



हर कदम, हर डगर
किसानों का हमसफर
भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद

AgriSearch with a human touch

*Icar
mail*

Preventing deforestation through lac cultivation

In Jamtara district in Jharkhand *palas* trees were being utilized for fuelwood and other basic requirements of village. Many farmers cut these trees as these are of no economic value. A livelihood project of National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) was envisaged for creating awareness to tap livelihood from available natural resources. The villagers of Baramajhadih village of Narayanpur block; Dahartola, Charedih, Rupaidih, Sarumundu and Sinjotola of Jamtara block have successfully produced and marketed broodlac from their *palas* tree within one year of its introduction as a part of intervention by NAIP, ICAR. Ten farmers of village Baramajhadih (block Narayanpur) who were earlier not even aware of lac produced 399 kg broodlac from their *palas* tree and earned Rs 20,000 for the first time. Shri Baladeo Marandi and Shri Nirmal Marandi earned Rs 7,000 each from summer season lac crop. Twelve farmers of village Dahartola,



Charedih, Rupaidih, Saurumundu and Sinjotola have also successfully produced 354 kg broodlac and earned Rs 17,700 in the same way. Shri Subodh Hembrom of village Charedih and Shri Bodi Nath of Saurimundu earned Rs 3,600 and 3,500 respectively. Now the farmers of this village have stopped cutting naturally available *palas*, rather preserving these for better environment and exploiting it rationally for income enhancement and employment generation without any adverse effect on trees for lac production.

ICAR Awards Ceremony

Shri Sharad Pawar, the Minister of Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, honoured selected scientists, researchers, institutions and farmers with ICAR awards for their outstanding contribution in the field of agriculture. Minister of State for Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Prof. K V Thomas and eminent agricultural scientist and Member of Rajya Sabha, Dr M S Swaminathan also addressed the gathering.

This year, 135 awardees under 11 different categories were selected, comprising 5 institutions, 127 scientists and 3 farmers. Out of 127 scientists, 11 were women.

Agro-biodiversity management for sustainable food security

In the ICAR Foundation Day lecture, noted agricultural



scientist, policy planner and thinker Prof. M S Swaminathan urged to develop awareness regarding locally available agro-biodiversity among the members of neighbourhood community to encourage the *in-situ* conservation. He reiterated that participation of local community in all conservation efforts is an essential component for success of any effort. Further, a biodiversity literacy movement may be initiated to educate people regarding the importance of genetic resources in their future. He said that ICAR has the competence and capability to address this issue at national level with emphasis on local participation. In the current climate change scenario the importance of gene banks is mounting, hence, ICAR may take up creation of gene banks in various agro-climatic zones of the country.

Earlier, Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) welcomed and felicitated Prof. Swaminathan and lauded his central role in growth of the Council. Shri Rajiv Mehrishi, Additional Secretary, DARE and Secretary, ICAR presented vote of thanks.

New publications

The new books released on ICAR's Foundation Day include *Ornamental Fish Farming, Handbook of Animal Husbandry* (Hindi) in two volumes, *Dairy Farming, Mango, Textbook of Preventive Veterinary Medicine and Epidemiology, Aadhunik Pashu Utpadan aur Prabandhan* (Hindi), *Processing, Chemistry and Application of Lac*.

ICAR-A destination for innovative agro-industry and entrepreneurs

Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture, Consumer



Affairs, Food and Public Distribution appreciated the professional approach of ICAR towards the Intellectual property management and technology transfer in an organized manner. He hoped that two-day discussions would result in generating new models of partnerships and incentives where the outcomes are not only commercially but also socially beneficial.

The Meet would provide the right opportunity to the partners to communicate and exchange the ideas effectively and build and sustain trust through inter-personal and organizational relationships, said Prof. K V Thomas, Minister of State for Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Earlier, Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR elaborated the initiatives of the ICAR system to develop Public-Private Partnership and called this collaboration a win-win situation because in addition to Public and Private Sector, farmers will be benefited as well. He said that ICAR has customized region-specific products which will be showcased during this Meet. More emphasis on innovation and interaction between Public-Private sectors may result in more synergy between them. He urged for long-term partnership between these two sectors.

Industry representative Raju Barwale, Managing Director, Mahyco Seeds stressed on aggressive approach for Intellectual Property creation. M Prabhakar Rao, Chairman, NSL Group said that participative approach is needed for more productivity. ICAR may focus on technology development and industry may play its role by providing this technology as finished good to end-users.

The concurrent exhibition showcases the potential technologies under four themes: Seed and Planting Material; Diagnostics, Vaccines and Biotechnological Products; Farm Implements and Machinery; and Post-Harvest Engineering and Value Addition. The Meet is expected to enhance the learning experience and mutual trust and will also develop a better understanding among the innovators and industry for the future participatory or collaborative endeavours.

About 300 representatives from companies, federations, organizations and scientists from ICAR institutes participated in the Meet. Shri Rajiv Mehrishi, Additional secretary, DARE and Secretary ICAR welcomed guests participating in the Meet.

Interaction meet on agricultural mechanization

Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR while inaugurating the Interaction Meet on Agricultural Mechanization at Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE), Bhopal discussed the scarcity of labour in Indian agriculture and the necessity of mechanization of farm

operations. He emphasized the need of precision farming, small equipment for plantation crops, single transport mechanism for processing industry and urged the scientists to develop efficient energy management technologies through biomass-based power generation system, good design of solar dryers and environment-friendly technologies which are technically feasible and economically viable. To avoid the import of rice transplanter, he stressed the need for developing indigenous machine in collaboration with industry. He suggested that CIAE prototypes be supplied to KVKs for popularization of equipment among farmers of specific region.

Dr M M Pandey, Deputy Director General (Engineering), ICAR, and Dr Pitam Chandra, Director, CIAE, also expressed their views on the occasion. The two-day Meet deliberated on various themes on agricultural mechanization, its present status and researchable issues. The scientists from various ICAR Institutes and representatives from Agriculture Industries participated in the Meet.

CaneInfo website

Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore launched CaneInfo website, a database-driven website that delivers timely information on sugarcane to be accessed free of cost anywhere, anytime, by all those involved in sugarcane agriculture. CaneInfo is the culmination of a two-year research project entitled, "Developing a user-centered website on sugarcane production technologies" sponsored by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. Recognizing that only by bringing the user into the development process could the utility of the website be maximized, a series of Focus groups were conducted among the target audience, i.e., the farmers and cane development personnel to identify the users' information needs. Developing a prototype with this information, it was demonstrated to the target audience for evaluation. All these efforts have culminated in the dynamic and demand-driven website, CaneInfo available at <http://caneinfo.nic.in>.

Pant varsity goes global

Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar launched an International School of Agriculture, which was declared open by the Agriculture Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat. Simultaneously, the first academic programme of the School, International Diploma on Hi-tech Agriculture, was also launched by the Minister. The first batch of this course, consisting 11 students from Maldives, were present on this occasion.

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr B S Bisht, while welcoming the guests and Maldivian students said that the programme has been meticulously designed as per the needs of Maldives and approved by Academic Council, Board of Management and the Government of Uttarakhand.

The Registrar of the University and Course Coordinator of this programme, Dr J Kumar said that the course will use innovative custom-made curriculum, teaching methodologies and evaluation procedure.



Dear All
please submit topical news related to agriculture to:
Project Director
e-mail: tptrivedi@icar.org.in