

Meeting with Dr Karim Maredia on 16th December, 2024 at TASS New Delhi for AEPSA Review

A Meeting was held with Dr Karim Maredia, Director, International Programmes, MSU on 16th December, 2024 at the TAAS Office, to discuss about progress of formation of AEPSA and related issues. The meeting was chaired by Dr R S Paroda, Chairman TAAS & AEPSA Advisory Committee, and participated by Dr R N Padaria, Country Resource Person (India) & Joint Director (Extension), IARI, Dr Bhag Mal, Secretary TAAS, Dr V V Sadamate, Chief Coordinator, AEPSA, Dr Rishi Tyagi, Senior Consultant, TAAS, Dr J L Karihaloo, Treasurer, TAAS and Mr S K Dubey, Technical Associate, AEPSA.

Chief Coordinator, AEPSA updated on the AEPSA developments, which included the following :

i. Establishment of AEPSA

In the spirit of 8th March 24 resolve, AEPSA is now functional as informal professional platform, initially as a TAAS program for a year or so till its outputs, relevance and purpose get adequate visibility. This was necessitated in the absence of commitment from the national system including ICAR-IARI, New Delhi and MANAGE, Hyderabad. Since the new Director has joined at IARI, concerted efforts will be made for its institutionalization in IARI, New Delhi. The Prime Supporters (Country Resource Persons - CRPs - NGO reps from SA countries) identified in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka are fully committed and are covered in Phase-I. Dr VV Sadamate has been functioning as a Chief Coordinator, AEPSA and Dr RK Tripathi is associated on part time basis to provide the needful help. Mr SK Dubey has joined as Project Associate from 4th October 2024 on contractual basis.

ii. Constitution of AEPSA Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee has been constituted to steer the programmes and activities under the Chairmanship of Dr RS Paroda, Chairman, TAAS & Former Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR. Country Resource Persons and other eminent extension experts and organizations are its members. The First Meeting of Advisory Committee was held on 5th September 2024 and the recommendations are being implemented and followed-up

iii. AEPSA Brochure

The AEPSA Brochure with details such as Vision, Mission, Objectives, Activities, Organogram, Logo & Tagline have been developed and endorsed by the AEPSA Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 5th September 2024. Logos of Prime Institutional Supporters like MSU, IARI, MANAGE, etc. would be used on Brochure and their consent is being requested. A copy of the Draft Brochure is **attached** for information.

iv. Country Agricultural Extension Profiles(C-AEPs)

A detailed proforma for Country Ag. Extension Profile (C-AEPs) has been developed and shared with the Country Resource Persons. The preliminary work of scanning the secondary sources has been done through young professionals at MANAGE. Further, CRPs are

developing the country extension profiles focused on innovations, success stories and cross learning pathways. These will be finalized and shared by January 2025. The work in partner countries is progressing well except Bangladesh. A comprehensive list of agriculture & allied websites and portals in India has been compiled.

v. Funding and Membership Drive

The Membership Categories & Fee Structure has been rationalized. The funding agencies and the donors would be approached soon along with the brochure. Couple of the Input Support agencies (Mahyco & Rasi Seeds) responded positively and provided initial funding support. Membership drive would be launched in phases. It would be intensified as the AEPSA activities become visible and relevant to the stakeholders.

vi. Linkage with Government Agencies and Regional/Global Networks

Country specific resource persons (through NGO reps) have been identified for Phase I countries as nodal points. However, as it progresses, linkages with the government agencies would be strengthened for effectively implementing the programs and activities. Global networks would also be approached. CIRDAP has responded positively.

vii. Develop Annual Work Plans (AWPs)

FY 2024-25 (last six months) primarily centred around the preparatory issues namely, get AEPSA established, providing space and core manpower, arranging initial funding support, development of C-AEPs, etc. Annual Work Plans for 25-26 would be centred around the following major components viz sourcing extension innovations, extension success stories, cross learning possibilities and initiating innovative pilots. Improving capacities and networking of CRPs, linkages with other regional and global extension networks, drafting C-AEPs for second phase partner countries, etc. would also be covered in Annual Work Plan 25-26. It would be primarily based on the outcomes generated through C-AEPs, as they get finalized by January, 2025. Preparation of directory of institutions and individuals engaged in advisory services- it's getting covered under C-AEPs.

viii. Monitoring the Progress on a Half-yearly/Annual basis

M&E modalities set in are: Half Yearly and Annual Reviews, Country Specific Dialogues, need based reports, etc. First Annual Meet scheduled to be held on 8th-9th March, 2025 at Kathmandu, Nepal for which preparations are going on.

