



AgriSearch with a human touch

*Icar
mail*

Her Excellency the President of India honours ICAR Institute

On the occasion of *Hindi Diwas* celebration at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 14 September 2011, Her Excellency The President of India, Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil awarded the second prize to an ICAR Institute, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi for 2010 for excellent performance under the category of Implementation of Official Language Policy to the Autonomous Bodies/Corporations/ Board etc.



Two scientists, Dr A K Pandey and Dr Major Singh of Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi were also awarded consolation prize for their book *Dalhani Sabzian*.

The function was presided by Mr P Chidambaram, the Hon'ble Union Minister for Home Affairs, Government of India. The Hon'ble Ministers of State for Home Affairs Mr Mullappally Ramachandran and Mr Jitendra Singh also graced the occasion.

Farmers in South Garo Hills secure livelihood through technological interventions

Farmers of the 11 villages in the South Garo Hills district in north-eastern region have upgraded their livelihood through scientific farm practices and other technological interventions. Moreover, allied poultry, piggery, duckery and sustainable water management wooed farmers adding extra income to their pockets. This could become possible due to all-round support of the ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Barapani under the NAIP project for livelihood security.

With the appropriate technology input, rice cultivated through System of Rice Intensification (SRI) recorded 4.8 tonnes/ha over the conventionally practised 1.5 tonnes/ha. High yields were recorded at Shivbari, Diphali para, Konkana and Jadugiri and seven villages bordering with Bangladesh, which the NAIP had selected for rice improvements. Now, most of these villages cultivate rice with SRI with their own success stories.

After three years of hard work across the farmers' fields, the most backward and deprived farmers became progressive farmers due to enhanced awareness and technology empowerment. "Twenty Seven quintals of rice from just an acre only is like a miracle! We have never-ever got such bumper rice yielding from a little chunk of land throughout our life," said school teacher turned farmer, Mahendra Hagen of Pipalipara village. "My paddy cultivation provided the maximum acreage by using SRI-applications. Moreover, my work has been widely recognized across the area," he added further.

Farmers' choice of profession is a key step to develop entrepreneurial attitude, however land holding is also crucial. Those who have lands can go for better crops while those who do not have can opt for goater, piggery and tailoring.

"I am supplying fingerlings worth ₹100,000 across South Garo Hills every year. However, most of the time, the fingerlings demand is so high that I could not meet the supply orders. This is so because the upsurging demands are coming either from the district or outside. For the current year, I sold fingerlings worth ₹60,000 from just a half acre of pond so far. The supply orders will be met shortly," said progressive farmer, Wildstone Sangama, possessing 50 acres of land at village Diphali para.

"Duckery can be a profitable business for small and even landless farmers because it requires little space and feed," says Pushpanjali of Diphali para village. She further added that maintaining duckery at your courtyard is as simple as rearing any pets. Moreover, just spend two laborious years initially after which the first crop of the duckery will gleam you with the confidence that you can do it very easily.

Umran based Regional Rural Training Centre (RRTC), an NGO, equally partnered with the NAIP Project, is also working with these bordering villages for quite a long time. So far, the results are satisfactory.

DG, ICAR inaugurates Annual Review Meeting of the ICAR Seed Project

Two-day annual review meeting of the ICAR Seed Project "Seed Production in Agricultural Crops" for 2010 11 was inaugurated by Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at Dr B P Pal Auditorium, IARI, Pusa, New Delhi on 19 September 2011.

Dr Ayyappan expressed satisfaction over the progress made in terms of quality seed production as well as agriculture production during this year. He pointed out that we need to upgrade our production in terms of quality to play an important role in seed trade at national and international level.

The progress of the project for 2010 11 was appraised and evaluated. It is mentionable that during X five year plan, this project was launched with a financial outlay of ₹ 198.89 crore for 2005 06 and 2006 07 covering 86 centres throughout the country to enhance quality seed planting material/fish seed production and capacity building of National Agricultural Research System by providing required infrastructure, equipment and implements.

In the X plan, the project was implemented for field crops, horticulture and fisheries components. After visualizing the spectacular success in X five year plan, the project has been continued in the XI five year plan too with a financial outlay of ₹ 63.33 crore for field crops component alone involving 56 centres which includes 34 SAUs, 21 ICAR institutes and one non ICAR institute.

We have to contribute more in seed market, especially in case of horticultural crops, said Dr SK Datta, DDG (Crop Sciences) in his key note address. He further stressed that genetic purity, higher vigour and nutrient profile must be ensured through SNP marker to ensure the genetic purity and vigour of seed lot.

Dr S Rajendra Prasad, Project Director, Directorate of Seed Research, Mau, presented the Action Taken Report of previous year review meeting.

The nodal officers/Directors of Research of different SAUs/ICAR institutes also presented their major achievements and constraints. Apart from these the needful issues to be considered for the XII plan were presented by various nodal officers involved in the Project.

The meeting was attended by around 100 delegates involving Directors of Research from various state universities, Directors from ICAR

institutes and nodal officers from 56 cooperating centres, across the country.

Long-term commitment and partnership needed for desired change in agriculture

'Creating opportunities and enabling environment for transforming the conditions that perpetuate poverty and deprivation is an important task that will be better attained in long term. Therefore, the linkages should move ahead of a loosely defined collaboration or contractual agreement between public-private-NGO sector and transcend to cover a whole range of organizational relationships with a sense of long-term commitment to genuinely contribute to the processes in agricultural sector to accomplish the desired change', said Prof. R B Singh, President, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences. He was inaugurating the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Interaction Meet with NGOs and Farmers Entrepreneurs at New Delhi on 17 September 2011.



Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR called for more partnerships with NGOs across the country. "There are six lakh villages in the country and it is difficult to reach every village. Therefore, we are looking for partnership with NGOs. PPP in agriculture became profit in agriculture, prestige in agriculture and progress in agriculture. NGOs are working at grass root level and can help to achieve this objective", he said. He further stressed upon the need for work in emerging areas of challenges-quality seed, input management, quality plant material, farm mechanization and plant health monitoring.

Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Member of ICAR Society urged NGOs and farmers to create awareness about the effects of climate change on Indian agriculture. He also suggested for more use of local languages for dissemination of agricultural information.

Dr K D Kokate, DDG (Agricultural Extension) and Dr S Mauria, ADG (Intellectual Property and Technology Management) presented the overview of ICAR initiatives for more partnerships through their presentations.

Dr M H Mehta from Science Ashram opined that more coordinated efforts may be adopted for introducing new technology to remote areas. Dr Anil Joshi from Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization emphasized on challenges for NGOs in agriculture.

Officials from ICAR and office bearers of different NGOs across the country participated in the Interaction Meet.

National Meeting on Agricultural Entomology for the 21 Century: the Way Forward

Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR while speaking as Chief Guest at a two-day National Meeting on Agricultural Entomology for the 21 Century: the Way Forward at National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects (NBAIL) at Bangalore on 25 August 2011 emphasized the important role of Entomology in sustaining and strengthening food security in the country. Realizing the importance of research on insect pests, ICAR upgraded the Project Directorate of Biological Control to NBAIL recently with renewed thrust and emphasis on emerging threats and challenges. Insect pests account for nearly 18% of crop losses which is significantly higher considering the constraints we are facing in feeding the burgeoning population, he added. Hence, appropriate and eco-friendly strategies need to be developed on priority basis. Recipes of



pest management may adopt latest approaches in view of impending danger of climate change. Dr Ayyappan emphasized upon the institutional collaboration between the ICAR institutes for capacity building in this important area of research. Multiplication and distribution of parasitoids may be taken up by KVKs across the country, he suggested.

Dr S K Datta, Deputy Director General (Crop Sciences), ICAR suggested to adopt a holistic approach to tackle insect pest problem and emphasized on strengthening of diagnostic services and development of stable formulation of pesticides. The development and use of bio-pesticides, nano-pesticides and molecular tools may be encouraged to manage the insect pest problems effectively, he added.

The National Meeting was a brain storming exercise to identify the crucial areas for frontier research in Entomology during forthcoming XII Plan. There is a need to take stock of the existing scenario, identify the missing links and plan for the future to meet the challenges in Agricultural Entomology and related disciplines.

Vice-Chancellors of the Agricultural Universities, distinguished experts and scientists emphasized the need of effective pest management by integrating various modern approaches and institutional support. Nearly 250 delegates from across the National Agricultural Research System participated in the National Meet.

Earlier, Chief Guest released noteworthy publications and honoured renowned veteran scientists for their distinguished contributions in the field.

ICAR participates in INDEXPO-2011 at Muscat

ICAR participated in the 4th Indian Trade Fair 'INDEXPO-2011' (20-22 September) organized at Oman International Exhibition Centre, Muscat. ICAR showcased commercial technologies and knowledge products in this trade fair relevant to the region.

The fair was inaugurated by H E Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Al Bakri, Minister of Manpower, Sultanate of Oman in the presence of Sri Anil Wadhwa, Ambassador of India and Khalil Abdullah Al Khonji, Chairman, OCCI.

Dr H P Singh, DDG (Horticulture), Dr T P Trivedi, Project Director, Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture and Mr S K Joshi, Business Manager participated on behalf of ICAR. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) was one of the partners in 4th INDEXPO-2011 exhibition. The exhibition was supported by Directorate General for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Oman, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

The 4th INDEXPO-2011 was organized with a view to provide an opportunity for Indian organizations and entrepreneurs businessmen to showcase their products and technologies to the Omani market and to exhibit the technical capabilities of the Indian industry. Agriculture is one of the identified sectors for focused attention. There are enormous opportunities in both countries which are exploited through Trade Fair.

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