

# TEA RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

## PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

### MINUTES OF THE 200<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023 AT 3.30 P.M. AT KOLKATA

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<b>Present:</b>	Ms N Palchoudhuri	-Chairperson, TRA	
	Mr A Asthana	-Vice Chairman, TRA	
	Mr A Krishan	-Addl. Vice Chairman, TRA	On Line
	Mr A Sharma	-Joint DGFT, Guwahati	On Line
	Mr S Soundararajan	- DTD, Tea Board of India	
	Dr Mahipal Singh	-Project Director, Tea Board	
	Mr P K Bezboruah	-Former Chairman, TRA	
	Mr Ajay Jalan		
	Mr Vikram Singh Gulia		
	Mr Vijay Kumar		
	Mr Rajvinder Singh		
	Mr Sparsh Agarwal		
	Mr S K Saria		On Line
	Mr Sunil Munshi		On Line
	Mr J S Chahal		On Line
	Mr M P Bansal		On Line
	Mr Preetham Melanta		On Line
	Mr B K Dalmia		On Line
	Mr S Das		On Line
	Mr Anil Kumar Jha		On Line
	Dr A Babu	-Director, TRA	
	Mr J Phukan	-Secretary, TRA	
	Mr A Mitra	-Financial Controller, TRA	

The Chairperson welcomed all members to the meeting. She briefed the Council on the recent activities such as the DN Barua Memorial Lecture & Colloquium, collaborations with Kaziranga University and the projects with different companies. Thereafter she took up the agenda for the meeting.

#### **1. Confirmation of Minutes:**

The Minutes of the 199<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council of Management held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 was confirmed by the Council.

#### **2. Action Taken Report**

- The status of MRL's revised and notified by FSSAI on the MRL's for Quinalphos, Emamectin Benzoate, Fenpyroximate, Hexaconazole and Propiconazole to realistic levels vide Notification No. F. No. 01-SP (PAR) Notification-Pesticides /Stds-FSSAI/2017 based on data submitted by TRA was informed. The MRL's of Thiamethoxam, Clothianidin and Flubendiamide MRL's remain the same as earlier.
- It was informed that TRA is planning to organise a webinar on irrigation in collaboration with Jain Irrigation in the month of July/ August 2023. The Council stated that the seminar should be done end September/early October.

#### **3. R & D Highlights :**

The Director TRA presented to the Council of Management the salient features of the R&D work in his presentation. Members discussed on the work for new molecules and predators. Members felt that drugs against the pests and diseases

protection products. The new projects submitted to NRII was discussed by the Council.

#### 4. **Finance & Accounts:**

##### a) **Membership Subscription**

The membership subscription details upto 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 was informed to the Council.

Subscription Status of the Association:2023-2024								
							2022-23	2023-24
Membership	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Till 30.06.2022	Till 30 .06.2023
Subscription							last year	Current year
<b>A.Ordinary</b>								
Billing	1574.4	1822.03	1842.89	1881.8	1898.48	1711.34	431.52	408.4
Collection	1300.68	1362.08	1376.21	1486.17	1404.16	1274.65	252.8	240.57
Rebate/Discunt	56.51	60.84	55.53	36.69	41.03	33.21	7.81	7.26
Net Recovery Total:	1357.19	1422.92	1431.74	1522.86	1445.19	1307.86	260.61	247.83
Arrear/Outstanding Recovery	100.28	116.97	220.31	237.7	122.44	199.42	56.16	41.51
Gross Total Collection:	1457.47	1539.89	1652.05	1760.56	1567.63	1507.28	316.77	289.34
RECOVERY % WISE(CURRENT YR.)	86%	78%	78%	81%	76%	77%	60%	61%
OVER ALL RECOVERY % WISE	93%	85%	90%	94%	83%	88%	73%	71%
<b>B. Associate</b>								
Current	20.8	20.8	21.55	7.79	12.98	22.58	4.24	7.04
Arrear	5.63	9.78	10.25	9.16	9.82	8.05	0.7	3.15
Total:	26.43	30.58	31.8	16.95	22.8	30.63	4.94	10.19
GROSS TOTAL COLLECTION: (A+B)	1483.9	1570.47	1683.85	1777.51	1590.43	1537.91	321.71	299.53
LESS: REBATE/DISCOUNT	56.51	60.84	55.53	36.69	41.03	33.21	7.81	7.26
NET TOTAL COLLECTION (A+B)	1427.39	1509.63	1628.32	1740.82	1549.4	1504.7	313.9	292.27

The Secretary TRA elaborated on the efforts made by the Secretariat in collection of subscription. He stated that Assam Government wants all stakeholders benefitting from research from Tocklai should be brought under the membership of TRA. The Vice Chairman requested that a list of defaulters need to be circulated to all members of the Council. Regarding Apeejay Tea, it was decided to go for a money suit and inform Assam Government to hold the transfer of estates. The Chairperson informed the visit of the Honble CM Assam to Tocklai on the 10<sup>th</sup> July.

##### b) **Financial Position**

The Secretary informed the financial position of the Association continues to be difficult. Tea Board of India have cleared their full dues of Rs 10.48 crores for 2022-23. Tea Board has released Rs 1.82 crores against Rs 2.62 crores for the first quarter of 2023-24.

The total liability of the Association is as under:

	(Rs. in Lacs)
Gratuity	377
Leave Encashment	601
Party Liability	150

## **5. Project on carbon footprint for the Indian tea industry :**

The Chairperson informed that a project to analyze the carbon footprint of the Indian tea industry has been approved by Hindustan Unilever Ltd through their CSR funding. The project time frame is for 18 months for an approximate cost of Rs 184 lacs. The objectives of the project is as under:

The scope of this research is to undertake Carbon Footprint Assessment for the tea sector and set a standard benchmark of carbon footprint by analyzing data collected from sample tea gardens using climate assessment tools as per internationally accepted norms.

Detailed objectives of the project are:

1. Comprehensive mapping of the life cycle stages of tea from 'Farm to Gate'
2. Selection of representative samples (from North East India and South India), to collect primary data from both big growers and small growers with factory.
3. Collection of comprehensive quantitative and qualitative primary data from the chosen sample estates
4. Quantification of Carbon Footprint and identification of hotspots for intervention.
5. Identification and presentation of relevant adaptation and mitigation/emission reduction strategies and financing approaches to implement the identified strategies.

Members discussed the same that all efforts should be made to show the major sequestration work done by the tea plants and the trees in the garden for the tea companies to take benefit of carbon credit in future. It was also decided to brief members on the status of the work and the methodologies used in the project so that industry is aware of the same. The Council approved the project. It was also decided to study the green credits program notification and comment on the same.

## **6. Proposal to set up a Net Zero Tea Committee ( NZTC )**

The Secretary informed the Council that TRA has submitted a proposal to set up a Net Zero Tea Committee under Tea Board drawing members from the industry and research organization. This will help implement carbon reduction from the learnings of the TRA Carbon Project for the industry. The Committee can also facilitate channelizing the green credits program of the Government of India. Mr Soundararajan informed that the Committee will be notified soon.

## **7. To apprise discussion on Tocklai issues with Govt. of Assam**

The Chairperson informed that the Government of Assam has been in touch to find ways to ease out the financial issues of the Association. The Director and the Secretary is in touch with the Government officials and they informed the Council on the way forward.

## **8. TRA BPCL tie up on MAK Adjol Tea :**

TRA and BPCL have tested the tea adjuvant which is being used along with pesticides in tea plantations. The efficacy has been found to be good. There will be a joint patent filed for the product. A soft launch of the product was done at Siliguri on the 14<sup>th</sup> June. BPCL will share royalty on the same through annual research grants to the Association based on the volume of sales. The

## **9. TRA Officer's PF Trust Fund:**

The Tea Research Association Provident Fund which was discontinued with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 with the concurrence of the Trustees is having a special deposit scheme for Rs 1,52,35,178/- with State Bank of India , N S Road Branch. Since most of the officers would be retiring within this financial year, the deposit needs to be withdrawn to pay the PF dues to the retiring persons with the declared interest. The Council resolved accordingly to close the special deposit scheme No. 69 by the Trustees.

## **10. Inauguration of Nagrakata Model Tea Factory :**

The work for the new MTF at Nagrakata has been completed. The Council finalized the date of 31<sup>st</sup> July or 1<sup>st</sup> August for the inauguration of the same.

## **11. Any Other Business:**

### **a) Date for the 59<sup>th</sup> AGM :**

The date for the 59<sup>th</sup> AGM has been proposed for the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

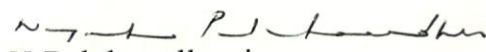
### **b) Appointment of Chemist and Chemist cum Analyst -TLabs**


Dr Sushovan Das, Chemist and Mr Pathik Khan, Analyst resigned from TRA TLabs, Kolkata w.e.f. 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023 respectively.

To fill the vacancies, an advertisement was made on Web site on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and subsequently the advertisement was published in The Telegraph on 11.06.23 & 18.06.2023 and an interview was held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Dr. Ananya Ghosh was selected **Chemist** and Mr Narayan Bhowmick as **Jr. Chemist cum Analyst** on Contractual basis. The Council approve of the same on Contractual basis.

c) The SMART roller needs to be sent to Tocklai. Mr Jha stated that he will send it to Siliguri and onward it will be coordinated by Dr Babu.

There being no other business the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

  
N Palchoudhuri  
Chairperson

  
J Phukan  
Secretary

31<sup>st</sup> July 2023