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Jaggery Production Unit and Farmers' Training Block needed at RC, IISR



Motipur, 27 December 2015. The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) Shri Radha Mohan Singh, said that a Jaggery Production Unit and Farmers' Training Block should be established in the Research Centre to extend benefit of new cane varieties, healthy seed cane and cane production technologies to the large number of farmers of this region at RC of IISR.

Dr A.D. Pathak (Director, IISR) explained the on-going research and cane seed production activities of the centre. As part of Jai Kisan-Jai Vigyan week celebration (23 to 29 December 2015) a farmers-scientists interaction meet was also organized.



Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India

Hyderabad, 28 December 2015. Dr N.S. Rathore (DDG, Agricultural Education) chaired an interactive meeting of Agricultural Education Division, ICAR (Hqtrs) and Comptrollers of Agricultural Universities at the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) to discuss various issues pertaining to ICAR grants provided to the agricultural universities under its plan scheme 'Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India'. Dr Rathore emphasized upon the mutual partnership between the Agricultural Education Division, ICAR and Comptrollers of the Agricultural Universities for effective implementation of the scheme and the crucial role of Comptrollers for bringing reforms and quality of education in the country. Dr M B Chetti (ADG, HRD) discussed about several new initiatives for reforms of Indian agricultural education by strengthening the administration and management. Dr D. Rama Rao (Director, NAARM) gave an overview of NAARM and its role in strengthening the National Agricultural Research System. Dr N. P. Rajasekharan (Guru Management Consultants) focused on management approaches for effectiveness which ensures larger returns to the community invited talk on 'Leadership issues: Balancing Service and in his Control'. He suggested several reformatory steps for better co-operation between ICAR and agricultural universities. was emphasized.

XV Working Group Meeting of AICRP for Dryland Agriculture

Biswanath Chari, 27 December 2015. Dr K. M. Bujarbaruah (Vice-Chancellor, AAU) inaugurated the XV Working Group Meeting of All India Coordinated Research Project for Dryland Agriculture (AICRPDA) at Research Centre of Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture at Assam Agriculture

University (AAU) on 24 December 2015. Dr Bujarbaruah suggested there is need to bring out policy briefs in various thematic areas to address emerging issues in rainfed agriculture, particularly in view of impending impacts of climate variability. Dr Srinivasa Rao (Director, CRIDA) focused on technologies developed across AICRPDA and integrated into various states and national programmes such as Dryland Farming Missions, National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture and Implementing Implementation of Contingency Plans on Real-Time Basis. The 'Farmer First' policy of ICAR was envisaged when 'Best Dryland Farmer Awards' were given to 7 farmers from the domain districts including AICRPDA-National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture, and AICRPDA-Tribal Sub Plan adopted villages.

Zonal Sensitization Workshop on Pulses Production Technology

Jodhpur, 11 Dec-ember 2015. Dr C. B. Pandey (Director, CAZRI) inaugurated Zonal Workshop for Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of Rajasthan and Gujarat, organized by the Agricultural Technology Application Research



Institute, at Central Arid Zone Research Institute. Dr Pandey

opined that the implementation of the programmes must be carried out through Panchayat level for addressing the problems of downtrodden. Dr Pandey appealed to adopt the social apps for the faster diffusion of innovations in changing climate situation. Dr P.P. Rohilla (Director, ATARI) informed that 2,825 demonstrations on pulse crops covering an area of 1,130 ha have been allocated under National Food Security Mission in Rajasthan and Gujarat for enhancing the productivity.

Dr S.J. Singh (Director, Rajasthan Agricultural Research Institute, Durgapura, Jaipur) suggested various techniques like convergent diversion selection method for seeds; adoption of appropriate seed rate as per the size of seeds; adoption of linseed as trap crop in gram against pod borer, reducing the cost of cultivation, storage techniques, etc. He appealed to researchers to develop the genotypes which enhance the nodulation 15 days earlier before flowering.

Glimpses of the ICAR achievements in 2015

- Released 80 improved variants/hybrids of Food, Fibre and Fodder Crops.
- ~98,000 quintals of breeder seeds produced and distributed.
- Technologies of *in vitro* propagation of pomegranate cv. Bhagwa including bio-hardening and Arecanut tissue culture commercialized.
- Registered seven new breeds of indigenous livestock taking the total number of registered indigenous breeds in the country to 151.
- Developed 'Narmadanidhi', an improved location-specific breed of chicken.

- Induced breeding of *Rita chrysea*, catfish endemic to Mahanadi river, in hatchery conditions.
- Developed Taqman probe based OMP-31 gene real-time PCR assay for the diagnosis of *Brucella melitensis*, common abortion causing agent in small ruminants.
- Developed *Brucellosis* detection method and Sheep pox vaccine.
- Achieved breakthrough in artificial breeding of milkfish (*Chanos chanos*), in captivity for the first time in the country.

Farmers' meet and launch of FRP portable carp hatchery at Amarpur

Amarpur village, 20 December 2015. Sri. Jyotirmoy Kar (Minister of Co-operation, Government of West Bengal) inaugurated Farmers' Meet, organized by the Regional Research Centre of Central Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture, for the 'Khariel' tribal farmers of Amarpur village, Potaspur block of East, Dist. Midnapur. Most of these 'Khariel' tribals are engaged in container making from a typical grass (*Khari*). Carp seed production and rearing technology will certainly add to their livelihood development. Sri Kar also launched Portable FRP hatchery unit and dedicated it to the tribal community of the Block. More than 500 Villagers, majority of them tribals attended the function. Dr P. Jayasankar (Director, CIFA) stressed that aquaculture can grow if quality seed, feed, medicine and market are available to the farmers, and requested the State government authorities to initiate establishing a fish brood bank in the region for which technical guidance would be provided by CIFA.



Weed management in conservation agriculture system



Jabalpur, 22 December 2015. Dr. S.K. Jain (Director Extension Services, Nanaji Deshmukh Veterinary Science University) inaugurated 8-day Model Training Course on 'Weed Management in Conservation Agriculture System' on 15 December 2015. In the valedictory function, held on 22 December, 2015, Mr K.S. Netam (Joint Director, State Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Madhya Pradesh) highlighted the importance of conservation agriculture as a viable alternative to conventional agricultural practices that are having obvious negative impact on the environment. Dr A.R. Sharma (Director, DWR) emphasized on need of interdisciplinary research and focused on the importance and purpose of the training. Total 26 agriculture officers and subject matter specialist from 9 states and 6 KVKS attended the training programme. Dr P.K. Singh (Course Director) urged the participants to spread these technologies among farmers as a new way of agricultural production in order to attain higher yields with less labour, less water and fewer inputs.

Epidemiology and impact assessment of livestock diseases

Bengaluru, 21 December 2015. Dr H. Rahman (Director, NIVEDI) inaugurated 8-day Model Training Course on 'Epidemiology and Impact of Livestock Diseases: Concepts, Application and Strategies', organized by the National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics on 14 December 2015. Dr Rahman emphasized the importance of epidemiology and impact assessment for prevention of livestock diseases and focused on outbreak investigation and generation of scientific reports, clinical sample collection and their management, sampling techniques and sample size



estimation for epidemiological studies etc. Besides practical sessions on application of various epidemiological software's, development of schedules and data collection through field visits for epidemiological and impact studies were also conducted. The participants (20) were from 12 States, and 1 Union Territory of the country.

Farmer drudgery reduction through intervention of maize sheller

Dhanpau, 18 December 2015. In continuation of the successful conduct of Field Line Demonstrations of Vivek Maize Hybrid 45 during *kharif* 2015 under the Tribal Sub-Plan, a *Krishak goshti*-cum-demonstration programme '*Makka Sheller ke Samavesh se Krishak Kathin Shramka Nyunikaran*' (Farmer drudgery reduction through intervention of maize sheller) was organized at the adopted village cluster to generate awareness among the farmers on the long-term health-related ailments potentially resulting from uncomfortable postures used in traditional shelling of maize and the importance of maize sheller in mitigating these. The farmers were sensitized on the unnatural body postures involved in the traditional practice of shelling maize, which leads to increased workload on the body besides giving rise to a host of muscular and backbone related ailments such as Karpel Tunnel Syndrome, backache etc. The drudgery and health hazards involved in the traditional practice of maize shelling was analysed by Rapid Upper Limb Analysis technique which corroborated that the traditional maize shelling activity was a hazardous one with adverse long-term health consequences and, therefore, needed to be replaced with a more efficient method which minimizes drudgery and health hazards. The maize sheller was formally handed over to *Durga Mahila Swayam Sahayata Samooh*, the farm-women Self-Help Group of Dhanpau, for community use.

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