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DG, ICAR, wishes rise and shine in agriculture

New Delhi, 1 January 2013. On the New Years' occasion, Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) cordially invited ICAR staff members at NASC Complex for a general meeting. While discussing the future strategies, he opined that unforeseen challenges of Indian agriculture are presenting uncommon opportunities which also seek unconventional approaches to harness the potential. Agriculture, food, nutrition, health, environment, employment, and gender perspectives have to be addressed in our efforts through an innovative and integrated approach. He added that engendering agriculture and research management is a mandatory pre-requisite for capacity building. The year ahead is the time for focusing on programmes, partnerships and projects that should further cheer the Indian farmer. 'Family NARES' and 'Team ICAR' are committed for greater synergy as a winning strategy, and together we can make a change in Indian agriculture, to make agriculture a sought after career and occupation for men, women and youth alike. He opined that agriculture should shine and let us give our best as always.



100th session of Indian Science Congress

New Delhi, 7 January 2013. His Excellency President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated five-day 100th Session of Indian Science Congress on 3 January 2013. He said that balanced economic growth especially in emerging economies like India is of paramount importance. Productive engagement of our youth in agriculture, manufacturing and value based services holds the key for a balanced growth of the country. The new Science, Technology and Industrial Policy (STI Policy) will pave the technology-led path for change ensuring prosperity with peace and inclusiveness. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh, emphasized the importance of rural development and agriculture through Science and Technology interventions. ICAR participated in the Pride of India Expo, organized on this occasion to showcase the activities and contributions in agricultural research and education. Display of live samples, technologies, informative literature, films on technologies and interaction with scientists were highlights of the exhibition.

Role of the ICAR in Pride of India Expo

Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR) chaired the Public Outreach Session on sidelines of 100th Session of Indian Science Congress, organized by the Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture (DKMA) ICAR and Zonal Project Directorate, Zone-II, Kolkata, at National Institute of



Cholera and Enteric Diseases on 4 January 2013. He emphasized upon ample career opportunities in agriculture and agricultural research, and also highlighted the important role of modern agricultural technologies in our daily life, especially in providing food and nutrition.

Dr Rameshwar Singh (Project Director, DKMA) made an illustrative presentation on journey and milestones of ICAR. He also briefed on agricultural education, admission process and award of fellowships and scholarships. Young researchers, extension functionaries, farmers and members of general public participated in the outreach session.

ICAR pavilion gets Best Design Award



The ICAR Pavilion, conceptualized and organized by Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture, won Best Design Award at 100 session of Indian Science Congress-Pride of India Expo, held from 3 to 7 January, 2013. Dr (Mrs) Vijay Laxmi Saxena (General Secretary, Scientific Affairs), Indian Science Congress Association conferred the award. The ICAR pavilion depicted strength of agricultural research, education and extension through illustrative and informative displays, models and live samples. Films on agricultural technologies were also screened which attracted large number of visitors. The ICAR publications were also available on display and sale. Informative brochures were distributed on selected technologies and other issues of interest in Hindi, English and Bangla languages. For details e-mail: pddkma@icar.org.in

'Mahima' female calf born from cloned buffalo 'Garima'

Karnal, 25 January 2013. A female calf (named as 'Mahima', body weight 32 kg) was born from cloned buffalo Garima by normal parturition at National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal. In the world, it is the first calf born from cloned buffaloes, produced through hand guided cloning technique. The newborn "Mahima" is keeping very good health and has started suckling of milk within 30 minutes of birth.



The consortium investigators team is maintaining four embryonic stem cell lines of buffalo already developed and

characterized by them for the long-term; and is further engaged in developing spermatogonial stem cell line with NAIP support. For details e mail: dir.ndri@gmail.com

Male Broiler B-2309 rabbit of Black Brown Strain gained faster body weight than other breeds on 84th days

Aivanagar, 18 January 2013. A male broiler B-2309 rabbit of Black Brown strain, developed at Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute (CSWRI) gained a record body weight of 2.835 kg at 12 weeks (84 days) for the first time which is developed at this institute through intensive *inter se* mating and selection over the years. This has the potential to increase carcass yield from 1.0 kg/ animal to 1.5 kg/ animal. This male rabbit showed exceptional growth at every stage (4 weeks-0.7 kg; 6 weeks-1.3 kg; 8 weeks-1.8 kg; 10 weeks-2.350 kg and 12 weeks-2.835 kg) and achieved this body weight that is normally achieved at 24 weeks of age (168 days). This strain breeds true to its coat colour and gave high performance in all parameters. This exceptional male will be used to produce elite progenies in future to further improve performance of broiler rabbits at CSWRI, which is the sole repository of high quality broiler rabbit germplasm in the country. The strict selection programme being followed has resulted in around 50% of all growers achieving > 2.0 kg overall at 12 weeks. For details e mail: mmroyster@gmail.com



KVK Foundation Day and Farmers' Fair

Kukma-Bhuj, 17 January 2013. On the Foundation Day of KVK, CAZRI, Kukma-Bhuj, a three-day farmers' fair was organized under the joint collaboration of the Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Regional Research Station, Bhuj, Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and Farmers' Training Centre, Bhuj. About 1,000 farmers per day participated in the fair. First day of the farmers fair was oriented towards animal husbandry, second day towards horticultural crops and the last day on other crops and extension activities. About 30 progressive farmers were honoured in the fair for their respective achievements in animal husbandry, horticulture and crop cultivation. An exhibition was also organized with 50 stalls of fertilizers, seeds, drip irrigation system, tractors, farm implements, and other agriculture related things during all three days of the fair.

Dr K.D. Kokate (Deputy Director General, Agricultural Extension) laid down the foundation stone of office building of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), CAZRI, Bhuj on 18 January 2013 and emphasized the role of KVKs in disseminating technologies among farmer communities. He appreciated efforts made by the farmers of Gujarat especially Kachchh district informing farmer groups and cooperatives. Dr M.M. Roy (Director, CAZRI, Jodhpur) enumerated various areas like animal husbandry, rangeland management, dry-land agriculture, renewable energy use in farming where CAZRI and its



regional station at Bhuj may collaborate with the Krishi Vigyan Kendra's. For details e mail: devidayal@cazri.res.in

KVK's Administrative Building inaugurated

Ashokenagar, 12 January 2013. Dr K.D. Kokate (Deputy Director General, Agricultural Extension) and Prof. C.S. Chakrabarti (Vice-Chancellor, West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences, Kolkata) jointly inaugurated Administrative Building of Krishi Vigyan Kendra at 24 North Parganas. The Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension) emphasized upon the KVK-ATMA convergence, capacity building of farmers value addition, product linking for capturing marketing chain, women's empowerment through alternate employment options like dairying. Citing the examples of Maharashtra and Rajasthan, he added that the farmers should form groups and take advantage of organized marketing, and about women farmers' groups and creating 'resource couple' and requested to operationalize farmers-led extension or market-led extension.

The Vice-Chancellor (West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences, Kolkata) focused on various problems faced by the farmers like soil-testing, poor quality seed and low profitability and emphasized on practicing Integrated Farming System wherever possible involving livestock and fishery components.

The shed for protected cultivation, constructed under *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana*, was inaugurated and a Farmers-Scientists interaction session was organized in which Dr A.K. Singh, (Zonal Project Director) interacted with farmers and mentioned about measures to be taken for speedy recruitment of staff, creation of progeny orchard and arranging for a soil testing laboratory. For details e mail: kvkashoke@lcos.com

New Secretary joins ICAR

New Delhi, 1 January 2013. Shri Arvind R. Kaushal joined Ministry of Agriculture as Additional Secretary to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Secretary to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on 31 December 2012 (AN). He succeeds Shri Siraj Hussain (Additional Secretary DARE and Secretary, ICAR).



Born on 27 May 1955, Shri Arvind R. Kaushal did his post-graduation in English from Punjab University, Chandigarh, and M.Sc. in Development Management with Gold Medal from the University of Glasgow, United Kingdom. He belongs to the Indian Defense Accounts Services (1979 batch) and has served the Central Secretariat as Under Secretary in the Department of Power, Director in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Joint Secretary in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries in Ministry of Agriculture.

ICAR Vichar Manch

New Delhi, 15 January 2013. Shri Leela Dhar Mandoli (Director General, All India Radio) shared his vast experience on 'Life and Poetry' at the NASC Complex. He said that poetry takes you to intellectual beauty which cannot be destroyed. He also added that poetry is the first art form of a man's life. Shri Mandoli is recipient of *Sahityakar Samman*, Pashkin Award etc. and has represented Government of India in various international fora.



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