

Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) meeting held at BTRS, AAU, Anand During 8 - 12th June, 2023

Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) of tobacco visited during 8th to 12th June, 2023 at Bidi Tobacco Research Station, AAU, Anand for reviewing and assessment of last five years research activities carried out in Tobacco. ICAR has constituted QRT under the Chairmanship of Dr. J. S. Sandhu, Former DDG (Crop Science), ICAR. The members of review team comprised of Dr. V. Ravindrababu, Ex. Director, ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad, Dr. A. R. Sharma, Director of Research, RLBCAU Campus, Jhansi, Dr. S. Patel, Professor, Department of Process & Food Engineering, Raipur, Dr. G. P. Rao, Director, Institute of Agricultural and Natural Sciences, Gorakhpur, Dr. A. K. Vashist, Ex. ADG (PIM), ICAR, New Delhi and Member Secretary Dr. Y. Subbaiah, Head (Acting), Division of Post-Harvest & Value Addition, ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry. Dr. M. K. Jhala, Director of Research & Dean PG Studies has welcomed and interact with all the QRT members at AAU on 8-6-2023 and conveyed wishes for success of the review programme. All the faculty members of Bidi Tobacco Research Station, AAU, Anand were participated in this meeting.

The review programme was started in the conference room of BTRS with prayer and floral welcome of the all QRT members by Dr. J N Patel., Dr. S. N. Shah, Associate Director of Research, A.A.U., Anand also joined with the QRT team and highlighted activities and achievements of AAU, he also presented the status of bidi tobacco in Gujarat. Dr. J. N. Patel, Unit Officer, BTRS, AAU, Anand has presented the station progress report for the year 2016-22 along with crop improvement research activities. Dr. K. M. Gediya, Associate Research Scientist (Agronomy) and Dr. Y. M. Rojasara, Associate Research Scientist (Nematology) presented the research activities of crop production and crop protection, respectively. After presentation, the review team visited Plant Pathology and Agri Chemistry laboratories as well as glass house. During the visit, Dr. Y. M. Rojasara explained about the various activities carried out in Plant Protection discipline. Mrs. Hiral

Upadhyay explained about the chemical analysis of nicotine, sugar and chloride from tobacco leaf. During farm visit Dr. K. M. Gediya, explained the farm activities and seed production, processing, packaging and distribution of seed to the farmers from this station.

There was an interface meeting with farmers and tobacco traders at different villages of tobacco growing area in middle Gujarat. The representatives from village Kinkhlod Ta. Ankalav and nearby area have been participated in meeting and discussed about the problems in tobacco, value addition, price fluctuation and requirement of storage facility.

On 11th June, 2023 QRT team along with scientists of BTRS visited Nisol Manufacturing Company Limited, Jahaj which engaged in extraction of nicotine sulfate from tobacco leaf and exported for the pharmaceutical uses. Mr. Ashish Patel Managing Director, Nisol Manufacturing Co. Ltd. narrated information of company and how it is benefited to the farmers for their upliftment through contract farming in tobacco. The company is not functioning only for profit but for a good well-being and to maintain the interest of farmers. After healthy discussion, QRT team recommended some ideas and gave some views about Public Private Partnership (PPP) and role of University for benefit of the farmers through Nisol Company.

The review team opined that Bidi Tobacco Research Station, AAU, Anand is to be considered as center of excellence for alternate uses of tobacco for industry purpose and proposal would be further forwarded to ICAR for implementation.

After completion of the review, Dr. Y. Subbaiah, Member Secretary, QRT team ended the meeting with vote of thanks.

Team of BTRS scientists are very thankful to Dr. K. B. Kathiria, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU, Anand and Dr. M. K. Jhala, Director of Research & Dean PG Studies for providing guidance and provided all relevant support for successful completion of QRT programme.

