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To
All the University Officers
All the Heads of Res. Stations /KVKs
All the Heads of Departments

Sir,

Sub: Technologies for Adoption and Commercialization – Preparation of proper documents - reg.

Ref: Note file dated 1.7.2015 approved by the Vice-Chancellor on 3.7.2015.

The scientists of TNAU are evolving and evaluating various crop production technologies through their research projects and those technologies that are evolved and evaluated are taken directly to the farmers' holding for adoption through various extension agencies. Among these technologies, based on the nature and worthiness for commercialization, some of the technologies are commercialized either directly by TNAU through the Directorate of Agri-Business Development or by other means. In most of the occasions, the technologies that are generated by the scientists have not been validated either at different research stations or at farmer's holding on a larger scale. This is where the scientists faced a tougher time when Agricultural Production Commissioner had recently requested to identify the technologies that are implementable in a larger scale with phenomenal impact. Albeit scientists are knowledgeable in developing the technologies, ascertaining its effect on a larger scale in a sustained basis is lacking which makes the developed technologies sometimes futile.

Already several communications have been sent to all the Technical Directorates to submit a detailed report on the validated technologies (the technologies presented during Research Council, Crop Scientists' Meet and Scientific Workers' Conference) other than the technologies already available in the Crop Production Manual. Of late, scientists are taking these technologies directly to the farmers' field or for commercialization without proper validation, registration / protection / patenting as the case may be and documentation. Moreover, technologies are either introduced (like Crop boosters *viz.* pulse wonder, groundnut rich, maize maxim, sugarcane booster, coconut tonic and cotton plus, Alternate Wetting Drying in rice *etc.*) or optimized and introduced (SRI, SSI *etc.*) from different sources or evolved at TNAU. Besides, for a single technology, funding is sourced from different agencies (DBT and NRTT funding for Azolla promotion;

Biofuel promotion through ICAR and NOVOD supported projects; IAMWARM and NRTT funding for SSI *etc.*).

If the technologies are from other sources, the concurrence of utilizing the technology as a base for evolving an improved technology has to be obtained. For example, a discussion meeting held recently at the Directorate of ABD for commercializing the hexanal based formulation for improving the shelf life of mangoes through venture capital scheme made the scientists of TNAU to get the concurrence from the source of sponsors and the sponsors of the project and product making them to sign an agreement to share the 50% of the revenue to the sponsoring institute. Though the hexanal formulation increases the shelf life of mango fruits, the method of production of solution at TNAU, quality aspects and its maintenance, concentration of various products available in the mix made, feasibility of retaining the same concentration of chemicals in the mix being prepared subsequently, laboratory / field studies on treated mangoes on its changes if any in the texture, flavor, taste, firmness *etc.* because of hexanal treatment after the storage period are not documented properly before going for commercialization of the product.

It is well known that the technologies that are either going for commercialization or patenting or registration *etc.* are the outcome of the research projects either sponsored by TNAU or an external funding agency. Unless the conditions stipulated while entering into MoU / MoA / LoA or as the case may be with the sponsoring agency on sharing of IP are satisfied, the probability of getting objections in future will be on the rise. This necessitates the proper understanding of conditions stipulated by the external funding agency, technologies thus developed with their support, its validation on a larger scale, feasibility of its commercialization on an exclusive or non-exclusive basis *etc.* Moreover, TNAU being a not for profit organization has to think twice before commercializing any technology that would benefit the farmers on a larger perspective.

This needs proper documentation of the technology from the scratch indicating the persons involved in each stage of idea conception, evolution and evaluation, constraints faced and cleared and registration / patenting / publication before it is taken to the stage of commercialization. Once this base documentation is made available by the proposer of the technology, University can decide whether the technology is ready for adoption by the farmers either at free of cost or through commercialization mode so that spurious technologies will not be promoted. The proposals related to patenting / publication / registration and commercialization are to be submitted to the Directorate of Research similar to variety release proposal being submitted to the University Variety Management Technology Release Screening Committee (UVMTRSC). Based on the final decision arrived at the Directorate of Research with identified members, the technologies will be made available for adoption/commercialization.

In this connection, a detailed proforma to accompany the technologies developed will be circulated which has to accompany the proposal submitted for consideration by the University.

Sd/- DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH i/c