

Section 4(1)(b)(vii) of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005

The particulars of any arrangement that exists for consultation with, or representation by, the members of the public in relation to the formulation of its policy or implementation thereof.

As a premier scientific research council under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the policy-making bodies of **ICAR** and its constituent units like **ICAR-CRIJAF** do not generally feature direct legislation or policy creation by the general public. However, extensive structural frameworks exist within the ICAR Rules and Bye-laws to incorporate public representation, stakeholder feedback, and collaborative institutional consultation during both policy formulation and fieldwork implementation.

The standardized proactive disclosure framework for this specific sub-clause at ICAR-CRIJAF details these mechanisms:

1. High-Level Stakeholder Representation in Governance

In terms of policy advice and strategic direction, public and stakeholder representation is statutorily integrated into the institute's primary regulatory and evaluation bodies:

- **Research Advisory Committee (RAC):**

Constituted by the Director General of ICAR, the RAC guides the institute on research directions and policy adjustments. Crucially, its composition explicitly includes **two prominent non-official experts/farmers' representatives** representing the public and agricultural interests. They actively participate in shaping institutional mandates to ensure scientific goals align with real-world farming needs.

- **Institute Management Committee (IMC):**

The IMC oversees the administrative and local financial policy execution of ICAR-CRIJAF. Under the ICAR Rules, the committee's structure mandates the nomination of **two non-official members representing agricultural interests** in the region, providing a direct channel for public voice in institutional governance.

2. Institutional Consultation for Project Implementation

While overarching policy is guided by the ICAR Society, the *implementation* of technological and extension policies features extensive multi-party public consultations:

- **Institute Research Council (IRC):**

Before research projects are institutionalized or implemented, feedback collected from interactive field workshops with farmers, state agricultural departments, and industrial jute cooperatives is

placed before the IRC. This ensures research priorities directly address public and market demands.

- **Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of KVKs:**

For the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) operating under the administrative umbrella of ICAR-CRIJAF, the SAC meets periodically to review extension programs. This committee directly incorporates local progressive farmers, rural entrepreneurs, women's self-help groups (SHGs), and local NGO representatives to shape last-mile delivery.

3. Public Interaction Mechanisms & Field Extensions

The institute maintains structured institutional contact programs to ensure continuous public representation in its programs:

- **Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav (MGMG) & Schedule Caste/Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP/TSP):**

Scientists adopt village clusters and conduct regular *Choupals* (community consultations) to seek inputs from smallholder and marginalized farmers before deploying crop production technologies.

- **Industry-Stakeholder Meets:**

Periodic interfaces are organized with jute mills, fiber trade associations, and artisan cooperatives to discuss processing standards, machinery design, and product diversification, adjusting implementation strategies based on industrial and worker feedback.

Summary Matrix of Public Consultation Entities

Governing/Advisory Body	Type of Public / Stakeholder Representation Included	Role in Policy / Implementation
Research Advisory Committee (RAC)	Two Non-Official Farmer/Industry Nominees	Advisory on Research Policy & Mandates
Institute Management Committee (IMC)	Two Representatives of Agricultural Interests	Recommending body on limited matters of the Institute as per Delegation of power

Governing/Advisory Body	Type of Public / Stakeholder Representation Included	Role in Policy / Implementation
KVK Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)	Local Progressive Farmers, Rural Women, and NGOs	Action-Plan Formulation for District Extensions
Institute Research Council (IRC)	Feedback inputs via State Agriculture Extension Officers	Prioritization of Applied Farm Research

Compliance Note: In accordance with DoPT guidelines and Section 4(1)(c) of the RTI Act, whenever major policy changes or large-scale public initiatives are introduced, relevant data frameworks and consultation briefs are proactively publicized via the official institutional portal to facilitate transparent public awareness.