

## CHAPTER II : MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMER WELFARE

### Coconut Development Board

#### 2.1 Blocking of funds

**Poor monitoring of a project had resulted in blocking/idling of Government fund amounting to ₹ 1.61 crore for more than six years without serving the purpose for which it was sanctioned.**

The Project Approval Committee of Technology Mission on Coconut (TMOC) of Coconut Development Board (CDB) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India had approved a project "Control of Eriophyid Mite on coconut on pilot basis during 2007-08" to the Department of Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu in October 2007. The project envisaged treatment of 94.892 lakh mite infected palms in 10 districts of the State by adopting root feeding of Azadirachtin at the rate of 10 mille litre/tree for three rounds at an interval of 45 days. The total cost of the project was ₹ 22.77 crore with ₹ 5.69 crore (25 per cent) as Board's share.

As per Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of December 2007 signed between the Chairman, CDB and the Department of Agriculture, Government of Tamil Nadu, the due date of completion of the project and submission of final project report was on or before 31 March 2009 and 31 May 2009 respectively. The CDB had released 50 per cent of its share amounting to ₹ 2.85 crore in two instalments (February/March 2008) to the Department of Agriculture.

Audit observed that the Department of Agriculture had procured only 25 per cent (71,168.75 litres) of the total requirement of the chemicals for distribution during 2007-08 in December 2007 incurring an expenditure of ₹ 4.93 crore and the same was distributed upto 2010-11. The Joint field inspection conducted (November 2008) by CDB and the Department of Agriculture revealed that due to good rainfall during 2008-09 and less occurrence of mite attack, the demand for chemical was less. Hence, the Department of Agriculture decided (2009) to stop further procurement of chemicals.

Thus, out of ₹ 2.85 crore released by CDB only ₹ 1.23 crore could be utilised for the project leaving a balance of ₹ 1.61 crore as unspent with the Government of Tamil Nadu from 2009 onwards. A meeting held in February 2013 between

the representatives of CDB and Department of Agriculture to review the status of the project had decided that the final project report along with full beneficiary list and final Utilisation Certificate was to be submitted by the Director of Agriculture, Tamil Nadu by 31 March 2013 to CDB. The same was submitted by the Director of Agriculture in September 2013 after a lapse of more than four years of contracted date of submission. Though the Department of Agriculture had decided in 2009 to stop further procurement of chemicals, the Board had initiated action to get the refund of the unspent amount only in 2013. Thus, the amount was blocked for more than six years without serving the purpose. Further CDB had not imposed any penalty on Department of Agriculture as per MoU.

CDB while confirming the facts and figure of the para replied (August 2015) that since the Board was not having any TMOC project of Government of Tamil Nadu pending for approval, the Director of Agriculture was requested to refund the unspent balance. It was further replied (15 January 2016) that no penalty was imposed since the matter has been regularly being followed up and the Government of Tamil Nadu has agreed to refund the unspent balance vide their Government Order dated 12 January 2016.

The fact remains that poor monitoring had resulted in blocking/idling of Government fund amounting to ₹ 1.61 crore for more than six years without serving the purpose for which it was sanctioned. The refund was yet to be received (January 2016)

The matter was reported to the Ministry in October 2015; their reply was awaited (February 2016).

### **Central Avian Research Institute, Bareilly**

#### **2.2 Non-achievement of stated objective**

**Non-synchronisation of the building works of Feed Technology Processing Unit and Poultry Processing Lab with electricity and water supply works by Central Avian Research Institute, resulted in non-operationalisation even after completion of civil work at the cost of ₹ 135.12 lakh and non-realisation of the stated objective of the project.**

The Central Avian Research Institute, Bareilly (Institute) proposed the construction of Experimental Poultry Feed Technology and quality control Lab (Feed Technology Processing Unit) in January, 2004 and Experimental Poultry Processing Lab (Poultry Processing Unit) in July, 2004 at Bareilly in order to

create modern infrastructure for human resource development in terms of teaching, to impart practical training to PG diploma holders and PhD students of poultry science discipline.

Accordingly, on the request of Institute, CPWD submitted (February 2004) preliminary estimates for the Feed Technology Processing Unit at an amount of ₹ 18.40 lakh and for Poultry Processing Unit (October 2004) at an amount of ₹ 33.67 lakh. The approval for the same was communicated by Institute in March 2004 and November 2004 and one third advance for the same amounting to ₹ 17.35 lakh was released to CPWD alongwith the same.

Audit observed that the Council decided (March 2005) to shift the Institute at a new site at Pilibhit road. Consequently, a fresh requisition for construction of these buildings (Feed Technology Processing Unit and Poultry Processing Lab) was sent (April 2007) to CPWD as per approved Master Plan without making provisions for electrical and water supply works. CPWD submitted (August 2007) the revised estimates for both buildings at the revised cost of ₹ 57.46 lakh and ₹ 63.52 lakh respectively, which were vetted by Director (Works) and approved by the Council under XI Plan, but no provisions for electrical and water supply works were made in the estimates.

Both the works were completed by CPWD and handed over (April 2011) to the Institute after incurring an expenditure of ₹ 135.12 lakh. Subsequently proposal for electrical and water supply was sent to the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) in March 2014 by the Institute and administrative and financial sanction for water supply and electrical system was accorded in September 2015 and November 2015 respectively. As a result, both the buildings were yet to be operationalized.

Thus, due to non-synchronisation of the building works of Feed Technology Processing Unit and Poultry Processing Lab with the electricity and water supply works, resulted in non-operationalisation even after completion of civil work at the cost of ₹ 135.12 lakh and thereby non-realisation of the stated objective of the project.

Institute stated (September 2015/January 2016) that the reasons for not taking into consideration for electricity/water supply system at the time of finalisation of project proposal are not available in the record. However, the building was being utilised for storage of feed ingredients. The reply substantiates the audit

observation of non-synchronisation of the building work and electricity/water work resulting into non-utilisation of building for stated objective. Further instead of creating experimental poultry processing lab of the Institute, the buildings were being used for storage of feed ingredients.

The matter was reported to the Ministry in October, 2015; their reply was awaited (December 2015).