

Minutes of the Meeting

Subject: Collaborative Project with RCG Foundation

Date: 22 January 2025

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: 302 Conference Room, ICRISAT, Hyderabad

Attendees:

- Dr. Ramesh Singh, Head IDC
- Multidisciplinary Scientists, ICRISAT
- Sirish Mahajan, COO, RCG Foundation

Proceedings:

1. Opening Remarks

Dr. Ramesh Singh, Head of IDC, welcomed the participants, acknowledged their presence, and outlined the meeting's objectives. All attendees introduced themselves, including their affiliation, designation, and expertise.

2. IDC Overview

Dr. Ramesh Singh provided a brief overview of the four main verticals of IDC:

- Landscape rejuvenation and conservation
- Climate-resilient technologies
- Waste-to-wealth initiatives
- Alternative livelihood options for dryland agro-ecosystems

3. ICRISAT's Presentation

The ICRISAT team presented the institute's mission, vision, and achievements, highlighting ongoing projects in India and Africa. The presentation was accompanied by a video documentary showcasing success stories related to the adoption of various ICRISAT interventions across India.

4. RCG Foundation Overview

Mr. Sirish Mahajan shared an introduction to the RCG Foundation, along with background information on Shri. Ramachandra Gowda Ji (CMD) and Shri. Anand S V (CEO). He also mentioned the Foundation's focus on the Shidlaghatta Taluka in Chikkaballapur District, Karnataka.

The RCG team shared insights into their current initiatives and their interest in adopting ICRISAT's innovative technologies and methodologies relevant to the project.

5. Challenges in Shidlaghatta Taluka

The teams discussed key challenges facing the Shidlaghatta district, which include:

- Major crops: Finger millet, maize, tomatoes, and flowers
- Key issues: Water scarcity, multi-nutrient deficiency, soil degradation, low productivity, erratic rainfall, and falling groundwater levels.

6. Key focus areas

The team highlighted a collaborative and effective partnership moving forward for the key focus areas include:

- Insitu and exsitu rainwater harvesting
- Crop intensification and diversification
- Landscape management
- Monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment

7. Conclusion & Action Items

The meeting concluded with a summary of action items, final thoughts including exploration of funding opportunities and collaboration between ICRISAT and the RCG Foundation.