

# CONSULTATION MEETING ON PRESENT STATUS AND UTILISATION OF DRAUGHT ANIMAL, SPECIFIC CONSTRAINTS AND POTENTIAL OF ANIMAL ENERGY IN RAINFED AREAS

Venue: CIAE, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh | September 29, 2018 (10:30 AM - 1:30 PM)

## AGENDA OF THE MEETING

- *To present the findings of study on the status of DAP across the rainfed areas of the country especially their present role in rainfed agriculture done by RRA network*
- *Explore the specific constraints and potential for improving the efficiency and productivity of the draught animal power in rainfed areas*
- *Explore collaboration with CIAE and RRA network in the field of Draught Animals*

## BACKGROUND OF THE MEETING

Draught Animal Power (DAP) has been out of the radar of public policy and investments; farm mechanisation is seen as given and inevitable. In spite of such indifference in public attention, draught animals provide the necessary services primarily in land preparation and transport in over 100 million ha of farm lands in India (60% of net or gross sown area). While in some of these



areas, draught animals co-exist with farm mechanisation used for specific purposes in agriculture, in other areas where penetration of mechanisation is low – draught animals form the back bone of agriculture. Animal power becomes much more needed for ‘marginal lands’ and small & marginal farmers who are the least priority for the hired services of tractors. There is no structured attempt in recent times in taking stock of this neglected but essential area for rainfed agriculture.

The meeting was attended by following participants:

1. Dr. K.K. Singh, Director, CIAE, Bhopal
2. Dr. R.C. Singh, Head AEP Division, ICAR-CIAE
3. Dr. C.R. Mehta, Project Coordinator, AICRP on FIM, CIAE
4. Dr. K.N. Agarwal, PC, AICRP on ESA, CIAE
5. Dr. P.S. Tiwari, Head, AMD, ICAR-CIAE
6. Dr. P.C. Bavgale, Head TTD, ICAR
7. Dr. M. Din, Project Coordinator, AICRP on UAE
8. Dr. G. Singh, Ex Director, CIAE, Ex-ADG-Farm Machinery, ICAR
9. Dr. A.P. Magar, Scientist, AMD, CIAE
10. Dr. D.S. Thorat, Scientist, AMD, CIAE
11. Dr. S.N. More, Senior Technical Officer, CIAE, Bhopal
12. DR. Ananth S. Panth, M&E Specialist, WASSAN, Bhopal
13. ShriRavindra A., Director, WASSAN
14. Dr.Sabyasachi Das, National Coordinator (RRA Network) and lead Livestock node, WASSAN
15. Dr.Anushree Singh, Program associate-Policy Research, RRA Network, WASSAN

The meeting was opened by Dr. M. Din (Project Coordinator of AICRP on Utilisation of Animal Energy). He presented the agenda of the meeting and welcomed the participants.

After a round of introduction, Shri A. Ravindra introduced WASSAN and RRA Network which works on specific technologies and policies in rainfed areas across India. He said that timely sowing of seeds and timely operations is a major issue in rainfed areas and intercropping is moving out of practice in rainfed areas. For these systems, animal facilitated agriculture becomes extremely important.

Director of CIAE, Dr. K.K. Singh, said that since inception of CIAE, it has been working on animal drawn and human drawn implements. Draught animal has lots of relevance and importance in Indian agriculture context. At present CIAE, Bhopalis coordinating the AICRP on Utilisation of Animal Energy and it had 9 centres across India, 2 more centres have been approved by ICAR.

Dr. G. Singh, retired principal scientist, ex-Director, ex-ADG (Farm Machinery) explained the importance of draught animals in Indian agriculture and encouraged collaboration of CIAE with RRA Network for improvising and popularising the technologies innovated by CIAE (AICRP on UAE).

The findings of study done by RRA Network on “*Re-looking at Draught Animal Power in Rainfed Agriculture in Context of Managing Climate Variability and Change*” were presented by Dr. Anushree Singh, Program Associate (Policy Research), RRA Network.



In a round of discussion with the participants, several points emerged by scientists working in area of farm mechanisation. Dr. C. R. Mehta, gave his opinion on intercropping systems by tractors, he said that intercropping is possible by tractors also but draught animals play very important role in hilly/undulating terrain where tractors cannot work. Also, draught animal

power is very important from small and marginal farmers who do not have capacity to purchase and maintain tractors.

Dr. M. Din presented the work of different AICRP centres on UAE. He explained in detail about the type of implements being innovated useful of different type of crop in different agro-ecological regions. He also gave details of implements which can be used for idle capacity by draught animals.

Collaborative work with CIAE - RRA NETWORK can help in increased farm efficiency and increased productivity of crops in rainfed regions especially for marginal and small farmers by use of animals and animal drawn implements.

The Director, Dr. K.K. Singh, CIAE, Bhopal, agreed to have an MoU with RRA Network for following

1. Increasing the usage of technology (animal drawn implements) innovated by CIAE.
2. Creating demand for location specific technology
3. Developing fabrication system for increasing use of these implements.
4. Identifying gaps in the already developed technology and providing input for scope of improvement in the technology.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks given by Dr. M. Din followed by lunch.