

Agreed Minutes of the Discussions
held during the visit of Dr. S. Venugopalachari,
Minister of State for Agriculture, Government of India
to Peru - October 7-10, 1997

At the invitation of His Excellency, Ing. Rodolfo Muñante Sanguinetti, Minister of Agriculture of the Government of Peru, His Excellency, Dr. S. Venugopalachari, Minister of State for Agriculture [MOS(Agri)], of the Government of India, paid an official visit to Peru from October 7-10, 1997. Dr. Venugopalachari was accompanied by Mr. N. Rama Rao, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and Ing. S.K. Joshi, PS to MOS(Agri). The Indian delegation was joined in Lima by Mrs. Nirupama Rao, the Ambassador of India to Peru.

2. During his stay in Peru, MOS(Agri) and his delegation held detailed discussions with the Minister of Agriculture of Peru. These discussions focussed on the various possibilities for bilateral cooperation in agriculture between India and Peru. Concrete subjects for such cooperation were identified.

3. On October 7, 1997 MoS (Agri) met with the President of Peru, His Excellency, Ing. Alberto Fujimori. The President referred to his successful visit to India in May 1997 and expressed his satisfaction at the fact that a high-level ministerial delegation from India was visiting Peru with the important mission of promoting agricultural cooperation. He emphasised that the development of the agricultural sector was of crucial importance to his country and praised the impressive development achieved by India in this sector.

4. MOS(Agri) accompanied by the Ambassador of India and members of the delegation were invited to accompany the President of Peru to Chiclayo, Lambayeque, Piura and Tumbes on the northern Peruvian coast to visit various agricultural projects and also special relief works being undertaken by the Peruvian government to counteract the adverse effects of the *El Niño* weather phenomenon affecting the country. These field visits were extremely useful, as they offered a first hand view of agriculture on the arid coast of Peru and enabled the Indian delegation to form a detailed assessment of the areas in which cooperation from India could be identified and implemented. MOS(Agri) expressed his sincere thanks to His Excellency the President of Peru for his interest and involvement in the visit of his delegation and stressed that this factor was an extremely positive indication of the growing dialogue, understanding and cooperation

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between India and Peru. He also underlined the sincere interest and commitment of the Government of India to the strengthening of bilateral cooperation and constructive dialogue with Peru.

5. MOS (Agri) and his delegation, accompanied by the Peruvian Minister of Agriculture, also made field visits to various agricultural sites in the department (State) of San Martin, located in the Peruvian forest areas (*selva*). They visited an experimental rice research station, a dairy farming area, where they met with local producers, and a nursery for the growing of 'palmito' (palm heart). On the 9th October, the delegation flew to Cusco in the Peruvian highlands (*sierra*) where they visited the experimental station for Andean crops.

6. On the 10th October, the Indian delegation visited the International Potato Centre, the National Agrarian University at La Molina and the National Institute for Agricultural Research. They also met with the Agricultural Commission of the Peruvian Parliament which is chaired by Ing. Carlos Blanco Oropeza.

POINTS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION

7. Based on the field visits made by the Indian delegation and the discussions held with the Peruvian Minister of Agriculture, it was decided that:

7.1 The Memorandum of Agreement signed during the visit of President Fujimori to India, between the National Agricultural Research Institute (INIA) of Lima and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi should be implemented actively. It was conveyed to the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture that the Indian component of the Joint Follow Up Committee to be set up under Article VI of the said Agreement had already been constituted. The Peruvian side agreed that formalities for the constitution of the Peruvian component of the Joint Follow Up Committee would be completed very shortly.

7.2 It was agreed that the first meeting of the Joint Follow Up Committee would take place in New Delhi in the first quarter of 1998 as per mutually convenient dates.

7.3 It was also agreed to identify specific areas for cooperation in a plan of action that

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would cover two distinct phases:

- 7.3.1 Short term programme to be implemented in a time frame of 6 to 12 months;
- 7.3.2 Long term programme for capacity building to be implemented in a period of 5 years.

Short term programme

- 7.4 The following areas were identified for the short term programme for cooperation:
 - 7.4.1 Course in training methodology for Peruvian trainers.
 - 7.4.2 Keeping in view broad mitigation strategies for *El Niño*;
 - Exchange of scientists and technologists in the areas of agriculture, dairy development, watershed management and extension methodologies;
 - 7.4.3 Deputation of a team of experts to explore possibilities of forming cooperative societies for dairy development in Peru on the pattern of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) of India.

In addition, the following areas were also identified on the request of the Government of Peru

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- 7.4.4 Exchange of information and experts in controlling forest fires;
 - 7.4.5 Possibilities of exporting measles vaccine from India to Peru.

Long term programme

- 7.5 The areas identified for long term cooperation in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry and dairy development are as follows:
 - 7.5.1 On the basis of the plan of action to be formulated as result of visits under the short term programme, sustained exchange of scientists and technologists in the areas of agriculture, dairy development, watershed

management and extension methodologies between the two countries.

7.5.2 Developing and implementing a comprehensive programme for dairy development including highland pastures, artificial insemination, milk producers, cooperatives and enhancing quality and shelf life of milk products.

7.5.3 A delegation of experts from India to Peru to assess and chalk out a plan for the development of agricultural research and education and man-power development.

7.5.4 **EXCHANGE OF SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS**

- Course in Gender implications in Farming System Approach in agriculture for Women Scientists of Peru at NRCWA, Bhubaneshwar.

- Collaborative research programme in Technology Assessment, Refinement and Dissemination under irrigated farming system.

- Exchange of Extension Scientists for studying extension system of both the countries.

- Study visits of Indian scientists to Peru and vice-versa with special reference to sugarcane, rice, wheat and cotton breeding and post management programme.

- Proposal for allocation of seats for Peruvian scientists in Indian National Institutions and Universities.

7.5.5 **EXCHANGE OF GERMPLASM AND BREEDING MATERIAL**

- Exchange of germplasm of sugarcane, rice, maize, wheat, chenopodium, quinoa, amaranthus and cotton;

7.5.6 **EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE, INFORMATION AND METHODOLOGY**

- Exchange of scientific literature etc. pertaining to wheat, sugarcane, rice, maize and cotton.

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- Improved technological processes for extending shelf life of dairy products.
- Processing and preservation of meat employing cutting edge technologies for production of value-added meat products of high quality.
- Quality control and assurance of milk, meat and their products.
- Prevention and control of diseases of large and small ruminants.
- Studies to develop parasitic immunity in plants and animals.
- Livestock feeding system of ruminants, pigs and poultry.
- Feed resources of crop residues in coastal and hilly agriculture.

7.5.7 EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT AS AVAILABLE AND REQUIRED IN PROGRAMMES OF COMMON INTEREST

Both sides agreed to work out further details in this regard as may be mutually agreed upon.

8. MOS(Agri) thanked the Minister of Agriculture of Peru for the warm hospitality extended to him and the members of his delegation, and the excellent arrangements made for his visit. The two sides expressed satisfaction over progress made during MOS(Agri)'s visit to Peru and resolved that the areas of cooperation identified during the discussions would be actively implemented. MOS(Agri) extended an invitation to Minister of Agriculture of Peru to visit India. The invitation has been accepted and the modalities of the visit will be finalised through diplomatic channels.


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