



**Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration
Mussoorie**

Minutes of the meeting of Working Group on 'Research Study on Transparency in Primary Commodity Procurement'- 16th July 2020 at 4.00 pm

An online meeting of the Working Group on 'Research Study in Transparency in Primary Commodity Procurement' has been held on 16th July 2020 at 4.00 pm.

Names of the participants present in the meeting are as follows:

1. Smt P. Amudha IAS, Professor LBSNAA
2. Sh. N. Ramesh, Executive Director, Pulses and Oilseeds NAFED
3. Shri Kishore Supekar MD NCDFI
4. Dr Ramesh Mittal Director, CCS NIAM
5. Prof Sridhar Swaminathan IRMA
6. Prof Sandip Mitra ISI Kolkata ISI Kolkata
7. Prof Nachiketa Chattopadhyay, ISI Kolkata
8. Prof Debasis Sengupta ISI Kolakata
9. Dy General Manager Procurement FCI
10. Dr D V Deshpande Professor VAMNICOM
11. Dr. Sagar K. Wadekar Asst Professor VAMNICOM
12. Dr Shalendra Singh Dy Director MANAGE
13. Dr Milind Ramteke IAS Dy Director LBSNAA

The Minutes are as follows:

1. The convenor Dr. Milind Ramteke, Dy Director & Coordinator Centre for Cooperatives & Livelihood (CCL) LBSNAA, Mussoorie initiated discussion welcomed participants and initiated the discussion.
2. A brief presentation was given by Prof Sridhar Swaminathan from Institute of Rural Management (IRMA) on proposed role in Research Study by the Knowledge Partner Institutions such as ISI Kolkata, VAMNICOM, NIAM, MANAGE, and NCDFI.
3. This was followed by the detailed presentations by the Nodal Officers of ISI Kolkata, MANAGE, NIAM, NCDFI and VAMNICOM about their proposed role in the Research Study on Transparency in Primary Commodity Procurement.

4. Prof Sandip Mitra, from ISI Kolkata and his Associates put forward following proposals:

- i. To undertake effective research in order to evolve a dynamic, decentralised and transparent procurement process which ensure inclusive growth, making use of the best practises in India especially milk procurement model of NDDB/AMUL and abroad available.
- ii. A Road-Map based on the analysis of the available data and policy documents on procurement of milk by Anand so as to understand the best practises and explore the possibility of adopting near- similar methods for food crop procurement which will require identifying the similarities/dissimilarities and mapping of the possible bottlenecks.
- iii. Proposed methodology: Small Survey to fill-in the data gaps. Developing comprehensive research design based on analysis of the available data using policy documents as domain information. Recommending a suitable method of procurement and consultation with various stake holders needed.
- iv. Proposed Research Method: Data Analytics involving analysis of secondary data and primary data (collected through Survey and Focus group discussions by a partner organisation) and developing appropriate model-based framework.
- v. To engage an appropriate organisation for constructing an Integrated data platform (say using FCI data, SECC data and other KYC particulars), with in-built statistical validation, to identify actual and potential farmers interested in procurement.
- vi. ISI Kolkata requested to provide past data on procurement (FCI, NAFED, Anand and others) and related policy documents so as to help ISI Kolkata in data collection through an appropriate organisation having adequate infrastructure, as per the design provided by ISI Kolkata and to facilitate input flows and regular interaction with organisations knowledgeable about the technology adopted and technology available for procurement so that ISI Kolkata can suggest IT enabled statistical procedures.
- vii. Also ISI Kolkata requested for financial support for undertaking various research related activity, deployment of Research Associates, field visits etc in order conduct of the said study.

5. Shri Kishor Supekar, MD NCDFI proposed:

- i. To provide technology platform for the Research Study which is being provided to the Milk Cooperatives and other Cooperatives as of now.
- ii. To customise the technology platform according to the changing geographical and temporal scenarios so as to connect farmers to end consumers with an efficient price discovery mechanism and the right level of transparency.

- iii. To provide multiple technological as well as operational know-how NCDFI e-Market for the successful conduct of the study and practical implementation of the outcomes.

6. Dr Shalendra Singh Dy Director, MANAGE in his presentation proposed:

- i. To provide expertise in designing and executing capacity building programs in Agricultural Extension.
- ii. To provide platform for taking the recommendations of the study to different stakeholders for their quick implementation. MANAGE also proposed to utilise fully functional MOOCs lab for the research purpose.

7. Dr. Ramesh Mittal, Director, NIAM in his presentation, proposed role of NIAM as follows:

- i. To have in-depth consultation with 5 prominent FPOs.
- ii. To conduct detailed study of existing procurement model, and identifying role of each stakeholder in the proposed model including State Government, State Nodal agency, Farmers, FPC, Warehousing agencies, e-NAM, FCI and NAFED etc
- iii. To frame a new model of procurement where FPO will act as alternative procurement agency.
- iv. To explore information technologies i.e. Artificial Intelligence, Block Chain Technology, Big Data Analysis, Machine Learning, Internet of Things (IoT).
- v. To coordinate and connect with the relevant organizations working in the above field and with the with relevant startups in the concerned fields.
- vi. Also NIAM requested to allow NIAM to conduct study in the state of Rajasthan along with necessary funding and manpower support.

8. Dr D. V, Deshpande and Dr S. K. Wadekar from VAMNICOM put forward following proposals:

- i. To work on evolving appropriate Research Methodology in consultation with IRMA and ISI Kolkata.
- ii. To contribute in comparing the processes of cooperatives and other than cooperatives.
- iii. Process documentation and virtual or physical interaction by the teams with NDDDB officers, the executives of its units including AMUL to collect

information as required understanding the processes followed by them which have ensured fair treatment and transparency to the farmers.

- iv. Discussion with the FCI and NAFED Officials of West Zone: Maharashtra State Regional and district offices Interaction with Cooperative Marketing Societies, Unions and State federation.
- v. Interaction with few FPOs and MAHA- FPC (State Level Producer Company), Focused Group Discussion with Farmer Beneficiaries, Semi-structured interview - Individual Farmer Beneficiary.
- vi. Identification of a performance matrix through process documentation.
- vii. The study needs to cover the present policy of the two organizations - FCI & NAFED- in parts i.e. how the procurement system is designed, how farmers are informed, how the eligibility of farmers is fixed, how farmers are informed about the system and about payment systems and quality checks, implementation at each step and feedback and the deviation between plan and design and actual implementation, any dissatisfactions among the farmers or other stakeholders etc
- viii. To review the mechanism followed by FPOs (especially "Maha-FPC" - the State Level Producer Company), as recently they have demonstrated food grain and other item procurement in more transparent and satisfactory manner that can also be studied and included in the study in the form of success stories/ best practices.

It has been decided that all the above mentioned proposals will be placed in the next general meeting for discussion and decision.

Meeting ended with thanks to all.



(Dr Milind Ramteke)
Dy Director & Coordinator CCL
LBSNAA, Mussoorie
July 23, 2020 (Srāvana 1, 1942)

All concerned.