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PM focuses on organic farming at North-Eastern Council

Shillong, 27 May, 2016. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, attended 65th Plenary Celebration of North-Eastern Council (NEC), organized by ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam, Meghalaya.



Shri Modi visited the Agricultural Exhibition along with Minister of State for Development of North-Eastern Hills Region and Chairman, NEC, Dr Jitendra Singh. The exhibition was arranged under the auspices of Ministry

of Agriculture, Government of India to showcase the innovative technologies relevant for the development of agricultural sector in North-Eastern Hills Region with the participation of 11 ICAR research institutes in North-Eastern Hills Region that include six regional research stations of different research institutes in addition to six regional centers spread over the region. Appreciating the impressive display of the exhibition, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, discussed about the rich bio-diversity of North-Eastern Hills Region. Shri Modi also focused on the research work related to organic farming and traditional crops of North-Eastern Hills Region such as Dragon fruit of Mizoram.

24th Meeting of ICAR Regional Committee for Region No. I

Pantnagar, 31 May 2016. Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand, Dr K.K. Paul, inaugurated the 24th Meeting of ICAR Regional



Committee for Region No. I, covering the Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand on 30 May 2016 at Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology. The Minister of Agriculture from J&K stated that this meeting is a forum where best brains come together to examine in-depth the major gaps in the current research and training efforts in agriculture and allied sectors. Dr Paul spoke

on the need of a 'Green Revolution' for hill crops, and stressed upon the need to make hill agriculture a less cumbersome and economically viable enterprise so as to put a hold on migration of youth from the hills.

The Technical Sessions of the Meeting were chaired by Dr T. Mohapatra (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) who was of the opinion that this meeting gives us an opportunity of close interaction between the Research and Development Organizations and State Government Departments in the region, to work together for the benefit of the farming community.

Interface Meeting for enhanced contingency preparedness for Telangana

Hyderabad, 17 May 2016.

An interface meeting on enhanced preparedness for agriculture contingencies in Telangana



for *kharif* 2016 jointly organized by the Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Government of Telangana and Department of Agriculture and Co-operation at Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture focused on the purpose of the contingency interface meeting, monsoon forecast in Telangana. All districts in Telangana are expected to receive normal rainfall during *kharif*, 2016. Parts of Adilabad and Nizamabad districts are expected to receive above normal rainfall. The scientists stressed upon the need for contingency preparation, especially in Adilabad and Nizamabad districts which are likely to receive above normal rainfall and called for promotion of land management practices such as broad bed furrow, conservation furrows in soybean and cotton growing areas. Dr K.V. Rao (PS, CRIDA) also requested for convening meeting at district level between agriculture department and rural development department to promote water conservation works, farm ponds etc in a holistic manner by utilizing funds available under Integrated Watershed Management Programme to serve the farming community in a better way. Sri C. Parthasarithi (Principal Secretary, Agriculture) suggested district officials to identify *mandals* which are drought-prone and give special attention to prepare contingencies for these *mandals* and called for monitoring the situation on a regular basis. Sri Parthasarithi stressed upon the sensitization of all farmers including non-loanee farmers to utilize the Prime Ministers' *Fasal Beema Yojana* to insure their crops. Smt G. D. Priyadarshini (Commissioner, Agriculture) advised that improving soil-health coupled with water harvesting and management is the solution for sustainability of rainfed agriculture in the state. She called for holistic contingency plan

preparedness by district officials instead of only seed procurement and positioning.

Director General, ICAR visits Indian Institute of Horticultural Research

Bengaluru, 20 May 2016. Dr T. Mohapatra (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) visited newly constructed Polyhouses (2 acre), scientific water harvesting structure, pomegranate germplasm from USDA, vegetable breeder seed unit and phenomics facility (NICRA program) at Indian Institute of Horticultural Research.



Dr Mohapatra also visited an exhibition where mega collection of over 150 mango varieties, recently developed fruit, vegetable, ornamental and medicinal crop

varieties; and technologies developed by the IIHR were displayed. Technologies of Central Horticultural Experimental Stations at Hirehally, Chettalli and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Gonikoppa) were also exhibited. The DG, ICAR remarked that the progress made in different facets in terms of technologies and varieties, commercialization, improving farmers income, research publications and awards is exemplary and satisfying. Dr Mohapatra said that IIHR should focus more on basic and fundamental research and provide hand holding to crop based institutions of horticulture. Dr Mohapatra promised that any practical technology would be given promotion at the highest level of ICAR for quicker spread and adoption. Dr Mohapatra also felicitated a progressive farmer from Kolar, Shri Anjaneyya Murthy, for realizing high yield (128 tonnes/ha) by adopting IIHR developed triple disease-resistant tomato F₁ hybrid, Arka Rakshak.

DG, ICAR lays the Foundation Stone for the construction of: Training-cum-Farmers' Hostel at NIVEDI

Bengaluru, 19 May 2016. Dr Trilochan Mohapatra (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) laid the Foundation Stone of Training-cum-Farmers' Hostel at National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and



Disease Informatics; and visited various facilities of NIVEDI including BSL-2 ++ laboratory. Dr Mohapatra also planted saplings to mark the occasion and released the maiden issue of *Pashu Prahari* magazine of NIVEDI, which contains technical articles, literary write-ups, poems etc. for promoting the use of *Rajbhasha*. The DG, ICAR emphasized that the young scientists should have open mind to work towards the goal in a multidisciplinary team so as to contribute to the country either in the form of cost saving technologies or scientific advancements.

Laboratory Animal House at NIANP

Bengaluru, 19 May 2016. Dr T. Mohapatra (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) laid the Foundation Stone for construction of Laboratory Animal House at a cost of 15.00 crore at National



Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology. The project will facilitate the scientists to conduct fundamental research involving laboratory animals by the end of 2017. The Director General, ICAR emphasized that the young scientists with explorative minds are the future of this country and are the crucial force to guide the system. The DG, ICAR also mentioned that the limits and obstacles can only be broken through questioning the problems relentlessly.

Extolling the efforts of the Institute having made a name at national and international level, Dr Mohapatra cautioned the scientists not to be complacent and work continuously for the welfare of the farmers and for developing novel leads and scientific solutions. He assured that the Council will extend all necessary help to the Institute in its endeavour.

Indian Agricultural Insect Museum and National Repository at NBAIR

Bengaluru, 20 May 2016. Dr Trilochan Mohapatra (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) laid the foundation stone for the Indian Agricultural Insect Museum and National Repository at National Bureau of



Agricultural Insect Museum. The museum is being built as per international standards and is expected to house lakhs of insect specimens. Dr Mohapatra stressed the need for more research on the evolutionary biology, genetics, ecology and behaviour of insects; and opined that hard work continued to achieve the stipulated goals.

Swachhta Pakhwara at IISWC

Dehra Dun, 16 May 2016. Padam Shree Dr Anil Prakash Joshi (an Environmentalist, Social worker and Director, HESCO-NGO) gave more attention to empower the society following old culture, social values and norms towards resource conservation and judicious use. The Director (IISWC), Dr P.K. Mishra, stressed upon the collection of degradable and non-degradable waste material separately for its easy management, decomposition and recycling. Dr Mishra said that cleanliness drive may be extended in *Mera Gaon, Mera Gaurav* adopted villages across the research centres. After in-depth interaction and deliberations on *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*, all the staff took a round in the residential colony and cleaned the surroundings under the leadership of Director (IISWC), Dr P.K. Mishra.

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