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भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद

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Dr Kalam suggests research missions for sustainable growth in agriculture



"There is a need to carry out research on how the small and marginal farmers can come together through the intervention of KVK and form rural cooperatives in their areas so that integrated farming including agro-processing can be carried out which will lead to value-added products and enhance the revenue earning ability of bottom of the pyramid farmers", said Bharat Ratna Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, former President of India at New Delhi on 16 July 2012 while delivering Foundation Day Lecture on 84th Foundation Day of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and ICAR Award Ceremony. Congratulating ICAR for transforming India into a self-sufficient nation in food grains, he suggested research missions for ICAR (2012-2030) for accelerating the growth and increase the productivity to achieve 10% growth rate in agriculture. Dr Kalam suggested eight research missions which include development of farm practices for small and marginal farmers, analyzing and mapping of natural resources and documentation of all the agricultural technologies. ICAR can develop a self-coordinating mechanism for achieving this goal as an organizational development mission, he added.



Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries and Chief Guest of the ceremony, while appreciating contributions of ICAR in ensuring food security of the country, congratulated award winners and hoped that the recognitions will inspire other colleagues to strive harder towards achieving excellence. To advance pro-poor agricultural R&D, it is required that both, the private and public sector research and development organizations, focus on pooling resources and work collaboratively for harnessing the synergies, said Shri Pawar.

Shri Harish Rawat, Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Food Processing Industries and Parliamentary Affairs and Guest of Honour elaborated several path breaking achievements of ICAR which have paved way for a quantum jump in production of various agri-commodities. In order to make knowledge and skills a vehicle for agricultural transformation, capacity and capability building of rural people, through vocational education is imminent, he said.

Dr Charan Das Mahant, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries and Guest of Honour hoped that development and dissemination of agricultural technologies will go a long way in enhancing the agricultural production and farmers profitability. He expressed his concern for unwarranted losses of valuable farm produce and suggested that a higher research priority should be accorded to secondary agriculture to avoid such losses.

Shri Pawar, Shri Rawat and Dr Mahant gave away ICAR Awards 2011 having 83 awardees under 16 different categories. These comprise three institutions, one AICRP, nine KVKs, nine farmers, one journalist, four teachers and 56 scientists. Among 56 scientists there are five women scientists.



Dignitaries released valuable knowledge and information products of ICAR in both print and digital formats. First Hindi Research Journal of ICAR entitled *Krishika* was also released. *Krishika* is a half-yearly peer reviewed journal covering research in agriculture and allied subjects. In the first issue, the Journal contains review articles on Crop Science, Horticulture, Water Resource, Biotechnology and other related subjects of importance.

Earlier, Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR welcomed dignitaries, guests, awardees and participants and presented a brief account of R&D preparedness of ICAR to face the future challenges. He also pointed out the major paradigm shifts and novel approaches for the 12th plan being prepared by the ICAR.

Members of Parliament, senior bureaucrats, renowned agriculture experts, senior officials of ICAR and other related organizations participated in the ceremony. Dr Ravindra Kumar, ADG (TC) proposed vote of thanks.

Annual Review Meeting of ICAR Seed Project

Annual Review Meeting of ICAR Seed Project "Seed Production in Agricultural Crops" was inaugurated by Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR at New Delhi on 25 July 2012. On this occasion, he emphasized on the importance of seed mission. Dr Ayyappan said, "The meeting was called before time to review progress and preparations for the next XIIth Five Year Plan." In the backdrop of weak monsoon,

he emphasized on distribution of seeds for alternative crops. For sustainability of this project, we need more public and private partners to increase research and development in seed production, he added.

The meeting envisages to review the progress made by different cooperating centres in terms of achieving seed production and financial targets, infrastructure development, etc., during 2011-12 and also to discuss about implementation of this project during XIIth Plan.

The review meeting was also addressed by Dr P L Gautam, Chairman, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority; Prof. Swapan Kumar Datta, DDG (Crop Sciences), ICAR, Dr J S Sandhu, A D G (Seeds), ICAR, and Mr S K Roongta, CMD, National Seeds Corporation Limited. Many Vice Chancellors of SAU's, Directors, and Project Incharge also attended the review meeting. Earlier, Dr S Rajendra Prasad, Project Director, Directorate of Seed Research, Mau welcomed the dignitaries and gave a brief presentation on Action Taken Report and Progress of the project.

Transfer of technology of bluetongue multivalent inactivated vaccine

Indian Council of Agricultural Research signed a MOU with M/s Sanvita Biotechnologies Pvt. Ltd, Hyderabad for commercialization of Bluetongue Multivalent Inactivated Vaccine in presence of Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR, Dr R Prabhakaran, Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Science University, Dr K M L Pathak, DDG(Animal Sciences), Dr Gaya Prasad, ADG(Animal Health), Dr Krishnamachari from Sanvita Biotechnologies and other experts dignitaries from ICAR and TANUVAS.



This technology has already been taken by Indian Immunologicals Limited, Hyderabad and Biovet Private Limited, Bangalore for commercial production by signing Memorandum of Understanding with TANUVAS and ICAR, under the Public Private Partnership Programme on 15 February 2011.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research has initiated All India Network Programme on Bluetongue during Xth Five Year Plan which is continuing in XIth Five Year Plan (2007-2012) with a total budget outlay of ₹7.00 crores and is continuing in XII Plan Period in order to develop effective control programmes for bluetongue. The network programme is functioning at 11 centres located at various states of India. Bluetongue multivalent inactivated vaccine is successfully developed by TANUVAS Centre in collaboration with Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University (Andhra Pradesh), Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals (Karnataka) and Lala Lajpatrai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (Haryana).

Fish Farmer's Day

Fish Farmer's Day was celebrated at Champawat field centre of Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research (DCFR), Bhimtal (ICAR) on 10 July 2012. The programme was presided over by Dr B Meena Kumari, DDG (Fisheries), ICAR. Shri Shridhar Babu Addanki, IAS, District Magistrate, Champawat, Uttarakhand graced the occasion as Chief Guest and Dr S D Singh, ADG(Inland Fisheries) addressed the gathering as guest of honor. Dr P C Mahanta, Director, DCFR and Dr S K Srivastava, Scientist, Incharge of the centre welcomed all the farmers, entrepreneurs, dignitaries and media persons.

Dr Meena Kumari in her inaugural address highlighted the importance of quality seed, nutritionally balanced feed and health management for the up scaling of hill aquaculture. Due to climate change the temperature of the environment is gradually increasing, therefore water conservation is very crucial for sustainable fish farming activities in the hilly region.

Dr S D Singh in his address emphasized upon the need of transfer of technology from the lab to land. District Magistrate, Champawat assured

the gathering to provide all administrative support for development of fish farming in this area and he stressed upon need for training programme for the fish farmers at Champawat centre. An exhibition of the institute was also arranged on this occasion. Around 150 farmers and entrepreneurs participated and six farmers were honoured for their outstanding contribution in the coldwater aquaculture. A lively farmer-scientist interaction meet was organized to solve the problems of farmers. The expert scientists of DCFR, Bhimtal and Champawat centres participated in the interactive session to address the queries raised by the farmers.

Adoption of resource conservation technologies

Dr K D Kokate, DDG(Agricultural Extension), ICAR visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ludhiana and Fatehgarh Sahib on 11 July 2012 along with Dr A M Narula, Zonal Project Director ICAR, Zone-I, Dr M S Gill, Director of Extension Education, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, Dr V P Chahal, Principal Scientist and Dr P Adhiguru, Senior Scientist, ICAR, New Delhi.

The team took keen interest in multi-facial activities being carried out by KVK for upliftment of farming community of the area. An exhibition was also organized by the entrepreneurs who have started their ventures after obtaining training and guidance from KVK, Ludhiana. While having interaction with the farmers, Dr Kokate emphasized that for sustainable agriculture resource conservation technologies have to be adopted for which farmers should take appropriate trainings from KVKs. He further said that for enhancing the profitability, farmers will have to do value-addition to their produce and in this regard, he appreciated and shared the work of KVK, Kunnur in Kerala and wished that Programme Coordinators from Zone-I must visit KVK, Kunnur and other KVKs for cross learning programmes.

The team also visited Badauchhi Kalan village adopted under NICRA by KVK Fatehgarh Sahib and inaugurated a biogas plant and model polyhouse established in the village with the financial support from NICRA. Dr Kokate also interacted with farmers on the changing environmental conditions and its adverse effects on the agricultural crops.

Regional Seminar of NAIP on Site-specific Farming System Options for Disadvantaged Areas

A two-day Regional Seminar-cum-Workshop of National Agricultural Innovation Project (Component III: Sustainable Rural Livelihood Security) on "Site-specific Farming System Options for Disadvantaged Areas" was organized at ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Manipur Centre, Imphal. The seminar was inaugurated on 5 July 2012 by Shri C A Worchuiyo, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Tamenglong District, Manipur as Chief Guest. Dr G C Munda, Consortia Principal Investigator, NAIP-Comp-III and HoD, Division of Natural Resource Management, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Meghalaya and Dr S V Ngachan, Consortia Leader, NAIP-Comp-III and Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Meghalaya graced the inaugural function as Guest of Honour and President, respectively. Dr N Prakash, Joint Director, ICAR, Manipur Centre, welcomed all the dignitaries and delegates.

Shri C A Worchuiyo congratulated ICAR for their successful initiative for improving the livelihood of the farmers through different interventions under NAIP. He also emphasized on human resource development and field level demonstration to bring a change in the mindset of the local people. Dr G C Munda briefly presented the salient achievements of the project in different north-eastern states. Dr S V Ngachan in his presidential address, emphasized on sustainability and impact analysis of different interventions undertaken through NAIP-Comp-III to motivate real socio-economic interventions. Delegates discussed their achievements of different interventions and also finalized the action plan for next two years. Major recommendations of the seminar included: the integrated farming system approach rationally for effective utilization of natural resources and optimize productivity and income; focus on low cost, easily adoptable and sustainable technologies; adequate emphasis given on food crops along with horticultural crops; and cross sectoral visits to different clusters for better learning by the cluster leaders/scientists.

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