



हर कदम, हर डगर
किसानों का हमसफर
भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद

AgriSearch with a human touch

*Icar
mail*

Backyard poultry creates excellent impact on livelihood in east Sikkim

Nandok is an adopted village of east Sikkim district under National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project. It was found that the poultry production systems in Nandok and other nearby villages are traditional and poorly remunerative. Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), east Sikkim made intervention with dual-purpose improved birds, which can thrive well under poor feeding and management practices followed in village, can grow faster than indigenous birds and lay more eggs, thus leading to improvement in the livelihood security of the poor. The Vanaraja and Gramapriya bird were identified for intervention, due to multiple colours, looks like indigenous birds and fetch better price in terms of meat and egg in the market.

The best poultry producers (having interest, skill and locally available indigenous resources to rear birds) within self-help groups of the adopted village interested in poultry production were identified as first line beneficiaries, who would initially receive assistance from NICRA project. The groups were informed that the remaining members would receive assistance after successful rearing of the birds by first line beneficiaries and the cycle would be rotated from their own investment.

The KVK organized several training and demonstration programmes on "Backyard Poultry Rearing" at Nandok as well as at ICAR Sikkim Centre for farmers and farm women. Exposure visits were also conducted to gain more practical knowledge, particularly on Vanaraja and Gramapriya birds suitable. After that, KVK supplied 400 nos. of Vanaraja and 400 nos. of Gramapriya birds to 40 beneficiaries of the adopted village. The KVK maintained regular contacts with them and suitable suggestions and recommendations were given to solve specific problems. The birds were also given timely vaccination, treatment etc.

Successful field demonstration trial of the sea farming of spiny lobster

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), successfully conducted a field demonstration trial of the sea farming of spiny lobster (*Panulirus polyphagus*) in the Open Sea



Research Cage Farm established off Veraval in Junagadh district, Gujarat involving the Bharat Adim Juth Matsyodhyog Mandali, Talala a society of the primitive tribals the Sidi's of Veraval and Talala Taluka, Junagadh district.

The maiden harvest of the research farm was flagged off onboard at sea near the farm site by Shri Rajsibhai Jotwa, MLA (Somnath). In his inaugural address, he congratulated the scientists involved in the successful conduct of field demonstration trial of the sea farming of spiny lobster in the open sea and expressed deep satisfaction over the initiatives taken up by the CMFRI.

Shri Ravibhai Gohel, Vice Chairman, Veraval-Patan Municipality Corporation in his presidential address said "adoption of sea farming of spiny lobster in cages will give relief to the fishing community from decreasing fish catch and skyrocketing input costs involved in fishing

and reiterated the need to have a sound policy for open sea farming to take forward the achievements of the scientists".

Dr A Y Desai, Principal and Dean College of Fisheries, Veraval, Junagadh Agriculture University elaborated the need and benefits of sea farming of spiny lobster.

Samudriya Krishi Mela was organized in the sea shore near Prabhas Patan, Veraval which was presided by Chairperson of the Veraval-Patan Municipal Corporation, Veraval. President of the Seafood Exporters Association, Gujarat was also present on the occasion. The *mela* depicted the achievements of CMFRI in the marine fisheries and mariculture sector with details on various mariculture technologies developed by the Institute.

First mithun calf born from cryopreserved embryo

"Mohan", the first mithun calf was born through embryo transfer technology (ETT) from a cryopreserved embryo at the National Research Centre on Mithun, Jharnapani, Nagaland, India on 12 May 2012. The embryo was preserved in liquid nitrogen for 100 days. This is the third successive birth of mithun calf through embryo transfer.



The first calf named as "Bharat" was born on 27 March 2012 and the second calf "Prithvi" on 11 May 2012 survived only for two days due to premature delivery.

The ETT programme was initiated at the Institute around five years ago and this is the third success in mithun. The scientists of college of Veterinary Sciences, Assam Agricultural University, Khanapara, Guwahati and NRC on Yak, Dirang (Arunachal Pradesh) have also made significant contribution in this endeavour. It will help to multiply and propagate quality germplasm of this magnificent species. Additionally, the standardized protocol for cryopreservation of mithun embryos and its successful application in ETT will help in conservation and propagation of mithun in the field. This technology is the conglomeration of use of the best quality of sperm and oocyte (unlike AI where only the best quality sperms are used) and can produce 10-12 calves at a time from a single cow.

Six technologies of IVRI transferred to commercial houses on National Technology Day

On the occasion of National Technology Day, six technologies of Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar, Uttar Pradesh were transferred to three commercial houses by Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR in a special function organized at the ICAR headquarters, New Delhi. Dr Ayyappan, complimented IVRI for successful development and transfer of technologies to various commercial houses.



Memorandum of Understandings were signed by Dr M C Sharma, Director, IVRI and the representatives from three commercial houses namely, Managing Director of Indian Immunologicals Ltd (ILL), Dr K Balasubramanyam, Hyderabad; Director of Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals (IAHVB) Dr Renuka Prasad, Bangalore and Managing Director of Vivimed Labs, Hyderabad Dr Manohar Rao, in the presence of senior officers of Animal Science Division, ICAR and ICAR institutes.

Out of the six technologies transferred to the commercial houses, two vaccines i.e. Goat Pox and Swine Fever vaccines were transferred to M/s ILL, Hyderabad; PPR, Goat Pox and Sheep Pox vaccines to M/s IAHVB, Bangalore and; Brucella abortus and Bluetongue detection kit to M/s Vivimed Lab, Hyderabad at a total cost of ₹127 lakh with royalty on production basis for next 10–15 years. These technologies will be used in the National Disease Control Programmes to be initiated by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India.

4th Plant Genome Saviour Community Awards Conferred

On the eve of International day for Biological Diversity, the Chief Guest Dr Charan Das Mahant, Minister of State for Agriculture & Food Processing Industries, Govt of India conferred Plant Genome Saviour Community Awards. Prof. M S Swaminathan, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) distributed Plant Genome Saviour Recognition Certificates (2010–11) to seven farmers and farmers' institution for their contributions in the conservation of Plant Genetic Resources of economic plants, their improvement and making available for development of new plant varieties.



Dr Mahant also launched e-filing of the application for registration under PPV&FR Act 2001. This facility will help the stakeholders to file their application from any town and corner of the world. An exhibition was also inaugurated by him showcasing the activities of the PPV&FR Authority, DUS Centres and the plant materials conserved by farmers and their communities. Prof. M S Swaminathan was of the view that this is a great moment that the farming community of the country have been honoured for their dedicated and selfless services since time immemorial for the conservation of agro-biodiversity, traditional varieties and landraces.

The awardees are: Shyamsunder Sister Nivedita Sangha, Burdwan, West Bengal for developmental services to rural and agricultural sector including conservation and preservation of traditional rice varieties. Pokkali Rice Farming Community, Ernakulam, Kerala: for system of organic farming for sustainable system of growth of rice in low saline phase. Pokkali variety selected and conserved by farmers is inherently tolerant to salinity and submergence. Wayanad District Development Action Council, Wayanad, Kerala engaged in overall development of the tribal communities of Wayanad and adjoining districts in Malabar. Agro-biodiversity hot-spot of India has conserved traditional landraces of rice and encouraged traditional agricultural system. The conservation efforts of the Council not only promoted biodiversity, indigenous and cultural diversity but also played an important role in enhancing the food and nutritional security. Tamil Nadu Hill Banana Growers' Federation, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu working in the Pulney hills in Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu which is the home of famous Virupakshi Hill Banana. The community revived this banana as it is tolerant to the bunchy-top virus disease with their conservation and preservation.

The Govt. of India has established Gene Fund for supporting the activities of conservation and preservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Plant Genome Saviour Community Awards have been instituted under the gene fund to provide due recognition and support the persons engaged in such activities. The award carries ₹10 lakh in cash, Citation and a memento to the representatives of the above farmers' community.



Dr P L Gautam, Chairperson, PPV&FR Authority, thanked all the dignitaries for gracious presence on the occasion and for their motivation and encouragement for the cause.

Senior officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, farmers, scientists from ICAR, State Agricultural Universities and Members of the Authority, participated in the award ceremony. With the enactment of the Protection of Plant varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 the country joined the group of developed countries in regards to protection of plant varieties. In addition the Act captures the essential features of International Conventions/ Treaties like Convention of Biological Diversity, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources & International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

IWMI office in India celebrates as Institute wins 'world's most prestigious prize' for water

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI), which has offices in New Delhi, Hyderabad and Anand, has been named the Stockholm Water Prize Laureate for 2012. Awarded by the Stockholm International Water Institute, this prestigious prize honours individuals, institutions or organizations whose work contributes broadly to the conservation and protection of water resources and to the improved health of the planet's inhabitants and ecosystems. The IWMI is the first international research institution to have received this accolade.

"We are delighted that the hard work of everyone at IWMI has been recognized in this way," said Colin Chartres, Director General of the Institute. "This is unquestionably the single most important international award in the water sector. To have won it, is outstanding and a testament to the professionalism and dedication of everyone at IWMI, past and present, and the many partners we have worked alongside."

The Stockholm award committee praised IWMI's work as having led to 'new policies and investments in agriculture that have not only enabled more productive use of water, but have enhanced food security, economic development and environmental health around the world.'

Welcoming the award, Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR said, "I heartily congratulate the Board of Governors and staff members of IWMI for this well-deserved accolade. India is proud to be the host to a leading global institution like IWMI, and it clearly demonstrates that our scientists, in partnership with their international colleagues, are at the cutting edge of new thinking on water management."

The prize will be presented to Dr Chartres during World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden, in August 2012.

The announcement of the award comes on World Water Day (22 March), which is also the launch date for a new global campaign to bring people together to develop water solutions that create jobs, grow more food, keep us healthy and protect nature. The 'Ripples on Water' campaign will be launched in Sri Lanka through a unique coming together of art, science and development with a laser and water dance spectacular.

Dear All
please submit topical news related to agriculture to:
Project Director
e-mail: tptrivedi@icar.org.in