

MINUTES OF MEETING

TAA-India organised a brief get-together on July 14, 2017 at FICCI House, New Delhi, which was participated by the following members/non-members:

1. Mr. Girish Bhardwaj (Member)
2. Dr. RPS Yadav (Member)
3. Dr. KG Wankhede (Member)
4. Mr. Pramel Gupta (Member-Vrutti Livelihoods)
5. Ms. B. Pratima (Member-Vrutti Livelihoods)
6. Dr. KK Upadhyay (Requested for Membership)
7. Mr. Alok Bhardwaj (Non-Member)

Apologies: Mr. RS Nijjar (Member) could not attend as he is Chandigarh-based and the event was organised at a short notice.

Dr. KK Updhayay, former employee of FICCI, arranged venue for the get-together.

The introduction session was followed by sharing the challenges faced in inviting individuals and institutions to become TAA member. The reasons are yet to be analysed especially in terms of membership fee rate and benefits to individual and institutional members in global and regional context both.

- A need was felt to go slow on membership drive and to focus on a few strategies that create TAA visibility and attract the individuals and institutions to join its membership. However, the existing TAA members in India will continue sharing benefits of TAA to their contacts to increase membership.
- A need was also felt to form an informal National Advisory Core Group (NACG) of eminent professionals in the field of agriculture & allied sectors (Education & Research, Extension and Implementation), natural resources management and rural development. In addition to the advisories, the presence of NACG will be useful in multiplication of membership and accessing to high profile institutions. Initially, NACG members may be considered in the category of honorary membership.
- An initial focus needs to be laid on organising small events with low budget. The national level organisations like Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) need to be tapped for small funding. It is assumed that the initiatives will help in reaching out to research and

development organisations, NGOs/CSOs, corporate bodies & Government Departments/ Agencies.

- Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022 is one of the top most priorities of the current national government in India. A focus needs to be laid on identification of key areas for planning strategic interventions around this theme.
- TAA-India needs to develop a long term strategy (LTS) within the constitutional and operational framework of TAA. The focus needs to be laid on quality over quantity in terms of membership with a view to maintain the vibrant and dynamic status of the TAA-India. The initiative will be started in consultation with TAA-UK. It may also be discussed with TAA Chair (Keith Virgo) during his next visit to India (Keith is requested to confirm his visit plans).

Dr. KG Wankhede and Dr. RPS Yadav from IFFCO have shown interest to convince the respective authorities in IFFCO to join TAA as an institutional member. In addition, Dr. RPS Yadav along with Dr. KG Wankhede announced that IFFCO would be keen to host/fund the upcoming TAA event/s. All the current members are requested to suggest key themes and location for organising an event with the financial support from IFFCO.

A need was also felt to develop and circulate the online quarterly newsletter on local updates. The issue would be taken up to TAA UK for discussion.

It was also felt important to know the role of TAA-UK in strengthening its initiatives in India.

In the last it was decided to remain in touch as a group and share information as and when found to be useful and important in the interest of TAA.

A formal get-together is proposed to be held in the last week of September or the first week of October. The date and venue will be decided as per the convenience of all the members.

Girish Bhardwaj, TAA India Organiser
india_organiser@taa.org.uk