



भाकृअनुप - केन्द्रीय रोपण फसल अनुसंधान संस्थान
कासरगोड़, केरल - 671 124 भारत
ICAR - Central Plantation Crops Research Institute
Kasaragod - 671 124, Kerala, India
(An ISO 9001:2008 Certified Institution)



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Date: 15.11.2017

REGISTERED

Shri K.V. Prakasan
Reporter Latest Daily
Maniyattu P.O.
Kasaragod - 671 310

Sub: Right to Information Act, 2005 - Information furnishing of -reg.
Ref: Your RTI application dated 10.10.2017

Sir,

The information sought vide your RTI application cited above have been collected from the concerned section and forwarded along with 11 pages of supporting documents.

This disposes off your request under the provisions of Right to Information Act-2005. In case you desire to file an appeal on this issue the same may be addressed to the Director, CPCRI, P.O. Kudlu, Kasaragod - 671 124, Kerala.

Receipt of the letter may please be acknowledged.

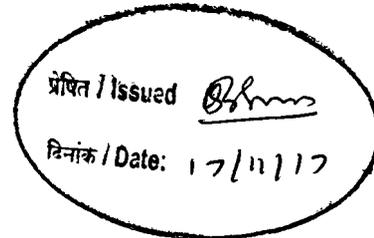
Yours faithfully,

(JOHN GEORGE)

Chief Technical Officer &
Public Information Officer I/c

Encl : As above (11 pages)

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Reply to the RTI Query by Mr. K.V. Prakashan, Reporter, 'Latest Daily', Kasaragod

1. ICAR-CPCRI (Central Plantation Crops Research Institute) has conceptualized the project based on problems associated with coconut cultivation and a series of wide ranging consultations, drawn up the detailed technical programme, identified and ensured the partnership of collaborator and monitored the progress in data generation, analysis and interpretation of results. Dr. P.Chowdappa, Director, Dr.M.K. Rajesh and Dr. Anitha Karun, Principal Scientist's from ICAR-CPCRI, are the main scientists involved in this project. Further scientific details (apart from what is available in the public domain) cannot be divulged, at present, in view of the IPR/patent regulations. Once the genome sequence become available, a team of biotechnologists, breeders and statisticians will be involved in validation of analyzed genome sequence data.
2. ICAR-National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology (ICAR-NRCPB), New Delhi is under the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, Department of Agriculture Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
3. Being a sister organization under Indian Council of Agricultural research (ICAR), participation and collaboration of ICAR-NRCPB in genome sequence analysis and interpretation of sequence data was sought considering their expertise in this field, and the same was agreed to by the ICAR-NRCPB (Annexures I and II). Subsequently, two group meetings with the approval/chaired by the Deputy Director General (Horticulture Science), ICAR, were also conducted at ICAR-NRCPB, New Delhi, involving researchers from ICAR-CPCRI and ICAR-NRCPB, to chalk out the work plan and monitor the progress of the research work. The details discussed in the group meetings have to be kept confidential as it involves IPR issues.
4. The research work is still ongoing. Once the envisaged work is completed and all information is generated, collated and analyzed, research paper(s) will be prepared and published in appropriate journal(s) after following all institutional procedures, including presentation in the study circle. The entire information would be kept highly confidential till it is published. Director, ICAR-CPCRI is empowered to issue press releases on technological information for the benefit of stakeholders and farmers for increasing productivity and production. ICAR-CPCRI has conducted many institute-media interface programmes earlier for disseminating technologies for stakeholders.
5. Strategic research planning is a long drawn out process. In fact, planning for this research programme on coconut genome sequencing commenced in the year 2015. Genomics of coconut was identified as one of the focused research thrust area under Horticulture Science Division of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi (Annexure III). The XVIII Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meetings recommended undertaking whole genome sequencing of coconut as a priority area of research, which was subsequently approved by ICAR (Annexure IV). The institute is accountable for RAC recommendations which need to be implemented. Subsequently, detailed work plan was proposed and approved in the Institute Research Council (IRC) (Annexure V). The need for undertaking coconut genome sequencing has also been highlighted in the Vision 2050 document of the Institute (Annexure VI).
6. As indicated in the reply to query no. 4, the research work is still ongoing. Once the envisaged work is completed and all information is generated, collated and analyzed, research paper(s) will be prepared and published in appropriate journal(s).
7. Dr. P. Chowdappa, Director, ICAR-CPCRI is the leader of this collaborative research programme, right from the conceptual stage. As the Director and leader of the programme, his role is mainly to mentor, coordinate the activities of research personnel from different agencies, monitor the progress with periodical review, and enlisting expert advice from experts from within and outside the ICAR system.



Dr. P. Chowdappa is overall in charge of the institute and has to manage all the activities of the institute including setting research priorities, its management, guiding scientists, coordination with all stakeholders, administrative and financial management and transferring technologies to the stakeholders and dissemination of technologies through debates, seminars, 'Kisan Melas, developmental agencies and through print and electronic media. To perform his duties as the director of ICAR-CPCRI, he has to undertake official tours all over India. During his official tours, he also monitors and coordinates all urgent programmes including research using digital platforms. As such, the question of his absence from the office/institute, on account of official/personal exigencies, does not affect progress of any programme of the institute including genome sequencing.

8. Coconut genome sequencing could provide a lot of benefits and it would be useful in identifying traits for yield, quality, biotic and abiotic stress resistances and would be utilized in future molecular breeding programmes to reduce the inputs cost of coconut farming and increasing income of farmer's. The computation of possible economic benefits would be undertaken at a later stage after completion and successful implementation of the project.

9. The work is being undertaken in three phases. The total anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 46,74,000/- (Rs.8,89,200/- for Phase I, Rs.29,07,000/- for Phase II and Rs.8,77,800/- for Phase III). The above budget is being met from the research contingencies/components of the Institute.

10. Please see reply under query No. 5

11. It was a collaborative research. Please see reply/documents provided under query No. 3.

12. As the project is still ongoing, the final report will be submitted in due course after following all prescribed modalities in this regard. The finer details involving IPR and patent issues would be kept as most confidential in the larger interest of the nation.

CRP/12/13