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### VIII National Conference on 'Sustainable intensification of smallholder Farms'

Bengaluru, 23 October 2013. The Eighth National Conference of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, 2013, jointly organized by



University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru and Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, was inaugurated by Shri Hans Raj Bhardwaj, Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka at GVKV Campus, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru. He expressed his concern for small-farm holders who are facing greater challenges because of climate change and urged scientists to provide help and scientific solutions to them.

"India has emerged as a major player in international market and contributed immensely towards stabilization of world food prices, and KVKs played a major role in this success", said Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Government of India. "During the last nine years, government has given top most priority to strengthen and structure KVK as an innovative institutional model of frontline extension. The XII Five-Year Plan support will further strengthen KVKs qualitatively in the form of well developed farms, IT facilities, laboratories and processing facilities," he added.

Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR) appreciated the role of KVK in transforming Indian Agriculture through technology interventions and timely advisories. Dr K.D. Kokate (DDG, Agriculture Extension) said that the KVKs function as district level science-based knowledge and resource centre which help strengthening extension science content apart from dovetailing agricultural technologies suiting to the conditions of especially small-farms and to small-holders.

### Foundation Day of AgrInnovate India Ltd.

New Delhi, 19 October 2013. AgrInnovate India Ltd. celebrated its second Foundation Day and conglomerate on innovative partnerships at NASC Complex. Prof. Abhijit Sen (Member, Planning Commission) said that knowledge and



technology are becoming the intellectual property rights and it brings benefits for those who own it. He appreciated the ICAR and AgrInnovate India Ltd. for encouragement of entrepreneurship and innovations and further urged that ICAR should concentrate on development of intellectual properties for the nation for better utilization of resources and to create entrepreneurs among farmers. Prof. Sen also launched the website of AgrInnovate India Ltd. (<http://agrinnovate.co.in>) and inaugurated the exhibition for showcasing the promising NAIP technologies on the occasion.

Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR and Chairman, AgrInnovate India Ltd.) emphasized upon the need of harnessing the synergies with industries for transfer of technologies by pooling resources collaboratively. He said that Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Business Planning and Development (BPD) units play an important role in IP transfer and AgrInnovate is providing platform to promote development through IPR protection, commercialization and partnerships both in the country and abroad. Dr M.M. Pandey (CEO, AgrInnovate India Ltd.) said that AgrInnovate acts as an effective interface between ICAR on one side and the stakeholders of agricultural sector on the other side, for a significant purpose of securing, sustaining and promoting global agricultural development.



### National Workshop on 'Soil Fertility Evaluation...'

Thiruvanthapuram, 9 October 2013. Shri K.M. Chandrasekar (Vice-Chairman, Kerala State Planning Board) inaugurated National Workshop on 'Soil Fertility Evaluation – towards state frame work for XII and XIII Plan' on 8 October, 2013.

Dr A.K. Sikka (DDG, NRM, ICAR) emphasized upon the need of lime application to 91% of acidity stressed areas. He also suggested for development of site specific lime requirement with revalidation, which will go a long way in solving P-fixation, reducing the toxicity of iron and aluminum and helps in improving the efficiency of native soil microbes and applied biofertilizers. Dr J. S. Samra (CEO, NRAA) discussed the natural resources of Kerala and results of soil fertility project systematically and pointed out that soil acidity is the major problem. He also stressed upon the role of soil fertility on aquaculture and tissue analysis of plantation crops in making fertilizer recommendations. On 9 October 2013 the Chief Guest,



Sri. Oommen Chandy (Chief Minister of Kerala) released the book, 'Soil Fertility Assessment and Information Management for Enhancing Crop Productivity in Kerala'. He said that fundamental and long lasting progress can be achieved only from agricultural sector. The land of coconut and rice is poor in the productivity terms with sole exception of rubber. He hoped that finding of the project, deliberations of the workshop and outreach activities envisaged can lead to productivity enhancement of crops.

### IX Session of Technical Committee of CSAM

Bhopal, 18 October 2013. The IX Session of Technical Committee of Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), organized by Central Institute of



Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal, started on 17 October 2013 with introduction and opening remarks by Mr ZHAO Bing, Chief of CSAM. The Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), newly renamed from the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM), is a regional institution of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) based in Beijing, China.

The session was attended by 15 representatives from 13 CSAM countries like Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam.

The major recommendations of IX Technical Committee of Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization are as follows:

- ANTAM should provide a discussion forum for developing and harmonizing testing codes and standards of sustainable agricultural machinery in the region.
- ANTAM should coordinate research and undertake a survey of existing testing standards, procedures and sustainable agricultural mechanization strategies.
- ANTAM should facilitate the adoption of a commonly agreed methodology for agricultural machinery and equipment testing and mutual recognition of testing results by participating countries in the region.

### Research- Extension -Farmers Interface meeting on 'Carp Seed Rearing'

Delta, 10 October 2013. Dr P. Jayasankar (Director, CIFA, Bhubaneswar) inaugurated one day Research- Extension - Farmers Interface meeting on 'Carp Seed Rearing', organized by the Regional Research Centre, Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Devataj, District Anand. The interactive session of the meeting also took a note on farmers' feedback and their requirement. Need for diversified species for culture, facilities for soil and water analysis, advisories in case of fish mortality, etc. were the urgent requirements of the sector.

### Smt. Sonia Gandhi distributed seeds of salt-tolerant varieties of wheat to farmers

Raebareli, 8 October 2013. In view of the importance of salt-tolerant varieties, a programme was organized in KVK, Raebareilly district with



the help of International Rice Research Institute, Manila, Phillipines for dissemination of these varieties among the farmers. Smt Sonia Gandhi (Member of Parliament, Raebareilly and Chairperson, UPA) distributed the seeds of salt-tolerant varieties of wheat 'KRL-19' and 'KRL-213', developed by the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI) among farmers in a programme organized by KVK, Raebareilly. During the programme, Smt. Gandhi said, 'there is a scope of further increase in productivity by using salt-tolerant varieties of rice and wheat to the tune of about 1-1.5 tonne/ha and 2 tonne/ha, respectively without any additional inputs in the partially reclaimed sodic soil', and appreciated the research work of CSSRI and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) with regard to reclamation of sodic lands in the country. Dr V.K. Mishra (Head CSSRI-Regional Research Station, Lucknow) and Dr Sudhanshu Singh (Agronomist South Asia, IRRI) interacted with farmers.

### First Naga Kheti Mela, 2013 on 'Towards Sustainable Agriculture'

Medziphema, 19 October 2013. The First Naga Kheti Mela, organized by the School of Agricultural Sciences and Rural Development (SASRD), Nagaland University in collaboration with ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Nagaland Centre and Department of Agriculture, Government of Nagaland. It was inaugurated by Mr Nihokhu Chophi, (a progressive farmer from Nagaland) on 17 October 2013. The programme was organized on the theme 'Towards sustainable agriculture' with three farmers-scientists interactive sessions, exposure visit to research farm of ICAR Research Complex, Nagaland Centre, SASRD, Biocontrol lab, Medziphema and Central Institute of Horticulture. Four hundred participants including three



hundred farmers from Nagaland, representatives from other North-eastern States and Myanmar participated in the three-day mela. Three sessions on Farmers-

scientists interaction were conducted under the theme on 'Sustainable crop production, livestock - a sustainable livelihood, and Government schemes for empowering rural people'.

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