K·STATE

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From: Bh. Subramanyam and Sajid Alavi, Grain Science

To: S. Raghu Vardhan Reddy, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor, Acharya NG Ranga University
       Bhaskar Reddy, Ph.D., Director, International Programs, Acharya NG Ranga University

Cc: Richard Hahn, Ph.D., Head, Grain Science, K.S.U.
       Raj Kapoor, Assocom-India
       Barry Michie, Ph.D., International Programs, K.S.U.

Re: KSU and ANGRAU Follow up to MOU Signed in April 2006

Subi during his November 15-23 visit met the Vice Chancellor, Dr. S. Raghuvardhan Reddy on two occasions and visited the Campus to discuss how we can follow through with the faculty and/or student exchange.

A. The VC wanted more concrete plans on areas of mutual interest. This can be accomplished only if Sajid or I spend a few days on Campus drafting specific items of action. These can be based on AKI initiatives, but need not be directly related to AKI. The VC has other resources for such capacity building activities.

B. Sajid will be visiting ANGRAU on March 20, 2007 and will have a dinner meeting with the VC, along with Dr Barry Michie (KSU), Wenger Manufacturign representative, Yes Bank, ICAR rep (Dr Nawab Ali), and Subu Kota (the Boston Group of Companies) to discuss the following:

    1) Establishing a pilot scale extrusion center for industrial training, research and development, commercialization, general education and distance learning. This center of excellence will be modeled after the KSU Extrusion Center and will be funded by a public-private initiative involving interested financial institutions, state and national government, and universities.   Specific plans on the infrastructure and support needed for this center will be developed following discussions during Sajid's March visit. Follow up discussions can be held when Subi visits India in May-June, 2007.

2) Establishing a Center for Grain and Food Safety and Preservation, which will focus primarily on food grains from the farm to the table continuum, with an emphasis on preservation of quality, sanitation, management of pests and ensuring safety of the food supply. The center will conduct training of grain and food industry partners, through collaboration with experts within and outside India, conduct collaborative research work onsite and with universities, develop educational materials for the public, distance learning, etc., consulting, and with the help of domestic or international partners develop manufacturing capabilities to produce high quality chemicals or alternatives for management of public health pests. Involved in evaluating effectiveness of products for the industry. Help food industries comply with domestic food laws, by developing customized sanitation or HACCP programs, and by conducting mock inspections of food plants. Also provide training to food inspectors.
3) Explore opportunities for collaborative research with Indian partners, develop core curriculum at universities specific to our expertise (starting with Sajid and Subi's areas of expertise).

C. The VC also made it clear that he plans to send mid-level scientists within ANGRAU for higher studies as they are already vested within the University system and will have incentive to return to ANGRAU. The funding and support will come from ANGRAU.

D. There are Cochran and Borlaug fellowships that Indian scientists can apply. ANGRAU faculty should be applying for these to come to KSU for special research and curriculum-based training. Contact Raj Kapoor for details on when to apply.

E. There are two RFPs will be released through USDA-Foreign Ag Service in a few months that deal with extrusion processing and food safety for Indian partners tro work with US universities. K-State would like to work with ANGRAU on these projects and would like to initiate discussions soon.

F. Subi will be visiting India May 25-end of June to finalize some of the items mentioned above and to follow through with action plans.