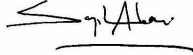




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March 26, 2007

From: Sajid Alavi, Ph.D., Grain Science, KSU 

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: Barry Michie, Ph.D., International Programs, KSU
Richard Hahn, Ph.D., Head, Grain Science, KSU
Bhadriraju Subramanyam, Ph.D., Professor, Grain Science, KSU
Raj Kapoor, Assocom-India

Re: March 2007 meetings with ANGRAU officials as follow up to April 2006 MoU

To discuss follow-up action on the April 2006 KSU-ANGRAU MoU and the various opportunities for collaboration that have arisen since then, Sajid Alavi and Barry Michie met with ANGRAU Vice Chancellor Dr. S. Raghu Vardhan Reddy and Director of International Programs Dr. Bhaskar Reddy on two separate occasions on March 20, 2007. The first meeting was at the ANGRAU campus in Rajendra Nagar, while the second meeting was in Hotel Taj Deccan in Hyderabad. The meeting at the ANGRAU campus also involved Dr. P. Raghava Reddy (Director of Research), Dr. Pochaiiah Maraty (Dean, Post-Graduate Programs), Dr. P. Rajyalakshmi (Dean, College of Home Science), Dr. G.V. Subbaratnam (Head, Entomology), Dr. N. Lakshmi Devi (Assoc. Professor, Foods & Nutrition) and Dr. S. Shobha (Assoc. Professor, Foods & Nutrition).

Following is a summary of these meetings.

- A. The VC and Director of International Programs both conveyed a sense of urgency for taking concrete actions to foster collaborative research between KSU and ANGRAU. It was mentioned that ANGRAU had already forged ahead on strong research links with other more pro-active U.S. universities including Florida and Tuskegee. This included approved funding through Agriculture Knowledge Initiative (AKI) programs in the areas of water management and capacity development. There was a strong need to create similar collaborative linkages with KSU.
- B. The VC mentioned his plans to visit the U.S. in late April to early May along with a high-level ministerial delegation for touring Tuskegee, Cornell and Florida and attending a meeting in St. Louis, MO. He mentioned the possibility of a short visit to KSU in between. Sajid told the VC that all arrangements will be made by KSU for his visit, in consultation with Drs. Subramanyam and Michie, including a formal invitation letter and meetings with university officials and faculty.

- C. Sajid shared with the VC and Director of International Program the plans for a pilot-scale extrusion center in India, which will be used for training personnel from academia and industry, collaborative research, and development and manufacturing of nutritious food products. Plans for a food safety and preservation center were also shared by Sajid. The VC and Director were very supportive of these ideas. So was the Dean Home Science Dr. Rajyalakshmi. The VC offered use of ANGRAU land in Hyderabad or elsewhere for the purpose of the extrusion center.
- D. The applications of two ANGRAU nominees for the Cochran and Borlaug scholarships were discussed. These two nominees are Drs. N. Lakshmi Devi and S. Shobha from the the Department of Foods & Nutrition of the College of Home Science. Their respective applications have been forwarded to the USDA by Mr. Raj Kapoor and are currently under review. Mr. Kapoor will keep the applicants apprised of the status of their applications. If approved, both Drs. Lakshmi Devi and Shobha will attend the extrusion processing short course in Manhattan, KS in August 2007, followed by one or more weeks of collaborative research in the extrusion lab at KSU.
- E. Topics of mutual interest were discussed for collaborative research in the area of food processing and stored product entomology. Use of tubers, tomatoes and other perishables in processed food using extrusion was discussed by Dean Dr. Rajyalakshmi and other professors from Foods & Nutrition as an important area for joint research. Professor Subbaratnam (Head, Entomology) stressed on the importance of research on stored product entomology topics relevant to local conditions such as integrated pest management, pre-storage processing for pest management, modified atmosphere storage, heat treatment and design of storage structures.

Sajid mentioned that research work in these areas can be started as soon as ANGRAU faculty get approval for Cochran/ Borlaug fellowships and travel to KSU on the associated funding. Other opportunities for funding include the AKI request for proposals in the area of extrusion processing and food safety that are going to be released soon. The VC mentioned that he has allocated funds to the International Programs office to support such research and exchange visits outside the ambit of the Cochran/ Borlaug fellowships and AKI. Such funds will be available for interested ANGRAU faculty soon.

- F. The Dean Post-Graduate Studies Dr. Pochaiiah Maraty and Dr. Barry Michie discussed twinning degree programs and student exchanges. Third party funding for students visiting KSU was stressed by Barry and he also described the Henan University model for student exchange. Dr. Bhaskar Reddy stressed on the need for in-service training of ANGRAU faculty. He, Dr. Rajyalakshmi and Dr. Subbaratanam also mentioned tat training of students sponsored by industry was also a priority for ANGRAU. Sajid mentioned that the annual short courses by KSU in India in extrusion and pest management, and the proposed extrusion center would be able to achieve just that. Dr. Rajyalakshmi suggested that the industry and general public be made aware of such training opportunities with KSU and ANGRAU.

It was agreed by all parties that follow-up action be carried out on each of the above items. Dr. Subramanyam will be visiting India May 25-end of June and will use that opportunity to give further impetus to the KSU-ANGRAU partnership and help bring some of the above items to fruition. The VC's proposed visit to KSU in late April or early May will also be a high priority.