

IMPLEMENTATION OF RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005 AT AFRI, JODHPUR

Information provided under the Section 4(1) of the act.

7. Sec.4(b)(vii): The particulars of arrangement that exists for consultation with, or representation by, the members of the public in relation to the formulation of policy or implementation thereof

The primary mandate of the Institute is to carry out forestry research as per the defined mandate. The research projects formulated by the scientists in various divisions after consultations with the stakeholders. The projects are then screened at various levels before finally being approved by the Research Policy Committee (RPC) chaired by the Director General, ICFRE. The various stages and committees involved in the process of project formulation to its approval are as follows:

- 1. Stakeholders Meet:** The stakeholders meet in consultation with the State Forest departments are organized in the respective jurisdiction of the Institute; with a view to adequately facilitate incorporation of the inputs of different stakeholders on identified research problem, a meaningful and continuous exchange of research information, and the project implementation. Main Feature to be considered for holding of the annual stakeholders meet are - the invitation to prominent participants, meaningfully representing the realistic spectrum of stakeholders of forestry research is envisaged. Presentation are made in the stakeholders meet to create awareness among the stakeholders of the scientific achievements and the utility of the ongoing research projects of relevance of SFDs or other stakeholders and of the essence of Projects completed giving major research outcome/highlights of relevance to the stakeholder and the proposed research projects to be undertaken in future. And the Proceedings of stakeholders meet are to be uploaded on the Institute / ICFRE website for sharing.
- 2. Project Concept Note Formulation:** Director issues timelines every year by April communicating thrust areas or policy on research to HOD for preparing Project concept note & thereafter the detailed research proposals for RAG meeting. Principal investigator (PI) prepares the project concept note with Introduction; Idea & Objectives; Broad outcomes; financial outlay and in accordance with pre-determined thrust areas of NFRP (National Forest Research Plan) and Instructions of ICFRE as well as taking into account the outcome of Stakeholders consultations. Thus it is based on discussion with stakeholders, based on Research Needs of the Region, and literature survey. Suggestions in stakeholders' meet and in in-house meet are incorporated.
- 3. Research Project Proposal:** PI prepares detailed project proposal on approved Project concept by 30th Sept. Research Projects are categorized into 'Research Projects' and 'Research &

Extension Projects'. HOD recommends proposals to GCR who after appraisal submit it to Director. Simultaneously, proposal is sent for peer review (2 subject experts/referees). After that it is reviewed and cleared by Director by 31st Oct.

4. **Peer review of new Research Project:** The research Planning in ICFRE has also initiated seeking subject specific expert comments from peer group (subject referees) on each new research project proposal and the expert comments are placed in RAG meeting for the consideration of RAG expert members. Each project proposal is to be vetted by two subject experts/referees who have a blend of prominence in the concerned subject along with demonstrated applied understanding of the regional/national research utility needs of the society.
5. **Research Advisory Group (RAG) Meeting:** Director General ICFRE, in consultation with Director of the Institute approves Research Advisory Group (RAG) for the institute, which have the regional distinctiveness with the regional representation of a composite group of research-end users/ stakeholders, researchers, scientists and research managers. RAG provide directions in the forestry research of the institute within overall frame work of research priorities set by ICFRE and also formulate and review five years research plan on rolling basis. The RAGs of the institutes are held annually between the months of September to November. The subject area experts of national/international eminence are invited. Research Advisory Groups have been made broader by including PCCFs of the concerned states as chairman on rotation basis from the states under the jurisdiction of the institute. Other members of the RAG include different strata of scientists, a range of forest officials, diverse stakeholder's viz. NGOs, industries, progressive farmers and Universities.

Role of RAG:

1. To revise research programme and new research proposals at the institute every year.
2. To consider and provide advice on regional requirements for forest research over the whole spectrum of activities affecting forests & tree in land management.
3. To review the progress and results from all research projects.
4. To recommend annual research programs and level of budget allocation to the relevant Institute.

The constitution of RAG's, which functions at the Institute level, is as follows:-

1	Director of the Institute	Chairman
2	PCCF, of all other concerned States/UTs or representative Rajasthan	Member
3	ADG(RP)/DG representative ICFRE,	Member
4	Three Scientists of the Institute at each level of Senior (Scientist "G" or "F") Middle (Scientist "E" or "D") Junior (Scientist "C" or	Member
5	Two Foresters (each one at the level of CF and DCF of the ICFRE Institute)	Member
6	Representatives of the Universities imparting education in forestry and allied subjects at the level of Dean or Head of the Department	Member
7	Two Representatives of Funding Organizations	Member
8	Representative of prominent NGO in the field of forestry	Member
9	Representative of Forest based Industries	Member
10	Eminent Forester outside ICFRE	Member
11	Eminent Scientist outside ICFRE	Member
12	Representative of Progressive Farmers	Member
13	Representative of ICAR	Member
14	Head of State Forest Research Organization of the concerned states	Member
15	Representative of Sister organization	Member
16	Representative of JFM/Local Government/Grassroot Level Organization	Member
17	Group Co-ordinator (Research), AFRI, Jodhpur	Member Secretary

6. **Research Policy committee (RPC):** Research planning division of the Council organizes the annual RPC meeting at ICFRE HQ under the chairmanship of Director General, ICFRE. RPC is an Apex advisory body at national level to give the policy directions, bring in innovation and prioritize investment in relevant and high quality forestry research. External national level expert members of RPC include representative of Planning commission, MoEF, sister research organizations, ICAR, universities, NGO, progressive farmer and people working on community forest management. All the DDGs, Director (Research) and Directors of the ICFRE institutes are the members of the RPC. The new research proposals recommended by the RAGs of respective Research Institutes of ICFRE are placed in the RPC annual meeting to give final approval to the new research proposals submitted by the eight research institutes. The RPC meet is mostly convened in February every year.

Mandate of the research policy (RPC)

- RPC provide policy directions to research, bring in innovation in research, and decide investment in high quality forestry research, to provide research leadership and make ICFRE a model research organization with international leadership in forestry research.
- RPC will finalize and review the five-year Research Plan of the ICFRE and its Institutes.

- RPC will approve Annual Research Plan, Research Projects and Programmes of the ICFRE and its institutes on the basis of the recommendation of RAGs of the respective Institutes.
- RPC will promote effective coordination of the research work among different Institutes of ICFRE, and will optimize resource utilization.
- RPC will ensure balance among different international, national, regional and state research requirements.
- RPC will consider current and emerging research issues, and keeping these in view, will prioritize research projects and programmes of each institute.
- RPC will explore and establish synergistic with other agencies engaged in forestry research.
- RPC will also carry out any other function related with forestry research assigned by the Council from time to time.