



भा. कृ. अ. प. - राष्ट्रीय कृषि आर्थिकी एवम नीति अनुसंधान संस्थान
ICAR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND
POLICY RESEARCH (NIAP)

Dated 16/10/2019

F.No. 4-13/2013/Fin(NIAP)/(ii)

To

The Director of Audit (Central Expenditure)
AGCR Building,
IP Estate,
New Delhi-110002

Subject: Submission of updated replies of outstanding audit para-reg.

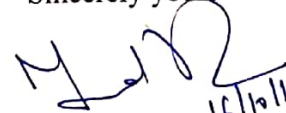
Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above 01 para of audit period 2005-10 and 10 paras of audit period 2010-2015 are still outstanding against this institute as per list enclosed. The Senior Authorities of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi has desired to settle all long pending CAG audit para as soon as possible. They have directed to all the institute of ICAR to do rigorous efforts to settle all audit paras.

In this context we are enclosing here updated replies of all outstanding audit paras along with supporting documents for your kind perusal and further necessary action for settlement of audit paras.

An early action in this matter is kindly requested.

Sincerely yours


(Mohammad Irfan)

Assistant Finance & Accounts Officer

Copy to:

Director (Finance), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi for kind information.


16/10/19

Summary of outstanding audit para
2005-2010

S. No.	Year of IR	Para No.	Brief of Para	Updated Reply
01	2005-2010 IR- 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100 118-19 & 22/6/10	02	Monitoring of Research Projects (ii) Inadequate monitoring of IRC	Compliance RPF-I, RPF-II and final report is available on record. Please see Annexure -1 Project was completed and all records are available. Please see Annexure -2. Journal article from the project is also available in project file. Project was completed. Progress report and final report is available. Please see Annexure -3 This project was later discontinued and the letter of discontinuation is attached as Annexure -4 Progress report and final report is available. Please see Annexure -5 Progress report and final report is available. Please see Annexure -6 This project proposal was presented by PI of the project in IRC meeting of the month of May 2008 before the commencement of the Project. IRC suggested, the refinement of the the topic by a smaller group and comparative advantage of data mining over general analysis. The refined project title and the progress were presented in the IRC of the month of November 2008. The revised RPF including suggestions was approved by the director. The final results and progress was presented in the Annual IRC for the year 2010-11 and 2011-12. (Annexure -'7' attached) RPF-I duly signed by the Director is available in the record mentioning the project time period of six months. The progress report RPF-II was submitted to PME Cell of the Centre with extended time period of 27 months which was signed by the Director. Initial work was limited to the country level but the extended work focussed on state level also. The project progress and part of the results were presented in the IRC of the month of December 2010. Elaborated presentation was well received and widely appreciated by the all. The chairman, IRC particularly complimented the efforts of the PI of the project. The completed project was discussed in annual IRC held on 28th and 30th May 2011. (Annexure '8' attached) The project was presented by Dr. Anjani Kumar and Dr. P. Shinoj entitled as "Trade Liberalization and Food Safety Measure: Implications for Indian Agriculture and the Way Forward" in IRC meeting of the month of February 2008. The forum suggested appropriate match between title and the objective of the study. Comprehensive reviews of important issues were conducted to address the specific objectives envisioned in the project. After that both of the team members were asked to under NIAP sponsored projects. In view of the engagement of both the project team members in other similar projects and the overlapping of some of the issues of the project with other on-going projects, the project was later discontinued with permission from the Director The letter of discontinuation is attached as Annexure -

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					‘4’ There might have been some lapses on the part of maintaining IRC proceedings due to shortage of staff and transfer of member secretary, IRC. The importance of Proceedings of IRC has been well recognised and PME Cell may suggest to member secretary, IRC to have well elaborated proceedings to reflect clearly the status of the project and incorporation of the suggestions. The institute has been awarded ISO compliance certificate 1900:2008 for quality project report in the year 2014. Now the project monitoring mechanism of the institute has been strengthened and follows the procedure as per ISO compliance.
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Summary of outstanding audit para
2010-2015

S. No.	Year of IR	Para No.	Brief of Para	Updated Reply
01	2010-2015 (AMG-4/IR/5-1/NIAP/2016-17/139 dated 27.04.2016)	01	Vacancy of members in the Institute Management Committee (IMC) of NCAP/NIAP resulting in non-conduct of required IMC meeting as per rules and Bye laws of ICAR	IMC meetings are now being held continuously 25 th IMC was held on 12.08.14 26 th IMC was held on 10.03.17 27 th IMC was held on 27.02.18 and 28 th IMC was held on 16.03.19 (Copy of proceeding is enclosed as Annexure)
02.	2010-2015 (AMG-4/IR/5-1/NIAP/2016-17/139 dated 27.04.2016)	02	Irregular Payment of Service Tax to M/s Vaibhav Enterprises of Rs.1.12 lakh.	There have been changes in Service Tax rules and the recent rules exempting housekeeping skipped from consideration. However, necessary action has been taken to recover the amount. The last bill of contractor amounting to Rs.96138/- and Security Deposit amounting to Rs.1,24,373/- are withheld by this office. A letter is written to the firm, requesting it to either submit service Tax deposition proof or refund the money to this Institute. Also further payment of service tax is stopped on housekeeping bills. Therefore, this para may be dropped. (Annexure)
03.	2010-2015 (AMG-4/IR/5-1/NIAP/2016-17/139 dated 27.04.2016)	03	Non settlement/adjustment of CPWD advance for the work "Internal Furnishing" in NCAP/NIAP building, Pusa, amounting to Rs.484100/-	The work of 'Internal Furnishing' in ICAR-NIAP was completed but there was delay on the part of CPWD to settle due amount. Against the advance of Rs.484100/-, CPWD submitted the adjustment vide their letter No. 58(2) काठई/निफो-4/2016-17/7371 dated 27/10/2016, the total expenditure incurred Rs.106787/- on the said work. The CPWD refunded Rs.345505.25 to this office in November, 2016 but balance amount of Rs.31807.75 is still lying pending with CPWD. In this regard, this office had written letter to CPWD vide letter No. 13-18(4)/12-13/NIAP-1072 dated

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04.	2010-2015 (AMG-4/IR/5-1/NIAP/2016-17/139 dated 27.04.2016)	04	NCAP/NIAP continues to pay tax on electricity as payment of tax was not in order resulting in avoidable expenditure of Rs.1.35 lakh	20-10-2016 and also reminder dated 16-3-2019 for refund of unspent amount of Rs.31807-75 to this office. Hence, it is requested that the para may be dropped. (Annexure) In this regard, this office immediately took action to exempt Electricity Tax from the bill of Tata Power. Also a letter No. 28(1)/09-NCAP dated 6-6-2016 followed by an email dated 24-6-2016 was written to M/s Tata Power DDL (TPDDL). However, M/s TPDDL, vide its letter No. TPDDL/G&I/2016-17/03 dated 7-7-2016, expressed its inability to allow any exemption from Electricity Tax and requested this office to seek exemption directly from NDMC since it is the competent body to allow any exemption from Electricity Tax. Therefore letters No. 28(1)/09-NCAP dated 11-7-2016, 18-1-2017 and 20-10-2017 were written to NDMC seeking exemptions from Electricity Tax. The Office also written letter No. 2-28(1)/17-18/NIAP dated 15-6-2017 to the Commissioner, North MCD, New Delhi request for removal of Electricity Tax. This office is yet to receive any concrete reply from NDMC. Hence, it is requested that the para may be dropped. (Annexure)
05.	2010-2015 (AMG-4/IR/5-1/NIAP/2016-17/139 dated 27.04.2016)	05	Non Observance of General Financial Rules in award of work portable hard disk	These were the small items and all the disks were accepted after due performance verification. However, point is noted for purchases to be made in future.
06.	2010-2015 (AMG-4/IR/5-1/NIAP/2016-17/139 dated 27.04.2016)	06	Undue benefit to the contractor M/s Vaibhav Enterprises engaged for housekeeping/sanitation services	As noted by the Audit team, the Institute has already examined the issue and the letter has already been issued to vendor to make ESIC and EPF documents available for verification. Similarly, he has been asked to comply with the payment of minimum wages and other dues to the

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			workers and produce the proof of the same to the Institute for verification. This office had previously written several letters to contractor vide letter Nos. 8-12(1)/14-15/NIAP/Vol III/637 dated 16-11-2015 18-1-016 27-10-2016, 16-10-2017, 22-7-2019 for non-compliance as also acknowledge by Audit. The matter is being followed up with the firm to comply with these requirements. As enquired from the bank, the security deposit i.e. Fixed Deposit Receipt with maturity value of Rs.124235.54 is still valid. Therefore, this is not the case of giving undue benefit to the vendor and lapse is from the side of vendor. Moreover, the last bill of contractor amounting to Rs.96138/- is also withheld. (Annexure)
07.	2010-2015 (AMG-4/IR/5-1/NIAP/2016-17/139 dated 27.04.2016)	07	Wrong classification of transaction awarding to Rs.2.30 lakh under the head Indian Economic Service training for induction level on core issues in Agricultural Sector.
08.	2010-2015 (AMG-4/IR/5-1/NIAP/2016-17/139 dated 27.04.2016)	08	Amount of Rs.42,28,878/- lying in Current Account of NCAP/NIAP as on 31 st March 2015 resulted in loss of interest Rs.2.69 lakh/1.69 lakh due to not keeping it is term deposits/saving accounts respectively.
			It is submitted that an amount of Rs.100,00,000/- deposited under short term deposit was encashed on 30.03.2015 excluding interest of Rs.87450/- to meet the expenditure during the month. Moreover, some of the said amount was accumulated because of receipts of funds under externally funded projects. Copy of the Cash Book is enclosed (Annexure-)

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09.	2010-2015 (AMG-4/IR/5-1/NIAP/2016-17/139 dated 27.04.2016)	09	Over payment of Service Tax amounting to Rs.106284/-	As per ICAR circular no.FIN/22/06/2010-CDN (A&A) dated 12.11.2015, ICAR being a non- profit entity, funded 100% by Government grant, do not fall under the definition of business entity registered as Body Corporate and thus instructions pertaining to reverse charges are not applicable o ICAR (Annexure-VI). Therefore para may be dropped.
10.	2010-2015 (AMG-4/IR/5-1/NIAP/2016-17/139 dated 27.04.2016)	10	Irregular payment of transport allowance amounting to Rs.3200/- to Ms. Umeeta Ahuja, PS	As per records Mrs. Umeeta Ahuja, PS, was on child Care Leave (CCL) during 21.08.2014 to 18.10.2014 (59 day) During the CCL period, transport allowance for the complete September, 2014 month @ 1600/-+DA admissible on TA which is worked out o Rs.3200/- is wrongly paid to her. But in the next month of October, 2014 the recovery of Rs.3312/- the excess transport allowance for the month of September 2014 is recovered (Annexure-). Therefore, para may be dropped.

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