# Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute



Annual Report 2015

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## **Chairperson's Statement**

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) over the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015 in accordance with the provision of Section 7 (1) and (2) of the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act 10/2017.

Hemraj Woodun

Chairperson

### Chief Executive Officer's Statement

The report covers the activities of the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) for the period January 2015 to 31 December 2015. The activities of the institute were aligned with the government programme and the new agricultural agenda which focusses on boosting production of strategic crops and promote natural farming and organic production among others.

In an endeavour to address the new challenges, FAREI was actively involved in the preparation of policy paper and strategic plan for the crop and livestock sector in addition to implementation of its current activities aiming at enhancing food security through increasing production of strategic crops and use of novel technologies to increase productivity and quality. Novel varieties were developed through breeding programmes and biotechnology to address climate change.

Small farmers were accompanied to modernise their production practices, upgrade their skills and professionalise their activities.

Emphasis was also laid on food safety especially with respect to pesticide use through sensitization campaign and monitoring exercise at field level.

Seelavarn Ganeshan
Chief Executive Officer

# Section 1: Vision, Mission and Objectives.....

#### **VISION**

To help steer and promote the sustainable development of the National Agrifood System through the efficient and effective application of Research, Development and Training (RDT)

#### **MISSION**

To support and implement priority RDT programmes and projects and appropriate technologies for food security and to enhance competitiveness, sustainability and stakeholder equity across the agri-food value chains

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- a. Introduce, develop and promote such technologies in the food and nonsugar agricultural sector within a sustainable framework;
- b. Co-ordinate, promote, and harmonise research activities in the non-sugar agricultural, food production and forestry sectors;
- c. Promote and encourage agricultural and agri-business development through the setting up of agricultural youth clubs and agricultural women and agricultural entrepreneur clubs; and
- d. Promote dissemination and practical application of the results.

#### **STRATEGY**

The Institute's approach is to implement strategic and adaptive research in a participatory framework with stakeholders in response to national requirements to improve farm productivity and income. Integrating ICT potential, the FAREI also seeks to ensure that there is a rapid transfer of innovative practices developed into relevant production systems for the benefit of growers, consumers and the environment.

#### **SERVICES PROVIDED**

- Evaluation of agricultural inputs
- Training of farmers in production practices and agro processing
- Advisory service
- Pest and disease diagnostics
- SMS disease alert
- Seed treatment facility (Hot water treatment)
- Interface between the farming community and service providers
- Information dissemination
- Facilitating access to incentive schemes and inputs and animals
- Agro-Processing Resource Center for product development
- Agricultural Production and Information System (APMIS)

#### LINKAGES

The FAREI works closely with both public and private sector organisations as well as international research and development institutions for the common goal of optimising its strategic role. Linkages and participatory collaboration with stakeholders and farmer associations in the elaboration of our research and development agenda are also of high priority.

# Section 2: Organisational Structure

#### **ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The FAREI came into operation on 14 February 2014 by virtue of section 24 of the FAREI Act 2013, further to the repeal of the Food and Agricultural Research Council Act 1985. It operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security (MAIFS).

The FAREI arose out of the merger of the Food and Agricultural Research Council (FARC) and the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU). It has been established with a view to improving the cost-effectiveness, quality of services and optimal use of human resources in both organisations.

The FAREI is administered by a Board and is managed by a Chief Executive Officer who is also the Accounting Officer and is responsible for the control and management of the day- to - day business. Its management team comprises three Assistant Directors.

The FAREI's research and development programme is conducted by the following departments:

#### • Crop Research Department

Agronomy, Vegetable and Ornamental, Fruit Research, Resource Management, Plant Pathology and Entomology Divisions

#### Livestock Department

Animal Production and Animal Health Divisions

#### Extension and Training Department

Crop, Livestock and Information and Training Divisions

#### **Crop Research**

- Agronomy and Crop Production
  - Research aims at the establishment of sustainable production systems and the development of improved cropping technologies. The research programme focuses on the development of novel varieties through breeding and biotechnology, optimal resource management and value addition through agro-processing.
- Plant Protection (Plant Pathology and Entomology)
   The objective of the programme is to develop and implement integrated pest and disease management systems in food crop production so as to minimise the use of pesticides and ensure safe food.

#### **Livestock Research**

Our Research thrusts aim to respond to famers' needs in raising the production and productivity of livestock enterprises by developing improved management practices and techniques, feeding packages using locally available feed resources, the introduction of improved breeds and genetic improvement, the conservation and utilisation of animal genetic resources.

#### **Extension and Training**

The Extension and Training Department aims at increasing farmers' knowledge and the skill to improve their productivity and income. This is effected by timely cost-effective technology transfer of innovative practices through a client focus and participatory approach. The Department has a comprehensive network of sub offices, model farms and the Farmer Training School to meet the objectives.

With the growing challenges in agriculture, the thrust is towards professionalising farm activities; promoting value addition activities and agribusiness development.

#### **Support Services**

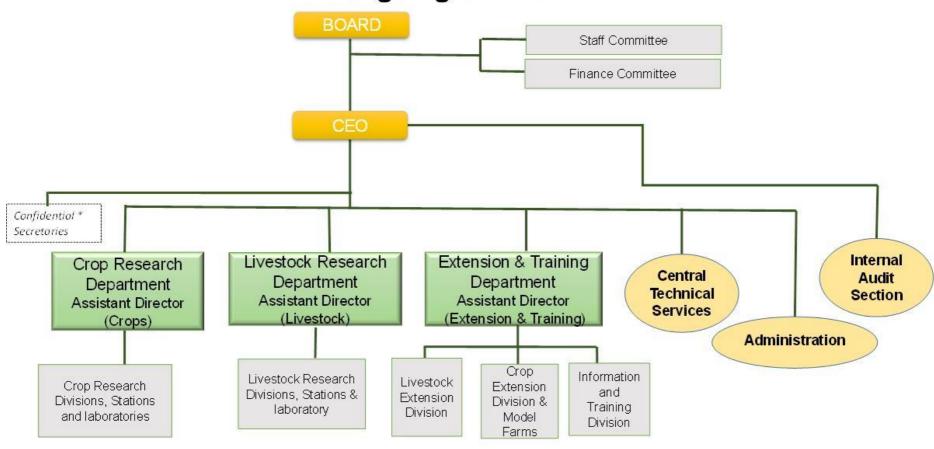
The Biometry and Engineering Divisions; the Economic, Business Development and IT units are cross-cutting entities and work with the various sections to ensure that FAREI's research is problem-oriented and quality-controlled, to develop appropriate technologies in - farm mechanisation, irrigation, protected cultures and agro-processing and to support the provision of agricultural information.

The administration section assists management to achieve government goals and support research and development activities so as to ensure effective management of overall activities and ensure good Corporate Governance.

The main office of business of the FAREI is at Réduit. However, research and development activities as well as services to the agricultural community also take place at the following facilities: Wooton Crop Research Station, Réduit Crop Research Station, Richelieu Crop Research Station, Curepipe Livestock Research Station, Mapou Model Farm, Flacq Model Farm, Plaisance Demonstration Centre, Rivière des Anguilles Demonstration Centre, Pamplemousses Organic Research Station and Belle Mare Centre.

#### **ORGANIGRAM**

## Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Insititute Organigramme



. Confidential Secretaries report to the Chief Executive Officer and Assistant Directors

### Section 3: Technical Highlights

#### Crop Research and Development

#### Introduction

In 2015, Research and Development activities were pursued on the introduction and evaluation of new germplasm and agricultural inputs, development of new crop varieties, improvement in crop productivity and quality and crop protection.

#### **New Germplasm**

Two hundred and forty-nine varieties of vegetable crops were introduced and 142 promising ones from previous trials were evaluated on-station and on-farm in 2015.

Two onion varieties, four pole lima bean varieties and one snap bean variety were release for cultivation in open field.

#### New promising crop varieties retained for further evaluation in 2016

Potato variety Safari gave the highest score in terms of its crispiness, acceptable fry colour and low degree of oiliness and was therefore retained for further trials. Seven local accessions of garlic were identified as promising in terms of yield and bulb quality. Eight local cassava accessions giving higher yields and two IITA cassava varieties with higher yields, drought resistance and relatively rich in  $\beta$ -carotene were retained. Three dry bean varieties with higher yields will be further evaluated. Ten Colocasia germplasm, introduced from Fiji have been multiplied in-vitro. Hardened plants have been transferred on research stations for multiplication purposes.

#### **Breeding**

#### Onion

One kg of F6 seeds were produced and are stored for production of bulbs in 2016. One white onion line, suitable for the agro-processing industry, has been selected and 300 g of seeds were produced in 2015 for sets production in 2016. One Brazilian onion variety is being improved through selection and 175 g of seeds were produced for on-farm evaluation in 2016.

#### Potato

Berry set from most crosses did not take place in the 116 crosses most probably due to non-viable pollen grains and non- fertile flowers. True potato seeds (TPS) were obtained from crosses with variety Safari only. In 2016, the TPS will be sown to produce the first-generation tubers.

TPS obtained from the crosses made in 2014 were sown in greenhouse and 452 tuber progenies were selected based on tuber characteristics (tuber size, shape, skin colour and eye depth). Tuber shape ranged from long oval, oval and round. Ten kg of tubers were stored at the AMB at 4ºC and saved for future selection trials in 2016.

The performance of 5 promising potato clones of the 2005 series was evaluated to select for fewer clones with high tuber yield, desirable tuber characteristics, tolerance to major pests and diseases and suitability in both potato seasons. Seeds of six potato clones were multiplied and are being stored at the AMB for further bulking in 2015.

#### Bean

Three promising advanced breeding lines were planted at Richelieu CRS and 18 kg seeds have been produced for on-farm evaluation in 2016. Similarly, the advanced bean breeding line LTH4/06 was planted and 3 kg of seeds were selected and stored for on-farm evaluation in 2016.

#### Pea

Seeds of 13 lines were sown as single plots and a preliminary yield assessment was conducted by harvesting green peas from the border rows. The best progenies were selected based on earliness, plant height, number of pods per plant, pod length, number of seeds per pod and yield. Eight out of the 13 progenies were found to be shorter than the local variety. All 13 progenies produced bigger pods compared to the local variety. Five progenies gave higher yields and 10 progenies have been selected based on their performance, seed sweetness and characteristics for further evaluation in 2016.

#### Genetic improvement of landraces of crops using induced mutation

#### Taro

The project which was initiated in 2003 with the aim of producing through in-vitro mutagenesis mutant colocasia lines showing resistance to the leaf blight disease was pursued. To date, 29 lines have been potted at the hardening unit and of them 19 lines were sent for further acclimatisation.

#### Onion

This project aims at developing mutant lines showing resistance/tolerance to pink root rot disease and salinity. In 2015, 375g of seeds have been produced and are for production of bulbs in 2016. Out of the 1.2kg of seeds produced in 2014, 1 kg of seeds were also sown on beds in nursery in June 2015 for production of bulbs.

#### Tomato

Three mutant lines have showed some tolerance to late blight disease and 20 mutant lines gave higher yields. These lines will be re-evaluated to assess the adaptability to different seasons.

#### Cauliflower

Genetic improvement of landraces of crucifers (cauliflower) using induced mutation was undertaken. Fifteen lines were sown for production of seeds. The 15 lines have been isolated using insect proof net at curding stage to prevent cross pollination. Seeds from each line were collected. These seeds will be planted in 2016.

#### Anthurium

A breeding programme was initiated since 2001 to develop new marketable anthurium cultivars to broaden the local germplasm and to reduce dependence on introduced cultivars. Three lines reached the final phase of evaluation and 15 varieties have been identified to be used as parents for next crossing.

#### Maintenance breeding programme

Maintenance breeding activities focused on local varieties of bean (Long Tom) and onion (Local Red) with a view of maintaining the genetic purity of these highly appreciated which have shown signs of degeneration and of producing a nucleus stock of seeds.

#### Promotion of cultivation of recommended varieties of lima bean and dry bean

Seeds (10.25kg) of the recommended lima bean varieties 47kg of dry bean were distributed to interested growers and also used for demonstration on stations and model farms.

#### **Ornamental**

Eighteen varieties of gerbera were evaluated and eight promising varieties are being further tested. Twenty varieties of rose were tested and five had promising characteristics.

#### **Crop production under protected structures**

#### Hydroponics

Nine promising varieties of salad tomato, sweet pepper and English cucumber have reached final stage of evaluation and will be recommended in 2016.

#### Protected cultivation

Three varieties of gherkin, three of butternut and three of melon were evaluated under protected culture.

#### **Low-cost Alternatives for Tissue Culture**

To reduce cost of production, commercial sugar as alternative to laboratory grade sucrose, use of agar in 20 % of cultures instead of the gelling agent, filtered water instead of double distilled water for preparation of culture medium, natural light instead of artificial light. Cheaper and locally available substrates are being used for acclimatisation of in-vitro plants.

#### Pest and disease surveillance

Pests surveys were conducted on tomato, potato, litchi, mango, strawberry, rose, okra, hibiscus, sweet pepper, eggplant and papaya.

Disease surveillance for major diseases was also conducted over an acreage of 101 hectares.

#### **Pest outbreaks**

The tomato thrips, *Frankliniella schultzei* tomato was recorded in the west and pest alerts was issued. The blossom midge, *Contarinia maculipennis* was recorded on eggplant flowers, bittergourd flowers, orchids and hibiscus.

Pathogens detected were *Fusarium* sp. on squash and onion. *Alternaria* sp. was the common pathogen detected in seeds of cauliflower, cabbage, onion, lettuce and carrot. *Cercospora* sp., a seed borne pathogen, was also detected in lettuce seeds.

#### **New Products**

#### Insecticides

Twelve bio-pesticides were found effective against red spider mite in rose, *Thrips palmi* in laboratory, against fire ant, Diamond Back Moth larvae.

#### **Assistance to the planting community**

- 1205 samples were diagnosed (968 for plant diseases and 237 for pests) and recommendations of appropriate solutions were undertaken.
- One Pest Alert was issued through publication of an information sheet and was disseminated to warn planters on occurrence of Blossom midge.

#### Livestock Research and Development

#### Introduction

The livestock research department pursued its activities on animal nutrition, fodder production and conservation, reproductive management, conservation and management of animal genetic resources, management of imported animals in the Quarantine Station and performance monitoring, milk processing and climate change related activities.

#### **Animal Nutrition**

- The IAEA funded project "Improvement of Dairy Productivity through Better Nutrition by Using Locally Available Forage and Browse Species" was terminated in December 2015.
   Survey results of feeding practices and testing of diets formulated was disseminated to the farming community in a public lecture.
- Assessment of feeding practices, forage and browse species utilized on dairy farms were used to update the database on feed resources.
- A new project titled "Improving the Productivity of Dairy Cattle through On-Farm Application of Achieved Research Infomation on Feeding Practices (MAR/5025)" was approved under the IAEA Technical Cooperation Cycle 2016-2018.
- Studies carried out to evaluate the effect of feeding lacto-feed concentrate against cow
  concentrate on milk yield and body condition of lactating cows showed that there was
  no significant difference in average milk production of cows fed, cows concentrate and
  lactofeed.
- In order to inprove productivityfrom deer feedlots, *Calliandra calothyrsus*, a high protein browse psecies, was recommended for use as forage to compensate nutritional deficiencies of graze and browse species.

#### **Conservation and Utilisation of Farm Animal Genetic Resources**

#### Conservation and Utilisation creole Cattle

A project on "Conservation and utilisation of critically endangered Creole Cattle in Mauritius" was approved in December 2015 by African Union-International Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) within the programme on Conservation and Utilization of Farm Animal Genetic Resources. The project aims at supporting farmers to participate in the conservation programme.

Monitoring of the nucleus herd, comprising of 44 heads, of creole cattle was on-going at Curepipe Livestock Research Station.

#### **Goat/Sheep Development**

Infrastructural facilities for breeding of goat and sheep was consolidated on livestock stations and are fully operational with a herd of 81 goats and 21 sheep at Curepipe Livestock Research Station (CLRS) and 157 goats and 32 sheep at Belle Mare Centre (BMC).

#### Management of imported breeding animals

- Management of imported animals at the Richelieu Quarantine Station was continued with a second batch of 71 pregnant heifers, 4 cows, 4 calves, 117 goats and 118 sheep imported on 25 March 2015.
- Performance assessment of the imported cattle, goat and sheep was on-going at FAREI livestock Stations and advice given to farmers to optimise performance.
- A total of 82 pregnant heifers/cows were delivered to farmers and Rodrigues Regional Assembly (19 heads from second batch). Twenty one unsold heifers/cows from second batch were transferred to FAREI for reproduction purposes in view of setting up the heifer farm by the Ministry.
- Sixty three imported Boer goats and 48 sheep were sold to 14 beneficiaries of scheme for purchase of breeding animals. Rodrigues Regional Assembly purchased 46 goats and 92 sheep. Monitoring is on-going for performance assessment and use in cross breeding programme.

#### **Quail production**

A quail unit was set up at Rivière des Anguilles Demonstration Centre with the objective of collecting baseline information and to better advise farmers on quail production. Two artificial incubators of capacity 48 eggs were acquired for on farm trials and to promote use of artificial incubation at farm level.

#### **Food Safety**

- Analysis of antibiotics residues and contaminants in milk samples at farm level was carried out within the project "Establishing a food safety network through the application of nuclear and related technologies".
- A new project titled "Building Capacity to Analyse Veterinary Drug Residues and Related Chemical Contaminants in Animal Products (MAR/5024)" was approved under the IAEA Technical Cooperation Cycle 2016-2018.

#### **Support to Stakeholders**

- Support was provided to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development for the compilation of data within the project for conducting GHG inventory. Enhanced livestock characterization for period of 2006-2013 was compiled for submission by mid-January 2016.
- Fifteen Extension staffs and nine dairy farmers/entrepreneurs were trained on the preparation of Mozzarella, Yogurt, Feta cheese and Kefir, Paneer, Fenousse and Rasmalai at the Milk Processing Facility at CLRS. A booklet on milk processing was published and launched at the World Food Day.

#### Extension and Training Department

#### Introduction

The Extension and Training Department aims at increasing farmer's knowledge and skills through a participatory approach. The core activities of the Extension and Training Department is to provide advisory services, information and training to the farming community and other stakeholders and to promote food production and increase farmers productivity/income.

#### **Crop Extension Activities**

For the period, a total of 26,588 advisory visits to our clients with 18,381 in connection with open field food-crop production (representing 60% of total advisory visits effected) and 16,146 office calls from farmers have been recorded. During the year a total of 482 Extension activities was organized and was attended by 5 323 planters. The division organized 198 group meetings based on 40 themes. 147 Field Demonstrations were carried and 28 themes demonstrated. 20 themes were developed during 54 conducted tours organized for the planters. A total of 40 trainings MQA approved courses were held and were attended by 728 beneficiaries.

The total foodcrop area harvested for the year was 8,077 ha with a production of around 102,663 tonnes.

#### Surveys

45,847 food crop surveys were conducted in 2015. 2,491 additional surveys were carried out and which were related to (i) state land occupancy, (ii) pest and diseases, (iii) market price and (iv) adverse climatic conditions.

The period witnessed adverse climatic conditions among which continuous heavy rains and cyclone Bansi. Following these events, vegetable production has been adversely affected.

#### Strategic crops

The potato season for year 2015 started in April mainly in the centre, the total area planted is 172ha compared to 187.8 ha in 2014. The second season potato crop covered a total acreage of 142ha. The total area for 2015 is 314ha.

Total area planted under onion is 211ha. Harvest started as from September and as at end of December, the total production was 4,471t.

For both crops, a total of 2,403 advisory visits were conducted along with 9 demonstrations and 12 conducted tours. A total of 53 extension activities were carried out.

No major pests and diseases were recorded for potato while for onion, an outbreak of stemphyllium disease was noted in onion seedlings in the regions of Belle Mare, Palmar and Trou D'Eau Douce. The disease had a negative impact on the average yield which was 16t/ha as compared to 17t/ha for 2014.

#### Planters' Liaison Meeting

A total of 16 Planters' Liaison meetings were held in each of the four regions. 122 farmer representatives of cooperatives, water users' associations, commodity groups, together with other stakeholders of commercial or other services sector participated actively in this forum.

#### Model Farms

1,421 planters visited activities and demonstrations on the four Model Farms. 33 demonstrations and 40 conducted tours carried out for the benefit of planters. The total revenue generated by the four model farms were Rs 201, 165.

#### Other services to planters

Extension staff carried out 100 Soil sampling and provided recommendations after laboratory analysis. 374 seed vouchers were allocated for seed purchased at the Agricultural Services. Extension Officers carried out 128 field assessments for crop damage due to herbicide drift. 75 Planters were assisted in their request for loan facilities at the DBM. In view of minimizing use of chemicals in disease management, 218 hot water treatments of seeds were conducted on model farms.

345 vegetables and fruit samples were collected (purchased) at farm gate and forwarded to the Agricultural Chemistry Division of the Agricultural services for pesticide residue analysis.

#### **Livestock Extension**

- As at end of year 2015, the livestock population and corresponding small farmers comprise of 5,898 cattle (796 farmers), 26,809 goats (2,547 farmers), 2,752 sheep (209 farmers), 21,964 pigs (465 farmers), 8,704 ducks (316 farmers), 398,881 broilers (239 farmers with up to 5,000 birds), 137,686 layers (224 farmers with up to 5,000 birds) and 1,888 rabbits (161 farmers).
- 28 training courses were held with an attendance of 527 breeders. In addition, 78 group trainings, 79 demonstrations and 23 conducted tours were held on livestock technical issues and attended by 1,231 farmers. 8,775 advisory farm visits were carried out and 3,613 office calls for advisory service were entertained.
- Support was maintained to the livestock farmer community by processing applications for feed (167), molasses (78), bagasse (36), access to DBM loans (36). Livestock Extension Services visited and issued bona fide certificates on progress of work report for 36 livestock keepers (cow, goat, poultry and pig) to access loan to launch or increase livestock activities.

#### **Information and Training**

#### Publication

- 17 new publications were produced and released on a whole range of topics to meet the information needs of agro-entrepreneurs and farmers
- 8,255 publications were issued to farmers and stakeholder institutions.

#### Agricultural radio and TV programme / public lectures

- 69 radio talks on agricultural production topics were recorded and broadcasted weekly on the radio for farmers. This service provides timely information to farmers on crop and livestock production.
- 50 Spot Agricole on agricultural topics were broadcasted on the radio programme.
- 3 Technology Review Meetings (potato, onion and strawberry) were held to review research findings and stakeholder problems.

#### Disease alerts

Eleven alerts were sent by SMS on potential pest and diseases to 711 planters.

#### New training course

Training course Value addition to Onion processing as an agribusiness has been developed and MQA registered.

#### Empowerment of Women and Youth

- 35 Agricultural Youth Clubs with 1,205 members and 30 Agricultural Women Clubs with 707 members were registered with FAREI for services.
- 17 Agricultural Entrepreneur Clubs (AEC) with 270 members are engaged in commercial farming. Training support and club activities promoted kitchen gardening, roof gardening, crop and fruit production, livestock production, compost making, mushroom production and agro-processing. Seven training sessions were run during school holidays for members of the Agricultural Youth Clubs.

#### Training in Agro-Processing, Post-Harvest Technology and Food Safety

A stakeholder's workshop was held to discuss the development of the sector.

5 training sessions on agro-processing techniques were held and attended by 124 potential agro entrepreneurs. 32 agro-entrepreneurs used the facilities of the Agro-Processing Resource Centre at Wooton to test their processing techniques and evaluate their finished products.

14 conducted tours to the Wooton Agro-Processing Centre were organised with 396 participants.

33 agri-business enterprises were advised on product improvement.

### Section 4: Corporate Governance Report

The FAREI Act 2013 which was proclaimed on 14 February 2014, established the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) and provides at section 7 for the latter to be administered by a Board.

#### Statement of compliance

The FAREI is fully committed to attaining and maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance and is gradually taking action within its ambit to ensure compliance with the code of corporate governance for Mauritius issued by the National Committee on Corporate Governance as applicable to state owned enterprises.

#### • Functions of the Institute

As per section 5 of the FAREI Act 2013, the Institute shall have such functions as are necessary to further its objects most effectively and may, in particular:

- (a) conduct research in non-sugar agriculture, food production and forestry, and maximise the benefits of such research;
- (b) conduct extension and advisory activities in non-sugar crops, livestock, food production and agri-business;
- (c) set research priorities in line with the needs of the food and non-sugar agricultural sector;
- (d) coordinate, monitor and evaluate research programmes and projects of different institutions engaged in non-sugar agriculture, forestry and food production without any prejudice to existing legislation concerning those institutions;
- (e) set up and manage research stations, model farms, greenhouses, hydroponic centres and other infrastructure for the purpose of promoting food and non-sugar agricultural technologies;
- (f) carry out, subject to approval of the Minister, such other research and related activities in non-sugar agriculture, food production and forestry; and
- (g) advise the Minister generally on national policies and other matters related to research in non-sugar agriculture, food production and forestry.

#### Powers of the Institute

As per section 6 of the FAREI Act 2013, the Institute shall have such powers as are necessary to attain its objects and discharge its functions most effectively and may in particular:

- (a) with the approval of the Minister to whom responsibility for the subject of finance is assigned, raise such loan as may be required to finance the setting up of greenhouses, hydroponic centres and other infrastructure;
- (b) rent out greenhouses, hydroponic centres and other infrastructure on such terms and conditions as it may determine;
- (c) levy fees in respect of services in connection with greenhouses, hydroponic centres and other infrastructure and of transfer of any other food and non-sugar agricultural technologies;
- (d) set up research advisory committees;
- (e) enter into any contract in accordance with the Public Procurement Act;
- (f) sell or exchange any property;
- (g) receive grants and donations and raise funds; and
- (h) to do such acts and things as may be necessary for the purposes of this Act.

#### Our Core Values and Principles

| ı | Professional | ism | Γo demonstr | ate high | level pro | tessional | ism in our | day-to-da | ay initiatives |
|---|--------------|-----|-------------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------|
|   |              |     |             |          |           |           |            |           |                |

in relation to the business of the Institute and to achieve continuous

self-improvement

Commitment To develop the right attitude towards the job we undertake, to

encourage individual initiative and to express our dedication in

achieving our objects and functions

Integrity To express what we mean, to deliver what we promise and to stand

for what is lawful

Respect To treat one another with dignity and fairness, appreciating the

diversity of our workforce and the uniqueness of each employee

Trust To build confidence through open and frank communication

Honesty To be truthful in all our endeavors, to be honest and straightforward

with one another and with our policy makers, service providers and

stakeholders of the agri-food sector

#### CORPORATE PROFILE

This section outlines, inter-alia, the corporate governance structures in place at the FAREI and describes the organization of the Board's business.

#### The Composition and Role of the Board

Section 7 of the FAREI Act 2013 provides for the Institute to be administered by a Board consisting of:

- A Chairperson to be appointed by the Minister;
- A representative of the Ministry;
- A representative of the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture;
- A representative of the Mauritius Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Federation;
- A representative of the University of Mauritius;
- 4 persons with wide experience in food and non-sugar agricultural sector, to be appointed by the Minister.

The composition of the Board of FAREI for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015 was as follows:

| Office      | Name  | Remarks   |
|-------------|---|---|
|             | Mrs Tej Asha Mudhoo, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agro Industry and FS from 1 January 2015 to 17 March 2015. |   |
| Chairperson | Mr V Gondeea, Permanent<br>Secretary, Ministry of Agro<br>Industry and FS, from 18 March<br>2015 to 31 December 2015.   |   |
|             | Mrs T A Mudhoo  | Representative of Ministry of Agro  |
|             | Mrs Jacqueline Sauzier  | Industry and Food Security Representative of Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture |
| Member      | Mr Kavisheikur Ramsurrun  | Representative of Mauritius Agricultural and Marketing Cooperative Federation |
|             | Prof (Mrs) Y Jaufeerally Fakim  | Representative of University of Mauritius                                     |
|             | Mr Atmanand Luchmun   | Appointed by Minister   |
|             | Mr Kreepalloo Sunghoon  | Appointed by Minister   |
|             | Mr Gérard de Fontenay   | Appointed by Minister   |
|             | Mr Paul Raya  | Appointed by Minister   |
| In          | Mr R Rajcumar   | Acting Chief Executive Officer, FAREI   |
| Attendance  | Mrs S Auguste   | Administrative Manager/ Board Secretary, FAREI                                |

#### **Sub-Committees**

A structure of Board sub-committees has been set up to assist the Board in the discharge of its duties and responsibilities. Each Sub-committee operates under defined terms of reference and recommends specific matters to the Board for approval. The Sub-committees of the FAREI Board for the period under review were as follows:

- (a) Finance Committee
- (b) Staff Committee

#### Finance Committee

#### **Composition of the Finance Committee and its functions:**

The composition of the Finance Committee was as follows:

Mrs T A Mudhoo — Chairperson
Mrs J Sauzier — Member
Mr G Cadet de Fontenay — Member
Mr K Sunghoon — Member

The Finance committee reviews and recommends to the Board matters pertaining to the financial situation of the FAREI, financial statements and reports, budget estimates, Tender committee and Bid Evaluation reports and award of contracts.

#### Staff Committee

#### **Composition of Staff Committee and its functions:**

The composition of the Staff Committee was as follows:

Mrs T A Mudhoo — Chairperson
Dr Mrs Y Jaufeerally-Fakim — Member
Mr K Ramsurrun — Member
Mr A Luchmun — Member

The Staff Committee examines and recommends to the Board matters relating to, inter-alia:

- Human Resource Strategies;
- Interviews, Selection and Appointment;
- Training and Development; and
- Industrial relations.

#### Attendance records, remuneration and benefits of members:

#### Remuneration Philosophy

During the period under review, the Chairman and Board members were paid fees in accordance with the recommendations of the PRB report 2013 and PRB 2013 report (Errors and Omissions).

The remuneration of the Chairpersons for the period under review amounted to Rs277,645 for Mr V Gondeea and Rs64,355 for Mrs T A Mudhoo. Board members namely Mr K Sunghoon, Mr A Luchmun, Mr P Raya, Mrs JSauzier, Dr Y Jaufeerally-Fakim, Mr K Ramsurrun and Mr G Cadet de Fontenay were paid fees totalling Rs27,200 for the period under review.

|                                | Board meetings attended |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total number of meetings held  | 6                       |
| Mr Vishnou Gondeea             | 5/6                     |
| Mrs Tej Asha Mudhoo            | 1/6                     |
| Mrs Jacqueline Sauzier         | 4/6                     |
| Mr Kavisheikur Ramsurrun       | 5/6                     |
| Prof (Mrs) Y.Jaufeerally Fakim | 1/6                     |
| Mr Atmanand Luchmun            | 5/6                     |
| Mr Kreepalloo Sunghoon         | 6/6                     |
| Mr Gerard de Fontenay          | 5/6                     |
| Mr Paul Raya                   | 6/6                     |

#### **Code of Ethics**

The Code of Ethics for Public Officers serves as a guide to the everyday professional conduct of FAREI officers. The Code of Ethics also sets out the standards of correct conduct expected of Public officers to which FAREI employees have to adhere to.

The three guiding principles of the code are that the FAREI officers shall:

- (i) fulfill their lawful obligations to FAREI with professionalism, integrity and loyalty;
- (ii) perform their official duties honestly, faithfully and efficiently while respecting the rights of the public and their colleagues; and
- (iii) not to bring the FAREI into disrepute through their private activities.

#### **Related Parties' Transactions**

There has not been any related party transaction during the period under review.

#### **Safety and Health Policy**

As a caring and responsible employer, the FAREI is committed to providing and maintaining a healthy, safe and secure working environment for its employees. It believes in raising awareness on health issues that are imperative in the prevention of accidents and improving the well-being of its staff.

#### Statement of Directors' responsibility

The FAREI acknowledges its responsibilities for:

- adequate accounting records and maintenance of effective internal control systems;
- the preparation of financial statements which fairly present the state of affairs of the Institute as at the end of the financial year and the results of its operations and cash flows for that period and which comply with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS); and
- the selection of appropriate accounting policies supported by reasonable and prudent judgments.

The Director of Audit of the National Audit Office is responsible for reporting on whether the financial statements are fairly presented.

The Board of Directors report that:

- adequate accounting records and an effective system of internal control have been maintained;
- appropriate accounting policies supported by reasonable and prudent judgments and estimates have been used consistently;
- applicable accounting standards have been adhered to; and
- the Code of Corporate Governance as applicable to State-Owned Enterprises has been adhered to.

#### Directors' Statement for Internal Control

The FAREI acknowledges its responsibility for the setting up of adequate systems of Internal Control and for the setting up of appropriate policies to provide reasonable assurance that the control objectives have been attained. The activities of the Institute are closely monitored by the Board and its Sub-Committees. Procedures and policies are well documented and consistently applied. Management has the relevant experience and skills to ensure proper running of the Institute.

An effective system of Internal Control providing for the following has been implemented:

- proper segregation of duties whereby the different functions in process are crosschecked and verified;
- follow up and implementation of the recommendations of the Director of Audit by the divisions concerned in order to improve processes and to ensure proper accountability;
- adequate supervision of duties performed by staff members;
- the assets of the Institute are properly safeguarded;
- all cheques issued by the Institute are signed by two authorized signatories;
- compliance with relevant laws, rules and regulations;

| Signed on behalf of the FAREI Board of Directo | ors:           |
|--|----------------|
| August   | Dluga.         |
| Chairperson                                    | Board Member   |
| Date: 19/09/15                                 | Date: 19/09/18 |

## Section 5: Report of the Director of Audit and Financial Statements 2015

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT**



### EPORT OF THE

### DIRECTOR OF AUDIT

On the Financial Statements
of the Food and Agricultural Research and Extention
Institute for the year ended 31 December 2015

NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE\_\_\_\_



### NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT TO THE BOARD OF THE

#### FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INSTITUTE

#### Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) which comprise the statement of financial position as of 31 December 2015, and the related statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets/equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

14th Floor, Air Mauritius Centre, John Kennedy Street, Port Louis – Mauritius Tel.: 212 2096-97/ 211 0882 Fax: (230) 211 0880



I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for my qualified opinion.

#### **Basis for Qualified Opinion**

#### Property, Plant and Equipment - Rs 44,947,380

The cost and the carrying amount of Property, Plant and Equipment totalled Rs 163,223,576 and Rs 44,947,380 respectively whereas the cost as per the Fixed Asset Register, totalled Rs 123,831,122. The discrepancy of Rs 39,392,454 could not be explained. Hence, the completeness, valuation and existence of Property, Plant and Equipment could not be ascertained.

The assets of the ex-Food and Agricultural Research Council (FARC) were vested in the Institute with the coming into operation of the FAREI Act on 14 February 2014. No survey of assets was carried out at time of transfer of assets.

Additions made to buildings during the year amounting to Rs 1,695,213, were not capitalised. Fully depreciated assets, such as motor vehicles, heavy duty field equipment, laboratory equipment and greenhouse taken over by FAREI at zero value, were not revalued during the year. No impairment test was carried out, contrary to IPSAS 17.

#### Payables - Rs 2,849,557

Expenditure incurred during the year totalling Rs 1,015,407 were not accrued in the accounts.

#### Capital Grant - Rs 33,535,054

This figure, representing fund remaining after financing of ongoing schemes and projects, was wrongly accounted as capital grant, contrary to IPSAS 23.

#### Financial Instruments

Financial instruments such as receivables, payables, borrowings and cash and cash equivalents, have not been disclosed in the Notes to the Accounts, contrary to IPSAS 30.

#### Cash Flow Statement

Decrease in Payables of Rs 955,289 was wrongly accounted as increase in Payables of Rs 2,304,415.

. .

Capital grant received from the Parent Ministry and other organisations, totalling Rs 31,268,845 and the amount of Rs 21,338,467 utilised therefrom, were netted off as "Movement in capital grant".

Car loan granted to staff and refunds amounting to Rs 5,126,400 and Rs 6,027,177 respectively were not accounted in Cash Flows from Financing Activities.

Movement in Employee Benefits amounting to Rs 4,041,432 was not included in Adjustments for Non-Cash Transactions.

#### Presentation of Budget information in Financial Statements

The Statement of reconciliation of actual cash flows with Statement of financial performance and that showing the reasons for variances between the original and revised budget, were not prepared. This constitutes a departure from IPSAS 24.

#### **Opinion**

In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute as of 31 December 2015 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

#### Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

#### Management's Responsibility

In addition to the responsibility for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements described above, management is also responsible for ensuring that the activities, financial transactions and information reflected in the financial statements are in compliance with the laws and authorities which govern them.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

In addition to the responsibility to express an opinion on the financial statements described above, my responsibility includes expressing an opinion on whether the activities, financial transactions and information reflected in the financial statements are, in all material respects, in compliance with the laws and authorities which govern them.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified opinion.



#### **Opinion on Compliance**

#### Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act

The financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 were submitted to the National Audit Office (NAO) on 21 April 2017, that is some 11 months after the statutory date limit 30 April 2016. Due to material misstatements, these were amended and re-submitted on 20 September 2018. No annual report was submitted to the NAO at time of submission of the financial statements on 21 April 2017. The annual report was submitted on 26 July 2018, that is more than 26 months after the statutory date limit. It was amended and re-submitted on 20 September 2018.

In my opinion, except for the late submission of the annual report, in all material respects, the activities, financial transactions and information reflected in the financial statements are in compliance with the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act.

#### **Public Procurement Act**

The Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute is responsible for the planning and conduct of its procurement. It is also responsible for defining and choosing the appropriate method of procurement and contract type in accordance with the provisions of the Act and relevant Regulations. My responsibility is to report on whether the provisions of Part V of the Act regarding the Bidding Process have been complied with.

In my opinion, the provisions of Part V of the Act have been complied with as far as it appears from my examination of the relevant records.

K.C. TSE YUET CHEONG (MRS)
Director of Audit

National Audit Office Level 14, Air Mauritius Centre **PORT LOUIS** 

8 November 2018

## FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INSTITUTE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

|   | Notes | 2015         | 2014         |
|---|-------|--------------|--------------|
|   |       | Rs           | Rs           |
| ASSETS  |       |              |              |
| Current Assets                                |       |              |              |
| Cash and cash equivalents                     | 7     | 34,962,030   | 51,499,365   |
| Receivables                                   | 8     | 8,297,723    | 6,566,303    |
|   |       | 43,259,753   | 58,065,668   |
| Non-current assets                            |       |              |              |
| Receivables                                   | 9     | 14,235,101   | 16,651,840   |
| Property, plant and equipment                 | 10    | 44,947,380   | 49,280,190   |
| Intangible Assets                             | 11    | 515,987      | 518,510      |
| Service Services and Application of Equipment |       | 59,698,468   | 66,450,540   |
| Total assets                                  |       | 102,958,221  | 124,516,208  |
| LIABILITIES                                   |       |              |              |
| Current liabilities                           |       |              |              |
| Payables                                      | 12    | 2,849,557    | 3,804,846    |
| Current portion of long term borrowings       | 13    | 7,082,067    | 5,255,671    |
| Short term provisions                         | 14    | 13,130,080   | 11,344,459   |
|   |       | 23,061,704   | 20,404,976   |
| Non-Current Liabilities                       |       |              |              |
| Long term provisions                          | 15    | 64,335,501   | 62,079,690   |
| Long term borrowing                           | 16    | 13,460,391   | 16,068,515   |
| Retirement benefit obligations                | 17    | 63,601,784   | 55,290,578   |
|   |       | 141,397,676  | 133,438,783  |
| Total liabilities                             |       | 164,459,380  | 153,843,759  |
| Net liabilities                               |       | (61,501,159) | (29,327,551) |
| NET ASSETS/ EQUITY                            |       |              |              |
| Capital contributed by                        |       |              |              |
| Capital Grant                                 | 18    | 33,535,054   | 23,604,675   |
| Accumulated deficit                           |       | (95,036,213) | (52,932,226) |
| Total Net Assets/Equity                       |       | (61,501,159) | (29,327,551) |

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements

H Woodun

**Chairman FAREI Board** 

I Rugjee (Mrs) Board Member

Approved by the Board on 19/09/18

## FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INSTITUTE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

|                                       |       | 2015         | 2014         |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|
|                                       | Notes | Rs           | Rs           |
| Revenue                               |       |              |              |
| Transfers from government             | 19    | 269,274,868  | 242,119,713  |
| Transfers from other entities         | 20    | 232,857      | 6,362,890    |
| Other revenue                         | 21    | 9,305,080    | 10,988,726   |
| Total Revenue                         |       | 278,812,806  | 259,471,329  |
|                                       |       |              |              |
| Expenses                              |       |              |              |
| Salaries and employee benefits        | 22    | 250,689,426  | 222,251,221  |
| Supplies and consumables used         | 23    | 31,590,808   | 26,119,991   |
| Depreciation and amortisation expense | 24    | 8,997,084    | 9,253,793    |
| Other Expenses                        | 25    | 29,639,474   | 17,887,866   |
| Total Expenses                        |       | 320,916,791  | 275,512,872  |
|                                       |       |              |              |
| Deficit for the year                  |       | (42,103,986) | (16,041,543) |

## FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INSTITUTE STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS / EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

|                                     | Contributed<br>Capital | Accumulated surpluses/(deficits) | Total Net<br>Assets/Equity |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                     | 2015                   | 2015                             | 2015                       |
|                                     | Rs                     | Rs                               | Rs                         |
| Balance as at 1 January 2015        | -                      | (52,932,226)                     | (52,932,226)               |
| Unutilised Capital Grant            | 33,535,053             | -                                | 33,535,053                 |
| Deficit for the period              | <u>-</u>               | (42,103,986)                     | (42,103,986)               |
| Closing balance at 31 December 2015 | 33,535,053             | (95,036,212)                     | (61,501,159)               |
|                                     |                        |                                  |                            |

|  | Contributed<br>Capital | Accumulated surpluses/(deficits) | Total Net<br>Assets/Equity |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
|  | 2014                   | 2014                             | 2014                       |
|  | Rs                     | Rs                               | Rs                         |
| Balance as at 14 February 2014 b/f     |                        |                                  |                            |
| from ex-FARC                           | 83,209,682             | (104,015,760)                    | (20,806,078)               |
| Unutilised Capital Grant for ongoing   |                        |                                  |                            |
| projects reclassified as liability     | (16,084,605)           | -                                | (16,084,605)               |
| Unutilised Capital Grant recognised as |                        |                                  |                            |
| surplus                                | (67,125,077)           | 67,125,077                       | -                          |
|  |                        |                                  |                            |
| Deficit for the Period                 |                        | (16,041,543)                     | (16,041,543)               |
|  |                        |                                  |                            |
| Closing balance at 31 December 2014    | -                      | (52,932,226)                     | (52,932,226)               |

## FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INSTITUTE CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

|   | 2015         | 2014         |
|---|--------------|--------------|
|   | Rs           | Rs           |
| CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES                                       |              |              |
| Deficit for the year/period   | (42,103,986) | (16,041,543) |
| Interest Received   | (259,680)    | (1,139,174)  |
| Non-cash movements  |              |              |
| Depreciation for the year   | 8,794,561    | 9,105,414    |
| Amortisation of intangible asset  | 202,523      | 148,379      |
| Loss / (Gain) on Disposal   | 245,570      | (130,174)    |
| Increase in retirement benefit obligations                                | 8,311,206    | 7,277,251    |
| Decrease in receivables   | 685,324      | 1,258,969    |
| Increase in payables  | 2,304,415    | 164,174      |
| Net cash flows from operating activities                                  | (21,820,067) | 643,295      |
| CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES                                       |              |              |
| Purchase of Property, plant and equipment                                 | (4,867,827)  | (5,040,294)  |
| Purchase of Integrity, plant and equipment  Purchase of Intangible Assets | (200,000)    | (227,204)    |
| Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets                                    | 160,500      | 709,254      |
| Interest received   | 259,680      | 1,139,174    |
| Net cash flows from Investing Activities                                  | (4,647,647)  | (3,419,069)  |
| Net cash nows from investing Activities                                   | (4,047,047)  | (3,413,003)  |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES                                      |              |              |
| Movement in Capital Grant   | 9,930,380    | 7,518,164    |
| Net cash flow from financing activities                                   | 9,930,380    | 7,518,164    |
| Net (decrease) / increase in cash and cash                                |              |              |
| equivalents   | (16,537,334) | 4,742,390    |
| Cook and cook assistate has such to many                                  |              |              |
| Cash and cash equivalents brought forward from FARC                       | _            | 46,756,975   |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of                             | _            | 40,730,373   |
| the year  | 51,499,365   |              |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year                                  | 34,962,030   | 51,499,365   |
| •   |              |              |
| Cash and cash equivalents consist of                                      |              |              |
| Cash and Bank Balances  | 34,962,030   | 51,499,365   |

## FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INSTITUTE STATEMENT OF BUDGETS, ACTUAL CASH AND ACCRUAL BASED AMOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

| ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013              |             |                   |                              |                        |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
|                                     | Approved    | Revised<br>Budget | Actual<br>Received /<br>Paid | Financial<br>Statement |
|                                     | Rs          | Rs                | Rs                           | Rs                     |
| Revenue                             |             |                   |                              |                        |
| Government Grant (Capital &         |             |                   |                              |                        |
| Recurrent)                          | 240,693,867 | 240,693,867       | 246,849,600                  | 269,507,726            |
| Other Income                        | 10,000,000  | 10,000,000        | 7,299,966                    | 9,305,080              |
|                                     | 250,693,867 | 250,693,867       | 254,149,566                  | 278,812,806            |
|                                     |             |                   |                              |                        |
| Expenditure                         |             |                   |                              |                        |
| Salaries and other related costs    | 184,674,276 | 191,839,802       | 179,887,062                  | 182,376,912            |
| Pension cost (SICOM)                | 24,017,731  | 23,883,768        | 26,469,289                   | 26,720,466             |
| Provision for Pension IPSAS 25      |             |                   |                              | 8,311,206              |
| Passage benefits                    | 4,605,610   | 4,934,643         | 4,851,496                    | 6,593,659              |
| Travelling and Transport            | 24,706,000  | 24,382,407        | 25,816,671                   | 26,687,182             |
| Office Expenses                     | 365,881     | 2,725,000         | 3,825,938                    | 2,321,857              |
| Utilities                           | 10          | 5,262,037         | 5,599,722                    | 5,639,203              |
| Rent                                | 2,000,000   | 2,000,000         | 2,659,960                    | 2,659,285              |
| Maintenance & Running cost vehicles | 10          | 2,925,000         | 2,808,756                    | 2,898,913              |
| Maintenance of Building & Equipment | 10          | 3,375,000         | 5,064,223                    | 6,199,667              |
| Training                            | 10          | 115,000           | 233,115                      | 424,079                |
| Information Technology Facilities   | 10          | 300,000           | 543,939                      | 271,225                |
| Uniform and protective clothing     | 1,400,000   | 2,000,000         | 1,897,073                    | 1,897,169              |
| Nursery & Laboratory consumables    | 10          | 1,275,000         | 1,285,125                    | 1,236,235              |
| Security services                   | 8,361,779   | 8,361,779         | 6,428,202                    | 6,428,202              |
| Other operating expenses(animal     |             |                   |                              |                        |
| feed, fertilizer, seeds, etc)       | 10          | 8,650,000         | 10,712,617                   | 10,949,447             |
| Insurance non-motor                 | 350,010     | 650,000           | 465,914                      | 465,914                |
| Legal & Professional Fee            | 10          | 525,000           | 89,600                       | 89,600                 |
| Chairman and Board members fee      | 212,500     | 425,000           | 333,746                      | 381,211                |
| Schemes                             |             |                   | 19,122,703                   | 19,122,703             |
|                                     |             |                   |                              |                        |
| Total Expenditure                   | 250,693,867 | 283,629,436       | 298,095,151                  | 311,674,135            |

## FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INSTITUTE STATEMENT OF OUTTURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

| 0111121112111              | Revised     | Actual      |   |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|
|                            | Estimates   | Expenditure | Comments                                  |
|                            | Rs          | Rs          |   |
| Expenditure                |             | -           |   |
| P                          |             |             | Provision was made in 2015 for the        |
| Salaries and other related |             |             | filling of vacancies which did not        |
| costs                      | 191,839,802 | 182,376,912 | materialise.                              |
| Pension cost (SICOM)       | 23,883,768  | 26,720,466  | Increase in the rate of pension by 1.9%   |
| Passage benefits           | 4,934,643   | 6,593,659   | Estimate was underprovided                |
| Travelling and Transport   | 24,382,407  | 26,687,182  | Estimate was underprovided                |
| Office Expenses            | 2,725,000   | 2,321,857   | ·   |
| Utilities                  | 5,262,037   | 5,639,203   |   |
|                            |             |             | Office at Quatre Bornes which was         |
|                            |             |             | expected to be released in 2015 was still |
| Rent                       | 2,000,000   | 2,659,285   | occupied by FAREI                         |
| Maintenance & Running      |             |             |   |
| cost vehicles              | 2,925,000   | 2,898,913   |   |
|                            |             |             | Additional costs were incurred to         |
|                            |             |             | refurbish buildings transferred to FAREI  |
| Maintenance of Building &  |             |             | upon release of rented premises at        |
| Equipment                  | 3,375,000   | 6,199,667   | Quatre Bornes                             |
| Training                   | 115,000     | 424,079     |   |
| Information Technology     |             |             |   |
| Facilities                 | 300,000     | 271,225     |   |
| Uniform and protective     |             |             |   |
| clothing                   | 2,000,000   | 1,897,169   |   |
| Nursery & Laboratory       |             |             |   |
| consumables                | 1,275,000   | 1,236,235   |   |
|                            |             |             | Renewal of security services in 2015      |
| Security services          | 8,361,779   | 6,428,202   | was overestimated                         |
| Other operating            |             |             | Additional costs towards animal feed      |
| expenses(animal feed,      |             |             | were incurred following Ministry's        |
| fertilizer, seeds, etc)    |             |             | decision for FAREI to manage imported     |
|                            | 8,650,000   | 10,949,447  | animals                                   |
| Insurance non-motor        | 650,000     | 465,914     |   |
| Legal & Professional Fee   | 525,000     | 89,600      |   |
| Chairman and Board         |             |             |   |
| members fee                | 425,000     | 381,211     |   |
| Schemes                    |             | -           | <u>-</u>                                  |
|                            |             |             |   |
| Total Expenditure          | 283,629,436 | 284,240,226 | -   |

# FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INSTITUTE Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015

#### 1 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI), a body corporate, was established on 14 February 2014 to serve the purpose described in the **Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute Act 2013**.

The establishment of the FAREI was to take over the activities of the Food and Agricultural Research Council (FARC), including the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU).

The objects of FAREI is to introduce, develop and promote such novel technologies in the food and non-sugar agricultural sector as may be approved by the Minister; to coordinate, promote and harmonise research activities in non-sugar agriculture, food production and forestry; promote and encourage agricultural and agribusiness development, through the setting up of agricultural youth clubs and agricultural entrepreneur clubs; and promote dissemination and practical application of the results of any research undertaken under the FAREI Act.

#### 1b BASIS OF PREPARATION

#### (a) Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs) issued by the International Federation of Accountants Committee (IFAC) under the historic cost convention.

## (b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and on a going concern basis and the accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year.

The presentation of Financial Statements as per IPSAS1 comprise of:

- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Financial Performance
- Statement of changes in net assets and equity
- Cash Flow Statement
- Statement of comparison of actual and budget amounts, and
- Notes comprising of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes

## (c) Reporting date

The Financial Statements is for twelve months period ended 31 December 2015. The comparative figures for 2014 cover the period 14 February 2014 to 31 December 2014, as this was the first financial statement for FAREI.

## (d) Level of rounding

The figures in the Financial Statements have been rounded to the nearest rupee.

#### (e) Cash Flow

Indirect method has been used to prepare the Cash Flow Statement.

#### (f) List of IPSASs issued but not yet effective

Amendments to IPSAS 1 – Presentation of Financial Statements – Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 01 January 2015

Amendments to IPSAS 17 – Property, plant and equipment – Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 01 January 2015

Amendments to IPSAS 28 – Financial instruments presentation – Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 01 January 2015

Amendments to IPSAS 31 – Intangible assets – Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 01 January 2015

IPSAS 33 First - Time Adoption of Accrual Basis IPSAS - Effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 2017 – date of issue: January 2015

IPSAS 34 - Separate Financial Statements - Effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 2017– date of issue: January 2015

IPSAS 35 - Consolidated Financial Statements - Effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 2017 – date of issue: January 2015

IPSAS 36 - Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures- Effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 2017— date of issue: January 2015

IPSAS 37 - Joint Arrangements - Effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 2017— date of issue: January 2015

IPSAS 38 - Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities - Effective for annual periods beginning on or after January 2017 – date of issue: January 2015

IPSAS 39 – Employee Benefits – Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018 - date of issue: July 2016

IPSAS 40 – Public Sector Combinations – Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019 - date of issue: January 2017

The Institute anticipates that the adoption of these Standards in the future periods will have no material impact on the Financial Statement

## (g) Presentation currency

The Financial Statements are presented in Mauritian Rupee.

#### 2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### a. Revenue Recognition

Revenue has been accounted on an accrual basis and is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

The main sources of the Institute's revenue are:

- Grant from Government to meet recurrent expenditure: Revenue Grant and Capital Grant which contributes towards capital expenditure;
- Grant from other institutions;
- Proceeds from disposal of farm produce after trial and demonstration, plants from tissue culture and hardening unit;
- Sales of dairy produce and manure;
- Training fee charged to institutions and sales of publications.
- Service charges provided to the public and institutions.

The services provided are namely diagnostic fee, testing and analysis of products, design of structures and consultancy.

## b. Property, Plant and Equipment

The assets owned by FAREI were transferred from FARC and were valued at net book value as at 14 February 2014.

Property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation. Historical cost is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid to acquire an asset at the time of acquisition. No impairment in value was considered.

Depreciation is provided on the Straight Line basis so as to write-off the depreciable value of the assets over their expected useful economic lives. Depreciation has been provided for in the month following the month of purchase. No depreciation is provided in the month of disposal.

The annual rates of depreciation are as follows:

| Buildings                        | 2%  |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Office equipment                 | 20% |
| Furniture and fittings           | 10% |
| Field equipment                  | 25% |
| Heavy duty field equipment       | 20% |
| Motor vehicle                    | 20% |
| Computer hardware                | 20% |
| Laboratory equipment             | 15% |
| Greenhouse                       | 25% |
| Greenhouse equipment, fog unit & |     |
| polycarbonate greenhouse         | 10% |

### c. Intangible Assets

Intangible assets comprise computer software which is recorded at cost. Computer software is amortised using the straight line method over a useful life of five years (20%). Cost incurred towards licence renewal is expensed.

## d. Impairment of non-current assets

The carrying values of property, plant and equipment are not reviewed for impairment as there is no indication that the carrying value may not be recoverable. Management believes that no impairment test is required.

## e. Operating Lease

Rentals payable under operating lease agreements are charged to the Statement of Financial Performance on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

Operating leases are leases, the ownership of which is retained by the lessor.

## f. Leasehold Land and Building

Land occupied by the Institute is owned by the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security and has not been capitalised.

The buildings occupied by FAREI, apart from the Head Office building at Reduit and the Tissue Culture Laboratory occupied by Ex FARC and the Farmers Training School at Wooton, belong to the Ministry and are as such not reflected in the Financial Statements.

The acreage of the land transferred to FAREI is 88,102m<sup>2</sup> and is located across the island.

## g. Grant

Grant received to meet recurrent and capital expenditure is treated as revenue in the statement of financial performance in the year of receipt.

Capital grant are funded by the Government and other entities. Expenditure incurred is both of recurrent and capital nature.

## h. Retirement Benefit Obligations

Provision for retirement benefits to employees of the FAREI is made under the Statutory Bodies Pension Funds Act, as subsequently amended. The Scheme is a Defined Benefit Plan which is partly funded by FAREI at 13.9% and 12% (for employees who joined FAREI as from 1 January 2013) and 6% by the employees. The fund is managed by State Insurance Company of Mauritius Limited (SICOM) and is reviewed yearly.

An actuarial valuation is carried out by SICOM to determine the present value of the defined benefit obligations and the related current service cost. A portion of the actuarial gains and losses will be recognised as income or expense if the net cumulative unrecognised actuarial gains and losses at the end of the previous accounting period exceeded the greater of 10% of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at that date or 10% of the fair value of plan assets at that date are recognised in the following year over the average remaining working life of the employees and is amortised over the average remaining working lives of the participating employees.

The amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Position represents the present value of the defined benefit obligations adjusted for unrecognised past service cost, and reduced by the fair value of plan assets.

The net total of the current service cost, interest cost, expected returns on plan assets, current service cost, any recognized actuarial gains and losses, any recognised past service cost and the effect of any curtailment or settlement is recognised in the statement of financial performance. Other post-retirement benefits include accumulated sick leave, passage benefits and refund of unutilised vacation leave.

#### i. State Pension Plan

Contribution to the National Pension Scheme on behalf of temporary and contract employees are expensed in the Statement of Financial Performance in the period in which they fall due.

## j. Family Protection Scheme

A Family Protection Scheme exists at the FAREI whereby 4% of monthly salary of each employee on a permanent and pensionable establishment is paid to either the Civil Service Family Protection Scheme or the State Insurance Company of Mauritius Limited (SICOM) which manage the scheme. A contribution of 2% respectively by FAREI and the employee is made towards the schemes.

#### k. Passage Benefit

As from January 2013 officers are allowed to cash their passage benefit at a discounted rate of 90% for any purpose other than travel. The 10% retained is recognised as revenue.

## I. Key Management Personnel Compensation

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility of planning, directing, and controlling the activities of the Institute, directly or indirectly, including directors (whether executive or otherwise) of the Institute.

The compensation paid to key management personnel is based on the recommendation of the Pay Research Bureau Report and is included in salaries and benefits.

The key management personnel of FAREI comprise the Acting Chief Executive Officer and Assistant Directors.

Key Management PersonnelYear ended 31 December 2015 Period ended 31 December 2014

Rs Rs Emoluments 4,067,580 7,667,295

## m. Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets

Provisions are recognised when there is a present or constructive obligation as a result of past events which it is probable will result in an outflow of economic benefits that can be reasonably estimated.

## n. Use of estimates and judgement

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards requires the use of estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the Financial Statement and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Although these estimates are based on management's best knowledge of current events and actions, actual results ultimately may differ from these estimates.

#### 3 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party and exercise significant influence over the party in making financial operating decisions. No such transactions were reported during the year ended 31 December 2015.

#### 4 FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Mauritian Rupees and recorded at the rate of exchange prevailing at the date of the transactions. Balances at the end of the financial period denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Mauritian Rupees at the rate prevailing at that date.

#### 5 PENDING LITIGATIONS

As at 31 December 2015 there were two cases of pending litigations with total claims of Rs6,537,231.85 against FAREI. The outcome of these cases will depend on court judgements. The likelihood of the potential litigation costs were assessed by management. It is believed that the possibility of any possible obligation accruing to FAREI in all these cases is remote in this accounting period. Accordingly no provisions have been made to the accounts.

#### **6 RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

A description of the various risks to which the FAREI is exposed is shown below as well as the approach taken by management to control and mitigate those risks.

#### Liquidity risk

This refers to the possibility of default by the FAREI to meet its obligations because of the unavailability of funds to meet both operational and capital requirements. In order to ensure adequacy of its funding, cash flow forecasts are prepared regularly and actions are taken accordingly.

## Credit risk

Credit risk relates to the possibility of default by employees in settling their loan obligations towards the FAREI. The FAREI has established a "lien" policy on cars purchased by those employees who benefit from such car loans.

| Rs  |   |   | 2015       | 2014       |
|---|---|---|------------|------------|
| This is made up of bank balances and cash in hand Savings Accounts - 13,056,880 Savings Foreign Currency Account 1,011,883 888,245 Current Accounts 33,911,567 37,515,564 Cash in hand 38,580 38,676 34,962,030 51,499,365  8 RECEIVABLES – CURRENT ASSETS Debtors Car loan 6,890,682 5,398,532 Sundry debtors 488,294 253,531 Debtors chargeable services 918,747 914,240 8,297,723 6,566,303  |   |   | Rs         | Rs         |
| Savings Accounts   -   13,056,880   | 7 | CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS                         |            |            |
| Savings Foreign Currency Account   1,011,883   888,245   Current Accounts   33,911,567   37,515,564   Cash in hand   38,580   38,676  |   | This is made up of bank balances and cash in hand |            |            |
| Current Accounts       33,911,567       37,515,564         Cash in hand       38,580       38,676         34,962,030       51,499,365         8 RECEIVABLES – CURRENT ASSETS         Debtors Car loan       6,890,682       5,398,532         Sundry debtors       488,294       253,531         Debtors chargeable services       918,747       914,240         8,297,723       6,566,303         9 RECEIVABLES – NON-CURRENT ASSETS         Debtors car loan falling due more than one year       14,235,101       16,651,840 |   | Savings Accounts                                  | -          | 13,056,880 |
| RECEIVABLES – CURRENT ASSETS         38,580         38,676           Debtors Car loan         6,890,682         5,398,532           Sundry debtors         488,294         253,531           Debtors chargeable services         918,747         914,240           8,297,723         6,566,303           9         RECEIVABLES – NON-CURRENT ASSETS           Debtors car loan falling due more than one year         14,235,101         16,651,840   |   | Savings Foreign Currency Account                  | 1,011,883  | 888,245    |
| 34,962,030       51,499,365         8 RECEIVABLES – CURRENT ASSETS  |   | Current Accounts                                  | 33,911,567 | 37,515,564 |
| 8       RECEIVABLES – CURRENT ASSETS         Debtors Car loan       6,890,682       5,398,532         Sundry debtors       488,294       253,531         Debtors chargeable services       918,747       914,240         8,297,723       6,566,303              9       RECEIVABLES – NON-CURRENT ASSETS         Debtors car loan falling due more than one year       14,235,101       16,651,840  |   | Cash in hand                                      | 38,580     | 38,676     |
| Debtors Car loan       6,890,682       5,398,532         Sundry debtors       488,294       253,531         Debtors chargeable services       918,747       914,240         8,297,723       6,566,303              9       RECEIVABLES – NON-CURRENT ASSETS         Debtors car loan falling due more than one year       14,235,101       16,651,840   |   |   | 34,962,030 | 51,499,365 |
| Sundry debtors       488,294       253,531         Debtors chargeable services       918,747       914,240         8,297,723       6,566,303             9       RECEIVABLES – NON-CURRENT ASSETS         Debtors car loan falling due more than one year       14,235,101       16,651,840   | 8 |   | 6 890 682  | 5 308 532  |
| Debtors chargeable services       918,747       914,240         8,297,723       6,566,303         9       RECEIVABLES – NON-CURRENT ASSETS         Debtors car loan falling due more than one year       14,235,101       16,651,840  |   |   | • •        |            |
| 9 RECEIVABLES – NON-CURRENT ASSETS Debtors car loan falling due more than one year 14,235,101 16,651,840  |   | •   | •          | •          |
| 9 RECEIVABLES – NON-CURRENT ASSETS Debtors car loan falling due more than one year 14,235,101 16,651,840  |   | Deptors chargeable services                       |            |            |
| Debtors car loan falling due more than one year 14,235,101 16,651,840   |   |   | 8,297,723  | 6,566,303  |
|   | 9 | RECEIVABLES – NON-CURRENT ASSETS                  |            |            |
| 14,235,101 16,651,840   |   | Debtors car loan falling due more than one year   | 14,235,101 | 16,651,840 |
|   |   |   | 14,235,101 | 16,651,840 |

## 10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

| IU. PROPERIT, PLA             | Buildings<br>Rs | Furniture<br>& Fittings<br>Rs | Office<br>Equipment<br>Rs | Computer<br>Hardware<br>Rs | Motor<br>Vehicle &<br>Heavy Duty<br>Field<br>equipment<br>Rs | Laboratory<br>Furniture,<br>Fittings &<br>Equipment<br>Rs | Post-<br>Harvest &<br>Plant<br>Pathology<br>Lab<br>Rs | Fog unit &<br>Polycarbonate<br>and<br>Hydroponic<br>Greenhouse<br>Rs | Food<br>Processing<br>& PCR Lab<br>Rs | Light Field<br>Equipment<br>Rs | Total<br>Rs |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Cost and Valuation            |                 |                               |                           |                            |  |   |   |  |                                       |                                |             |
| At Cost as at 1.01.2015       | 35,236,632      | 13,784,970                    | 10,945,983                | 9,812,920                  | 23,826,817   | 25,272,478  | 3,018,454   | 17,188,228   | 5,878,847                             | 14,550,621                     | 159,515,949 |
| Additions                     | -               | 425,966                       | 803,879                   | 352,754                    | -  | 79,649  | -   | 2,302,473  | 27,211                                | 875,894                        | 4,867,827   |
| Disposal                      |                 | -                             | -                         | -                          | (1,160,200)  | -   | -   | -  | -                                     | -                              | (1,160,200) |
| At cost as at 31.12.2015      | 35,236,632      | 14,210,936                    | 11,749,862                | 10,165,674                 | 22,666,617   | 25,352,127  | 3,018,454   | 19,490,701   | 5,906,058                             | 15,426,514                     | 163,223,576 |
| Depreciation                  |                 |                               |                           |                            |  |   |   |  |                                       |                                |             |
| Depreciation as at 1.01.2015  | 7,252,405       | 10,933,445                    | 9,746,256                 | 8,733,264                  | 19,915,752   | 17,778,496  | 2,989,455   | 14,743,935   | 5,535,794                             | 12,606,957                     | 110,235,759 |
| Charge for the period         | 704,733         | 331,455                       | 566,161                   | 564,693                    | 1,967,455  | 2,325,554   | 20,912  | 554,287  | 103,366                               | 1,655,945                      | 8,794,561   |
| Eliminated on disposal        |                 | -                             | -                         | -                          | (754,130)  | -   | -   | -  | -                                     | -                              | (754,130)   |
| Depreciation as at 31.12.2015 | 7,957,138       | 11,264,900                    | 10,312,417                | 9,297,957                  | 21,129,077   | 20,104,050  | 3,010,367   | 15,298,222   | 5,639,160                             | 14,262,902                     | 118,276,190 |
| Carrying Amount               |                 |                               |                           |                            |  |   |   |  |                                       |                                |             |
| As at 31 December 2015        | 27,279,494      | 2,946,036                     | 1,437,444                 | 867,713                    | 1,537,540  | 5,248,076   | 8,088   | 4,192,479  | 266,899                               | 1,163,612                      | 44,947,380  |
| As at 31 December 2014        | 27,984,227      | 2,851,525                     | 1,199,727                 | 1,079,655                  | 3,911,065  | 7,493,981   | 28,999  | 2,444,293  | 343,053                               | 1,943,664                      | 49,280,190  |

|       |  |                   | 2015<br>Rs  | 2014<br>Rs  |
|-------|--|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 11    | Intangible assets - Software Costs             |                   |             |             |
|       | Software costs are capitalised in accorda      | ance with         |             |             |
|       | the provisions of IPSAS 31                     |                   |             |             |
|       | At Cost as at 1.01.2015                        |                   | 2,300,498   | 2,073,294   |
|       | Additions                                      | _                 | 200,000     | 227,204     |
|       | At cost as at 31.12.2015                       | _                 | 2,500,498   | 2,300,498   |
|       | Amortisation as at 1.01.2015                   |                   | 1,781,988   | 1,633,609   |
|       | Amortisation for the period                    |                   | 202,523     | 148,379     |
|       | Amortisation as at 31.12.2015                  |                   | 1,984,511   | 1,781,988   |
|       | Written down value as at 31.12.2015            | <u>-</u><br>_     | 515,987     | 518,510     |
| 12    | Davishlee                                      |                   |             |             |
| 12    | Payables Creditors falling due within one year |                   | 231,510     | 1,669,069   |
|       | Accruals                                       |                   | 2,618,047   | 2,135,777   |
|       |  | <del>-</del><br>_ | 2,849,557   | 3,804,846   |
|       |  |                   |             |             |
| 13    | Current Portion of long term borrowing         | 5                 | 7 092 067   | F 2FF 671   |
|       | Car loan falling due within one year           | _                 | 7,082,067   | 5,255,671   |
| 14    | Employee Benefit                               |                   |             |             |
|       | Passage Benefits                               | 15(b)             | 6,880,827   | 4,919,027   |
|       | Sick leave                                     | 15(a)             | 6,249,253   | 6,425,432   |
|       |  | _                 | 13,130,080  | 11,344,459  |
| 15    | Long term provisions                           |                   |             |             |
|       | Provision for sick leave                       | 15(a)             | 51,828,419  | 49,144,931  |
|       | Provision passage benefits                     | 15(b)             | 12,507,082  | 12,934,759  |
|       |  | -<br>-            | 64,335,501  | 62,079,690  |
| 45/-\ | Provision for sick leave                       |                   |             |             |
| 15(a) | Opening balance                                |                   | 55,570,363  | 53,869,567  |
|       | less : payment during the year                 |                   | (6,471,457) | (6,859,472) |
|       | Add: provisions for the year                   |                   | 8,978,767   | 8,560,268   |
|       | Closing balance                                | _                 | 58,077,673  | 55,570,363  |
|       | less: Amount falling due within one year       | ır                | 6,249,253   | 6,425,432   |
|       | less: Amount falling due more than one         | _                 | 51,828,420  | 49,144,931  |
|       | <b>3 3</b>                                     | _                 | - ,,        | -, ,        |

|       |  | 2015<br>Rs  | 2014<br>Rs  |
|-------|--|-------------|-------------|
| 15(b) | Provision passage benefits                     |             |             |
|       | Opening balance                                | 17,853,786  | 18,263,049  |
|       | less: payment during the year                  | (5,059,463) | (5,604,152) |
|       | Add : provisions for the year                  | 6,593,586   | 5,194,889   |
|       | Closing balance                                | 19,387,909  | 17,853,786  |
|       | less: Amount falling due within one year       | 6,880,827   | 4,919,027   |
|       | less: Amount falling due more than one year    | 12,507,082  | 12,934,759  |
|       |  |             |             |
| 16    | Long term borrowing                            |             |             |
|       | Car loan amount falling due more than one year | 13,460,391  | 16,068,515  |

2015 2014

## 17 Retirement Benefit Obligations

All permanent employees of FAREI are members of the FAREI pension fund – a defined benefit scheme managed by the State Insurance Company of Mauritius Limited. The pension fund is wholly funded by the Institute. The retirement benefit obligations have been based on the report submitted by SICOM Ltd.

| Employee Penefit                               | 63,601,784    | 55,290,578    |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Employee Benefit                               | 03,001,784    | 55,290,578    |
| Employee Benefit statement as per IPSAS 25     |               |               |
| Amounts recognised in statement of             |               |               |
| financial position at end of year              |               |               |
| Present value of funded obligation             | 525,805,786   | 456,985,745   |
| (Fair value of plan assets)                    | (295,583,425) | 274,568,897)  |
|  | 230,222,361   | 182,416,848   |
| Present value of unfunded obligation           |               |               |
| Unrecognised actuarial gain / (loss)           | (166,620,577) | (127,126,270) |
| Liability recognised in statement of financial |               |               |
| position at end of year                        | 63,601,784    | 55,290,578    |
| Amounts recognised in statement of financial   | 03,001,784    | 33,230,376    |
| performance:                                   |               |               |
| Current service cost                           | 20 007 210    | 15 400 000    |
|  | 20,887,318    | 15,490,900    |
| (Employee contributions)                       | (8,572,458)   | (7,978,222)   |
| Fund expenses                                  | 554,977       | 598,606       |
| Interest cost                                  | 34,273,931    | 31,881,151    |
| (Expected return on plan assets)               | (21,244,396)  | (16,951,434)  |
| Actuarial loss / (gain) recognised             | 4,285,668     | 6,806,794     |
| Past service cost recognised                   |               | -             |
| Total, included in staff costs                 | 30,185,040    | 29,847,795    |
| Movements in liability recognised in financial |               |               |
| position:                                      |               |               |
| At start of year                               | 55,290,578    | 48,013,328    |
| Total staff cost as above                      | 30,185,040    | 29,847,795    |
| (Contributions paid by employer)               | (19,176,401)  | (15,955,138)  |
| (Actuarial Reserves Transferred in)            | (2,697,433)   | (6,615,407)   |
| At end of year                                 | 63,601,784    | 55,290,578    |
|  |               |               |

|  | 2015      | 2014       |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Actual return on plan assets:              | 3,645,297 | 12,062,371 |
| Main actuarial assumptions at end of year: |           |            |
| Discount rate                              | 7.5%      | 8.0%       |
| Expected rate of return of plan assets     | 7.5%      | 8.0%       |
| Future salary increases                    | 5.0%      | 5.5%       |
| Future pension increases                   | 3.0%      | 3.5%       |

The assets of the plan are invested in funds managed by State Insurance Company of Mauritius Ltd

The discount rate is determined by reference to market yields on bonds.

| Reconciliation of the present value of defined bene | efit obligation |              |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| Present value of obligation at start of period      | 456,985,745     | 478,217,266  |
| Current service cost                                | 20,887,318      | 15,490,900   |
| Interest cost                                       | 34,273,931      | 31,881,151   |
| (Benefits paid)                                     | (12,511,870)    | (13,899,798) |
| Liability (gain) / loss                             | 26,170,662      | (54,703,774) |
| Present value of obligation at end of period        | 525,805,786     | 456,985,745  |
|   |                 |              |
| Reconciliation of fair value of plan assets         |                 |              |
| Fair value of plan assets at start of period        | 274,568,897     | 246,246,332  |
| Expected return on plan assets                      | 21,244,396      | 16,951,434   |
| Employer contributions                              | 19,176,401      | 15,955,138   |
| Employee contributions                              | 8,572,458       | 7,978,222    |
| Actuarial Reserves Transferred in                   | 2,697,433       | 6,615,407    |
| (Benefits paid + other outgo)                       | (13,066,847)    | (14,498,404) |
| Asset gain / (loss)                                 | (17,609,313)    | (4,679,232)  |
| Fair value of plan assets at end of period          | 295,583,425     | 274,568,897  |

| Distribution of plan assets at end of period  | 2015              | 2014              |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Percentage of assets at end of year   |                   |                   |
| Government securities and cash  | 58.1%             | 57.1%             |
| Loans   | 4.3%              | 4.1%              |
| Local equities  | 15.9%             | 21.1%             |
| Overseas bonds and equities   | 21.0%             | 17.0%             |
| Property  | 0.7%              | 0.7%              |
| Total   | 100%              | 100%              |
| Additional disclosure on assets issued or used by the reporting entity  Percentage of assets at end of year | 31.12.2015<br>(%) | 31.12.2014<br>(%) |
| Assets held in the entity's own financial   | (70)              | (70)              |
| instruments   | 0                 | 0                 |
| Property occupied by the entity   | 0                 | 0                 |
| Other assets used by the entity   | 0                 | 0                 |
| History of obligations, assets and  |                   |                   |
| experience adjustments  | 2015              | 2014              |
| Currency  | Rs                | Rs                |
| Fair value of plan assets   | 295,583,425       | 274,568,897       |
| (Present value of defined benefit obligation)   | (525,805,786)     | (456,985,745)     |
| Surplus / (deficit)   | (230,222,361)     | (182,416,848)     |
| Asset experience gain / (loss) during the period Liability experience gain / (loss) during the              | (17,609,313)      | (4,679,232)       |
| period  | (26,170,662)      | 54,703,774        |
| Year  | 2016              | 2015              |
| Expected employer contributions   |                   |                   |
| (Estimate to be reviewed by the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute)                     | 22,410,951        | 18,208,182        |

|    |   | 2015         | 2014         |
|----|---|--------------|--------------|
| 18 | Capital Grant                               |              |              |
|    | Opening Balance                             | 23,604,675   | 16,084,605   |
|    | Receipts                                    | 31,268,845   | 20,334,638   |
|    |   | 54,873,520   | 36,419,243   |
|    | Expenses                                    | (21,338,467) | (12,814,568) |
|    | Closing Balance                             | 33,535,054   | 23,604,675   |
| 19 | Transfers from government                   |              |              |
|    | Recurrent Grant                             | 248,169,259  | 227,445,818  |
|    | Capital Grant                               | 21,105,610   | 81,567,887   |
|    | Adj for capital grant recognised as surplus | -            | (66,893,991) |
|    |   | 269,274,868  | 242,119,713  |
| 20 | Transfers from other entities               |              |              |
|    | MRC   | 135,999      | 421,778      |
|    | UNDP  | -            | 5,979,867    |
|    | Small Grant Scheme Australia                | 96,858       | 192,331      |
|    | Adj for capital grant recognised as surplus | <u>-</u>     | (231,085)    |
|    |   | 232,857      | 6,362,890    |
| 21 | Other revenue                               |              |              |
|    | Sales of Guide Agricole                     | 117,448      | 91,625       |
|    | Sales of Animals                            | 956,780      | 1,313,489    |
|    | Sales of Vegetables & Produce               | 3,268,350    | 3,196,532    |
|    | Sales of Milk and Manure                    | 3,241,735    | 2,077,368    |
|    | Revenue from testing and diagnosis          | 440,418      | 461,093      |
|    | Training and registration fee               | 256,029      | 869,353      |
|    | Sundry Income                               | 641,003      | 1,672,309    |
|    | Profit on disposal of fixed assets          | 422.626      | 130,174      |
|    | Exchange gain Interest received             | 123,638      | 37,609       |
|    | micrest received                            | 259,680      | 1,139,174    |
|    |   | 9,305,080    | 10,988,726   |
|    |   |              |              |

|    |  | 2015        | 2014        |
|----|--|-------------|-------------|
| 22 | Wages, salaries, and employee benefits |             |             |
|    | Salaries and employee benefits         | 188,887,939 | 168,526,763 |
|    | Employer's Contribution                | 26,803,099  | 21,778,316  |
|    | Pension Employees Benefit              | 8,311,206   | 7,277,250   |
|    | Travelling and Transport               | 26,687,182  | 24,668,892  |
|    |  | 250,689,426 | 222,251,221 |
| 23 | Supplies and consumables used          |             |             |
|    | Office expenses                        | 2,133,309   | 1,476,096   |
|    | Electricity, Water and Telephone       | 5,639,203   | 4,743,739   |
|    | Maintenance and running of vehicles    | 2,898,913   | 2,631,987   |
|    | Repairs and Maintenance                | 6,199,667   | 6,086,643   |
|    | Uniforms & Protective Clothing         | 1,897,169   | 446,519     |
|    | Apparatus and supplies of Laboratory   | 1,236,235   | 1,018,171   |
|    | On farm trial                          | 1,455,335   | 1,145,326   |
|    | Other Operating expenses               | 1,239,119   | 1,337,293   |
|    | Seeds and plantlets                    | 838,928     | 1,157,031   |
|    | Cowfeed, drug and fodder               | 6,469,024   | 4,778,208   |
|    | Fertilisers and pesticides             | 1,004,019   | 837,678     |
|    | Small Tools and Equipment              | 579,887     | 461,299     |
|    |  | 31,590,808  | 26,119,991  |
|    | <b>.</b>                               |             |             |
| 24 | Depreciation and amortisation expense  | 0.704.564   | 0.405.44.4  |
|    | Depreciation (note 10)                 | 8,794,561   | 9,105,414   |
|    | Amortisation (note11)                  | 202,523     | 148,379     |
|    | Depreciation                           | 8,997,084   | 9,253,793   |
| 25 | Other Expenses                         |             |             |
|    | Office Expenses and incidental         | 405,383     | 312,358     |
|    | Rent                                   | 2,659,285   | 4,054,880   |
|    | Training of Staff                      | 424,079     | 318,600     |
|    | Training of Farmers                    | 213,129     | 219,766     |
|    | Security Services                      | 6,428,202   | 5,972,666   |
|    | Miscellaneous Expenses                 | 84,834      | 149,037     |
|    | Legal and professional fees            | 470,811     | 394,568     |
|    | Contribution to Local Orgn ( AYC )     | 106,610     | 72,855      |
|    | Open Day and Other Celebrations        | 189,532     | 139,139     |
|    | Insurance                              | 465,914     | 389,643     |
|    | Books and Publications                 | -           | 4,617       |
|    | Income Support                         | 17,667,367  | 5,316,005   |
|    | IAEA expenses                          | 158,885     | 20,800      |
|    | MRC expenses                           | 119,873     | 70,649      |
|    | IFAD                                   | -           | 452,282     |
|    | Loss on disposal of Fixed Assets       | 245,570     | 47.007.000  |
|    |  | 29,639,474  | 17,887,866  |

## 26. Budget

FAREI presents its financial statements and recurrent budget on an accrual basis. The original budget covered the period 1 January to 31 December 2015. Following change in the financial year end from 31 December to 30 June, expenditure budgets were prepared for six months from January 2015 to 30 June 2015 and twelve months from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 respectively and were approved by the National Assembly as a one-line budget. However, the financial statements cover twelve months from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015.

In order to present the budget information on a comparable basis, the approved budget for 2015/16 was split into two periods: six months from July 2015 to December 2015 and six months from January 2016 to June 2016. The apportioned estimate for the period July 2015 to December 2015 was added to the approved budget for January 2015 to June 2015.

The estimates for the six months from January 2016 to June 2016 will be carried over and added to 2016/17 budget. Following changes in the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act, the next financial statements will be prepared for 18 months ending 30 June 2017. Consequently, both budget and financial statement will be aligned to the same period.

The overall Recurrent Budget deficit is explained by the approval of a lower amount than what is required to meet the financial commitments of FAREI. Such situation did not allow FAREI to fill vacant posts. This explains the savings on salaries as at 31 December 2015.

## 27. Contingent Liabilities

**Bank Guarantee** 

As at 31 December 2015 the FAREI provided a guarantee of Rs 10,000 in favour of the Mauritius Revenue Authority for the issue of a license to operate a still at the plant pathology laboratory.

## Section 6: Senior Staff List 01 January 2015 to 31 December 2015

Ag. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Ramesh RAJCUMAR, BSc.

(with effect from 01 January 2015)

**ASSISTANT DIRECTORS** 

Extension & Training Ramesh RAJCUMAR Dip. Agric. & Sugar Tech. BSc

Crops Research Deovruth ABEELUCK BSc, MSc

Livestock Research Micheline SEENEVASSEN PILLAY (Mrs) BSc

CROP DEPARTMENT

Agronomy Division

Principal Research Scientist Mala GUNGADURDOSS (Mrs)

Lic., Maitrise (Biologie Vegetale)

Fruit Division

Principal Research Scientist Nirmala D RAMBURN (Mrs) PG Dip, BSc

Vegetables & Ornamentals Division

Principal Research Scientist Rita D NOWBUTH BSc, MSc

Resource Management Division

Principal Research Scientist Indoomatee RAMMA (Mrs) BSc, MSc

Plant Pathology Division

Principal Research Scientist Shamduth P BENIMADHU BSc

**Entomology Division** 

Principal Research Scientist Lalini UNMOLE Dr (Mrs) DMS, BSc, PhD

Tissue Culture Laboratory

Laboratory & Nursery Manager Kumari Indira D. BOODHRAM (Mrs) BSc (H), Adv. Cert.

MSc

Agricultural Coordinator Maryse L. WEBB (Mrs) Dip. Agric. & Sugar Tech

Dong Liang CHAN SIP SIONG Dip. Agric. & Sugar Tech

LIVESTOCK DEPARTMENT

**Animal Production Division** 

Principal Research Scientist Parmessur TOOLSEE PG Dip, BSc, MBA

EXTENSION AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT

Principal Extension Officer Shri Swami A M GOOLAUB BSc, MSc

Siow Voong CHUNG TING WAN

Dip. Agric. & Sugar Tech

Chia Shim Chong TSE SIK SUN Dip. Agric. & Sugar Tech

**CENTRAL TECHNICAL SERVICES** 

**Biometry Section** 

**Principal Biometrician** Rajendr K RAMNAUTH *BSc, MSc* 

**Engineering Section** 

Principal Agricultural Engineer Shashikant PANDOO BSc, MSc

**Business Development Section** 

Senior Extension Officer Bhanoochun DYALL *Dip. Agric., MBA* 

(Secondment to MAIFS with effect from 01.11.12)
Mahendre NATHOO DMS, BSc, MSc

Research Scientist/Snr Research Scientist

**ADMINISTRATION** 

Finance Section

Manager Account Section Bhindoomatee RADHA (Mrs) ACMA

**Procurement & Supply Section** 

Stores Superintendent Nadev ORIL

**Human Resource Section** 

Human Resource Officer Bindeshwaree VEERAPEN (Mrs) DMS, BSc

**Administrative Section** 

Administrative Manager Arti DUNPUTH (Miss) ACIS

Suzy Dominique AUGUSTE (Mrs) ACIS