

Minutes of the Technical Review Meeting of all the Centres of SLUSI on 25th September, 2017

A Technical Review Meeting of the Head of the Offices of SLUSI was held on **25th September, 2017** at HQ office of SLUSI under the chairmanship of Dr. V.S. Arya, Chief Soil Survey Officer, Soil and Land Use survey of India, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi to review the technical and administrative matters with special emphasis on reviewing the progress of achievements made in respect of Physical Targets and soil health card sampling allotted to different centres for the year 2017-18.

Dr. V.S. Arya, Chief Soil Survey Officer, after welcoming all heads of office, opened up the discussion on newly initiated work of soil sampling and analysis for **Validation of soil health card data**. In the first phase, the work taken up in seven states of country. He provided the guidance on systematic method for collection and nomenclature of soil samples collected by various centres. He also apprised the Heads of Offices (HOO) that apart from mentioning lat-long information of points with state, district and village name, other information of nearest land mark present nearby with killa no./khasra no./survey no. on samples. The name of farmer, cropping pattern also needs to be mentioned for each sample collected in field. While taking review of pendency of soil survey reports, he reminded all Heads of Offices regarding resolution of last meeting for complete elimination of pendency during this year.

In the review of achievements of field targets of survey & mapping, he emphasised that the organization has increased the target of field survey in DSS will help in increasing output in area coverage. He further added that targets of consultancy services further increase the output of organization in terms of physical target achievements. But he caution all HOO that officers /officials while accomplishing task must focus on the quality of map produced, as today all data generation activities are being done in digital environment, providing real time information to the users. He also shared his view that SLUSI being an apex organization in soil survey should provide accurate and precise data essentially required for various soil and land management program and also to improve the performances and delivery of output on time.

Regarding the accomplishing the task of validation of soil health card data as it is an opportunity for SLUSI to showcase database among the user state departments and fulfil the realistic need of farming communities. The work of soil sample collection will also not hamper the targets allotted to the centres as this work shall be accomplished during non field seasons. On the digitization of SLUSI, he apprised that every activity of organization is shifted in digital environment and with the arrival of new AFOs in organization will boost the transformation as they are of new techno-savvy generation.

The centre heads made their presentation of the achievements made so far in respect of physical targets allotted during the year 2017-18. The action plan for project on validation of soil health card data, soil laboratory investigation and cartography section year 2017-18 was also discussed in detail. The strategy for achieving soil survey targets, clearance of pending reports, development of seamless state-wise Micro-Watershed Atlas and short duration course/training programs for user departments were also discussed.

After an exhaustive discussion on technical and administrative issues, following action points were emerged in the meeting:

1. **It was decided to take up the work of Validation of Soil health card data in seven states of the country namely Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Jharkhand and West Bengal state in the first phase and also to complete the sampling of soils in these seven states in first phase by 10th October, 2017.** CSSO advised all centre heads to maintain strict vigil on the timely accomplishment of each task under the project as all activity of the project monitored by Ministry. Head of the Offices must ensure all the norms being followed strictly in term of quality of field work and all necessary precaution to be taken in accomplishing every task of project.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

2. To avoid wastage & extra use of time and also to increase efficiency, it was decided that before sending parties in field, the centre head must correlate data interpretation with details of previous field work and also with the old soil and other ancillary data. The head of office/A.S.S.O after thoroughly checking of onscreen pre-field interpretation work will decide the period of survey and number of field parties to be deployed and also fix the number or intensity of observation depending upon the physiographic units prevailing in the area. The centre heads should communicate in writing to head quarter that the work of pre-field interpretation has been thoroughly checked, number of physiographic units established and the mapping target before soil survey parties proceeds to field area.

In this regard, CSSO advised that the Head of the Offices must ensure all the norms being followed strictly in term of quality of field work, number of days of stay in the field, number of profiles studied etc.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

3. As agreed in last annual meeting to prepare seamless mosaic of digital micro-watershed atlas (MWA) of country. The **Bengaluru, Kolkata and Nagpur centre completed the mosaicing. Noida centre** achieved its target except Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and UP. It was decided that **Noida centre** shall complete the work of mosaicing of Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir and submit to HQ by December 2017. To complete QC work of MWS of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh and to prepare MWS atlas of Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan States, help of HQ office shall be extended. In this regard, ASSO, HQ will submit a detailed work plan for seamless mosaicing micro watershed of entire country to publish Watershed Atlas of India (WAI) on 1:50K scale and printing 1000 copies of revised atlas for sale.

(Action: HQ & Noida Centre)

4. As agreed in last annual meeting that centres shall submit 136 draft reports and **about 39 draft reports were received from various centres to headquarter during 2017-18.** As it has been agreed by all to **completely finish entire pendency of reports of survey work in the organization during 2017-18,** the action plan of all the Heads of the centers were reviewed for clearing pendency of soil survey reports. CSSO also suggested for internal cooperation amongst all centres by sharing work load of centres having higher/large size of pending reports and soil samples. In this regard, it was

agreed to transfer the 11 number drafts of SRM, pending at Ahmadabad centre to Nagpur and Bengaluru centres, with all related documents. The modality of handing over of data and relevant records will be work out between all three centres to completely wipe out the pendency of reports on priority basis. Also about one report of SRM pending at Hyderabad centre, CSSO directed SSO, Hyderabad to inquire about the data and maps either from field assistant, accompanied the field work or may solicit its information from ASC, Kolkata through SSO, Kolkata, in written.

(Action: HQ, Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Bengaluru, Hyderabad)

5. As decided in last annual meeting to organise one user's training at each centre to enhance the skilled technical man power and for updating the knowledge of officers working in various user departments. So far only one training was organised during **year 2017-18**. CSSO has asked all centres head to decide the venue and schedule of the training. It was also decided to communicate the schedule of training program well in advance. CSSO stated that the training work should be taken as opportunity to highlight the SLUSIs work in soil survey and land use planning.

(Action: HQ & All Centres)

6. As decided in last annual meeting that **every centre shall publish at least two papers in national/international journal** on the departmental activity so as to take up accomplishments of the organization on scientific platform and serve the country's scientific needs. So far only head quarter has published one scientific paper. CSSO has instructed all the centre heads to encourage newly recruited officers in this direction & guide them.

(Action: HQ & Centres)

7. As decided in last annual meeting, all centres should prepare their strategy to take new projects funded by user departments either for generation of database on soil & land uses or monitoring of state program on watershed. At present, only Noida, Nagpur and Bengaluru centre doing project in consultancy mode. CSSO instructed all centre heads to take up the matter earnestly and ask centre heads to make first move for contacting user dept. in the area under their jurisdiction.

(Action: All Centres)

8. In the review of the soil laboratory action plan submitted by centre's, it was noticed that all centres except Noida centre were in position to clear their pendency, whereas Noida centre is having pendency for excess of 500 samples for analysis. So it was decided to hand over 200 samples to Nagpur centre for soil analysis, in order to clear entire pendency work. **CSSO also advised the centre heads to set up the laboratory infrastructure to achieve the target of survey and for analysing the samples for validation of soil health card data.**

(Action: HQ & All Centres)

9. **As decided in last annual meeting that cartography staff of all the centres should be deployed for scanning & digitization of old DSS/RRS maps.** In the review of the action plan for digitization of reports and maps by cartographic section, it was noticed that the action plan submitted by the centres has not been matched as per records of Remote Sensing Cell, Noida. It has decided that the centres will complete the

digitization of old maps as per list submitted by Sr. System Analyst, RSC, Noida. In this regard, **Ahmedabad centre** will take up the digitization (Spatial & Non Spatial) for 69 old reports of DSS & 5 of RRS; **Bangalore centre** for 57 old reports of DSS & 16 of RRS; **Hyderabad centre** for 15 old reports of DSS & 01 of RRS; **Kolkata centre** for 122 old reports of DSS & 15 of RRS; **Nagpur centre** for 55 old reports of DSS & 14 of RRS; **Ranchi centre** for 30 old reports of DSS & 11 of RRS and **Noida centre** will take up the task of digitization (Spatial & Non Spatial) for 139 old reports of DSS & 5 of RRS after Punjab project. **CSSO also advised for improving the efficiency & work output of cartographic division.**

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

10. In the efforts to address the grievances of all officials serving in organization, all centre heads were agreed to conduct the meeting of grievance committee at every Centre and will communicate the details of meeting to head quarter on regular basis in the form of minutes of meeting.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

11. In move to improve the quality of reports as agreed in last annual meeting regarding purchase of camera for field parties. CSSO has expressed unhappiness on it, as none of the centre has sent photographs of landscape and profile examined during fields work. Further all centre heads agreed and decided that, this time every centre shall make available digital cameras to field parties and will send photos of landscape and profile studied during fields work to headquarter office. In this regard, CSSO has advised all centre heads to send the requirement of camera with present availability if any, to headquarter immediately. Similarly, on the issue of CCTV cameras, CSSO instructed the centre heads to send proposal for purchase of CCTV in their respective centre.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

12. It was noticed that tour order/program of field parties for carrying out field work were received at head quarter after parties left from field after completing allotted field work. and field work reported without intimation to headquarter this has been viewed seriously and all heads of offices were directed to send the tour order of each and every field work activity well in advance, so that field parties work can also be assessed during field season from headquarter which is essential for better monitoring of performance of field section.

(Action: HQ & Centres)

13. As agreed in last annual meeting not to permit any compensatory leave to officers (Group-B). All centre heads told that no leave has been sanctioned during this period. CSSO expressing happiness over the compliance by the centre and directed all centre heads to follow the rule scruples sly at every time.

(Action: HQ and all Centres)

14. In case of one vehicle had transferred from Delhi to Ranchi centre, long back having Delhi registration, CSSO directed the SSO, Ranchi to get register the vehicle at Ranchi Transport authority, as the term of first registration has already lapsed. SSO, HQ

intimated SSO, Ranchi that the vehicle may get seized if checked by transport authority.

(Action: HQ and Ranchi Centre)

15. With respect to the pending audit paras withstanding at centres, CSSO directed all heads of offices to take decision within frame work of financial rule in the same year to get it dropped and to ensure timely compliance of the paras raised in audit.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

16. With respect number of court cases pending and coming at various centres from the present or ex-staff/officials of the organization, CSSO has instructed the heads of offices to be more concerned with the legitimate rights and welfare of officials and try to sort out the matter through healthy discussion so as to provide healthy environment for work by the officials and officers as the part of one family.

(Action: HQ and all centres)

17. For efficient supervision during the field season to stop any untoward incident in the field, CSSO directed heads of offices to maintain strict vigil on the movement, leave of field officials and also advised to order the field official that “no leave will be granted to any official in the field except in case of emergency” that too after the recommendation of party leader received with proper justification and instructed the heads not to entertain any official on field duty directly or indirectly.

(Action: HQ & all Centres)

List of Participants

1. Dr. V.S Arya, Chief Soil Survey Officer
2. Dr. Munish Kumar Soil Survey Officer, HQ
3. Sh. R. L. Meena, Sr. Soil Survey Officer, Noida Centre
4. Sh. Ravindra Kulkarni, Soil Survey Officer, Nagpur Centre
5. Dr. S. Roychowdhury, Soil Survey Officer, Kolkata Centre
6. Sh. Mahesh Chand, Soil Survey Officer, Hyderabad Centre
7. Sh. Dinesh Patel, Soil Survey Officer, Ranchi Centre
8. Dr. S. P. Singh, Soil Survey Officer, Ahmedabad Centre
9. Sh. P.K. Laghate, Soil Survey Officer, Bengaluru centre
10. Dr. V. Ranga Rao, Senior System Analyst, Remote Sensing Cell, Noida
11. Sh. N.S. Gahlod, Assistant Soil Survey Officer, HQ