany, North Bengal University, Siliguri, W. B	Chairman
2.	Dr. B. B. Bindroo, Director, CSR&TI, Berhampore , W. B	Vice- Chairman
3.	Mr. B. K. Mukherjee, Addl. Director, DoT (Seri), Govt. of W. B	Member
4.	Prof. A. C. Sinha, Dept. of Agronomy, UBKV, Pundibari, Coochbehar, W. B	Member
5.	Prof. P. Mukhopadhyay, Director of Extension Education, UBKV, Pundibari, Coochbehar	Member
6.	Sri R. Bhattacharya, Joint Secretary (Tech), R. O. CSB, Kolkata	Member
7.	Smt. C. Maji, Scientist-D, RSRS, Kalimpong	Member- Convener
8.	Mr. Rafiq Ali, Reeler, Malda, West Bengal	Member
9.	Smt. R. Bhutia, Scientist C, RSRS, Kalimpong	Participant
10.	Dr. M. D. Maji, Scientist C, RSRS- Annexure, Kalimpong	”
11.	Sri S. Chatterjee, Scientist C, RSRS, Kalimpong	”
12.	Dr. U. K. Bandyopadhyay, Scientist- C., RSRS, Kalimpong	”
13.	Mr. S. T. Lepcha, Scientist-C, REC, Rongpo	”
14.	Sri R. L. Ram, Scientist- B, RSRS, Kalimpong	”
15.	Mr. M. Subba, Farmer, W. Sikkim	Farmer
16.	Mr. S. Rai, Farmer, W. Sikkim	Farmer
<b>Absentee</b>		
1.	Prof. A. K. Chowdhury, Dept. of Plant Pathology, UBKV, Pundibari, Coochbehar, W. B	Member
2.	Sri Kumar Pradhan, Rearer, Sikkim	Member
3.	Sri D. R. Sharma, Director, DoS, Sikkim	Invitee