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Farmer-friendly fruit fly trap

India ranks first in area and production of mango with 2.31 million ha and 12.75 million tonnes, respectively. But infestation with oriental fruit fly (*Bactocera dorsalis*) has been a major impediment to mango export. It accounts for about 27% of the harvesting loss. Now, here is a good news for mango exporters.



A simple, eco-friendly, cost-effective trap developed by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Hessarghatta, Bangalore has come as a respite for mango exporters and growers across the country. The trap has resulted in increased yield and better returns to the mango growers. Field trials in mango orchards have shown encouraging results in the integrated pest management system.

The trap works on a simple male annihilation technique. The trap consists of a small plastic container with a piece of plywood treated with methyl eugenol and dichlorovos which is hung on the tree. This trap attracts the male fruit fly. In the absence of males, females fail to procreate and hence the fruit will be free from infestation. Six to eight traps are required for each acre.

Intimate relationship between space and agriculture

'Weather forecasting is a key area where space science and technology is lending a supportive hand to the agriculture through its array of satellites and imageries', said Dr K Kasturirangan, Member, Planning Commission while delivering Foundation Day Lecture of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) at New Delhi.

Dr Kasturirangan emphasized that space science and technology is an innovative tool for enhancing efficiency and productivity of agricultural systems. Correct estimation of green cover and water resources will help in

management of precious assets and image-based warning for outbreak of pest and diseases will help shrink the crop losses. Advance yield forecasting can be a good resource for planning to effectively run the public distribution system. Space applications for quick and effective delivery of messages to stakeholders have already shown the results and impact, he said.

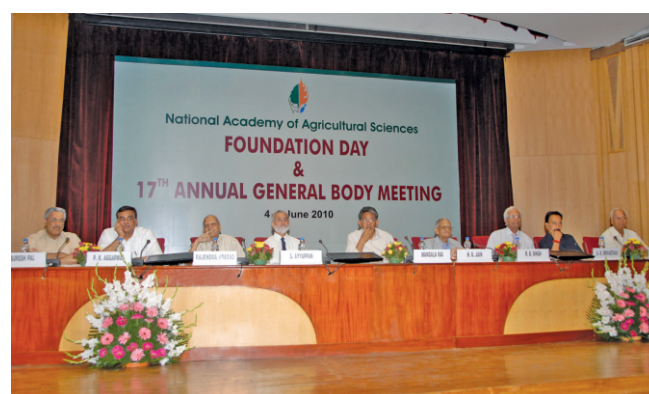
Dr Mangala Rai, President, NAAS, proposed a roadmap for developing an innovative model for transformation of agriculture in India. While delivering presidential address, he emphasized location, situation and system-based bottom-up perspective planning to achieve policy and programme goals formulated in a participatory mode. Development of forward and backward linkage, forging efficient, effective and relevant partnerships with an end-to-end approach involving stakeholders, players and partners is essential, he added.

A landmark publication, *Degraded and Wastelands of India* integrating work done by different institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Department of Space in the area of degraded and wastelands was released on the occasion.

Opportunities in agricultural research

'Growth in agriculture is the only hope for increasing employment', said Mr GH Mir, Minister of Agriculture from Jammu and Kashmir in the inaugural session of 3-day XXI Meeting of ICAR Regional Committee No.1 held at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Chatha. While commending the role of ICAR in maintaining food security despite such challenges, he emphasized the need of quick transfer of the technologies to the farmers.

Mr Ali Mohammad Sagar, Minister for Rural Development, said that strategies need to device-out to save agriculture of hilly states. Mr Sham Lal Sharma, Minister of Horticulture



and Floriculture, suggested that opportunity in cultivation of medicinal plants may be exploited to raise income from agriculture. Mr Aga Syed Rahullah, Minister of Animal and Sheep Husbandry called for time-bound research in the animal sciences sector, while Mr Javed Ahmed Dar, Minister of State for Agriculture, appealed to tap agriculture potential of state.

"Agriculture research is the only area where you invest one and get seven as return," highlighted Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). 'Objective of organizing such meetings is to find out problems and device-out collaborative measures to enhance agricultural profitability', he added. On dealing with climatic change effects, he assured that the Council would provide all support to state governments and agricultural departments in this regard. Listing marketing linkage as major limiting factor in hill states, he said that use of fertilizers in Jammu and Kashmir was quite low as compared to national average. If this factor is taken care of, production can go up manifolds.



Dr H P Singh, Deputy Director General, Horticulture, ICAR, in his opening remarks outlined the objective of this meeting and Dr B Mishra, Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST hoped that deliberations in the meeting would pave way for development of agriculture and allied sectors in the area.

Role of KVK in providing farming solutions to farmers

The XXI Meeting of ICAR Regional Committee No. 1 concluded with more emphasis on the role of KVKs in providing farming solutions to farmers.

Addressing the meeting Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR urged agricultural institutes and KVKs to make the farmer better than he is today. He interfaced with Programme Coordinators of KVKs from Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and sought details of innovations, extension activities, technologies transferred, technical, administrative and financial issues suggesting action points. Promising introduction of more awards for well performing KVKs, he said that ICAR is considering introducing 3 months orientation programme for scientists who are posted to KVKs.

Dr Bangali Baboo, National Director, National Agricultural Innovation Project, said that KVKs should not restrict dissemination of technologies only from affiliated organization, but should also cater to other agricultural institutes. Dr H P Singh, Deputy Director General, Horticulture, ICAR, emphasized on adoption of latest technologies for cultivation of horticulture crops. Terming drought as biggest challenge, Dr A K Singh, Deputy Director General, Natural Resource Management, called for the need to maximize benefit from monsoon by establishing watersheds and rainwater harvesting sheds in this region. Dr Kiran D Kokate, Deputy Director General, Agricultural Extension, ICAR, said that KVKs should device-out training strategies for farmers in their area. He also called for need for better communication and e-connectivity between KVKs. Dr B Mishra, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST, hoped that deliberations would prove useful in changing face of Indian agriculture in near future.

National Academy of Dairy Science

On the occasion of World Milk Day, 1 June 2010, National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) launched the 'National Academy of Dairy Science (India) during a national workshop. The academy will be National Think Tank and will be able to advice on policy matters for growth of quality dairy education and research in the country.

The Academy will also act as nucleus for promoting inter-institutional collaboration; facilitate conduct of national and international workshops and appropriate forum for nomenclature of degrees, discipline and institutions.

Dr R B Singh, former Chairman, Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board (ICAR), New Delhi, while inaugurating the workshop expressed his concern about 1 billion people in the world who remain hungry and 40% malnourished children in India. Livestock sector is performing better over crop sciences and was supposed to grow at 6% but growth in this sector is hovering around 4-5%. Livestock sector employs more women and hence can empower women.

In the key note address, Dr B N Mathur, former Director, NDRI, emphasized that India could be a centre for providing dairy education to nationals from Africa, Latin America and Caribbean.

In his presidential address, Dr A K Srivastava, Director, NDRI informed that livestock sector contributes 28-30% to agricultural GDP and milk contributes 70% to livestock GDP. Milk production in India is growing four fold over world average. Wage disparity in dairy and non-dairy sector is a matter of concern.

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