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Optimizing talent search in agricultural research and education system



Karnal, 16 January 2015. Union Minister for Agriculture, Shri Radha Mohan Singh, inaugurated a two-day brain storming programme on 'Optimizing talent search for the national agricultural research and education system', organized by ASRB, at National Dairy Research Institute. He stressed upon the need to attract youth to agriculture and to make the scientists' selection process more transparent and effective; and emphasized on the role of local and need based research. He informed that Ministry of Agriculture has a plan to introduce soil-health card to farmers for improving the agricultural production, and policies are being framed to increase the availability of water for irrigation purpose, especially for small farmers. Dr Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Union Minister of State for Agriculture stressed upon the need of attracting researchers and scientists of Indian origin working in the premier foreign laboratories to the national agricultural research and education system. ASRB should frame policies to attract such talent as part of the brain gain, he added.

Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR) stressed that the score card of scientists for career development should be suitably modified from time to time as per the need. He complimented ASRB for providing quality human resource to ICAR system. Dr Gurbachan Singh (Chairman, ASRB) said that the present brainstorming-cum-workshop is an attempt to frame the policies to rope in the best talent in the National Agricultural Research System. In this direction, more efforts would be made to make the recruitment process more transparent.

National Mission meeting on Sustainable Agriculture

New Delhi, 9 January 2015. The First Meeting of Standing Technical Committee of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Department of Agriculture and Co-operation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India was held at Krishi Bhawan. Mr B. Rath (Additional Commissioner (RFS), DAC) highlighted location-specific doable rainfed technologies and experiences of NICRA that can be integrated into State Action Plans.

The main outcomes of the meeting were: constituting a NMSA Cell at National Level in DAC for harmonizing all four components of NMSA; identifying and bench mark survey of

pilot blocks; identifying and up-scaling of doable rainfed technologies considering the diversity in biophysical and socio-economic settings of rainfed areas to achieve sustainability, economic viability and as adaptation and mitigation interventions to climate change; integration of district level contingency plans in State/District Action Plans and operationalizing the contingency plans on real time basis to cope with weather aberrations; qualitative and quantitative monitoring of targets at field level; collating location-specific successful rainfed technologies developed by National Agricultural Research System and integration into



State/District Action Plans; conducting a brain storming workshop for nodal officers on preparing District and State Action Plans and training of nodal officers.

Bio-safety laboratory at NIVEDI

Bengaluru, 9 January 2015. Union Minister for Agriculture, Shri Radha Mohan Singh, dedicated Bio-safety laboratory (BSL) at National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (NIVEDI), Yelahanka. Shri Singh urged the scientists to work towards the disease-free livestock production and economic upliftment of small and marginal farmers. He also



stressed the need to develop climate resilient livestock breeds and on site disease diagnostics. He insisted that NIVEDI should collaborate with other national and International agencies like ISRO, CDC, FAO, USDA and OIE to facilitate quality data collection on animal disease information at par with the world. On this occasion, he released a pen-side diagnostic kit, Lateral Flow Assay (LFA) kit for quick diagnosis of brucellosis and a book, *Brucellosis – A Zoonotic Disease*.

Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR) highlighted the importance of epidemiology and disease surveillance in disease control in the country. He also stressed on the One Health programme initiated in the country.

Union Minister for Agriculture visits NBAIR



Bengaluru, 9 January 2015. Union Minister for Agriculture, Shri Radha Mohan Singh, visited the National Bureau of Animal Insect Research display stall followed by Zonal Project Directorate

where he released the publication, *NBAIR at a glance*. Union Minister for Agriculture evinced keen interest in the research activities of National Bureau of Animal Insect Research while interacting with the scientists.

Veterinary and Fisheries Arthropod Laboratory and Production of Bio-pesticides Unit

Bengaluru, 10 January 2015. Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR) inaugurated the Veterinary and Fisheries Arthropod Laboratory, and NAIP Funded Pilot-Scale Production of Bio-pesticides Unit at the Attur Campus, National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources. Later Proceedings of the Brain Storming Session on 'Insects related to



Veterinary and Fisheries Sciences' was released. This laboratory is mandated to collect, characterize and utilize arthropods in animal and fisheries sciences. The pilot-scale production of bio-pesticides will cater to the needs of technology validation, training to entrepreneurs and sale of formulations.

Economic valuation of ecosystem services of natural open waters

Barrackpore, 5 January 2015. The Inland open water resources viz., rivers, canals, estuaries, floodplain lakes, wetlands, lagoons, upland lakes and reservoirs render numerous ecological, economic and social services and the combined value of the ecosystem services of any natural waterbody is enormous. The decisions on sub-optimal or irrational use of these waters are often taken due to lack of availability of information on ecosystem services and their actual values. Therefore an expert consultation was organized by the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute at the Barrackpore. The consultation was started with the presentation of the background, rationale of valuation of ecosystem services and CIFRI's experiences on working in this area. The experts expressed their views about the necessity of valuation of ecosystem services, services rendered by fish population, stakeholders' identification, data requirement, methodological framework and policy guidelines.

Krishi Mela



Vittal, 10 January 2015. With the aim to create awareness on the technological advances in arecanut and cocoa. The Central Plantation Crops Research Institute organized *Krishi Mela* at Vittal.

Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda, Union Minister for Law and Justice while inaugurating the *Krishi Mela* emphasized the importance of scientist-extension-farmer interface in solving field problems for enhancing the profitability of farmers and also urged the scientists of CPCRI to develop arecanut climbing device and other implements to combat the labour problems and strategies containing the losses due to fruit rot. Interactive seminars on arecanut-based cropping system and cocoa-production technologies were organized during *Krishi Mela*.

Irrigation and Green Water Conservation Techniques

Vasad, 19 January 2015. The Research Centre of Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation organized Field Day on "Irrigation and Green Water Conservation Techniques" for the



farmers of Nawad (Rewalia) and Navagaon villages, in PanchMahals district of Gujarat under the DST funded project. Forty-five farmers attended the field demonstrations, where irrigation techniques, viz. plough furrow, alternate furrow and furrow irrigation with and without surge flow were given live demonstration. Similarly, green water conservation techniques, viz. gravel mulching, residue (leaf) mulching and residue (weeds) mulching with crescent-shaped, V-shaped and saucer shaped micro-catchment around mango plants were demonstrated.

Foundation stone laying ceremony of silver jubilee building

Puttur, 24 January 2015. Dr N.K. Krishna Kumar (DDG, Horticultural Science) laid the foundation stone for Silver Jubilee Building at Directorate of Cashew Research and said that Indian cashew is much sought after in the world market and the whole world looks at India to see the advances in cashew research and development. He highlighted the increasing trend in domestic consumption of cashew and growing processing capacities in African countries which may hamper the availability of raw cashew nuts. He said that softwood grafting technique and varieties like Bhaskara developed by Directorate of Cashew Research have made phenomenal impact in cashew cultivation. However, quality grades in cashew need to be given importance. He also stressed the need for increased interaction among cashew farmers from different states; and stressed the need for state-of-the-art facilities with incorporation of eco-friendly technologies for the upcoming building at Directorate of Cashew Research.



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