RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Parasitising efficiency of *Bracon hebetor* against predators reared on artificial diet

Parasitising efficiency of *Bracon hebetor*, a larval parasitoid, was tested against the lac predators, viz., *Eublemma amabilis* and *Pseudohypatopa pulvirena*. The predators were reared on artificial diet and were exposed to the parasitoid while feeding on the diet. Preliminary results indicate that the parasitoid effectively parasitises both the predators without any apparent adverse effect of the artificial diet on its parasitising efficiency.

TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

Training programmes conducted during the period of report

- Eight candidates from the Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi completed special certificate course in 'Modern Methods of Lac Culture.'
- One-day orientation programme on lac was organised for two batches of 137 farmers from R.K.Mission and 16 students from St. Columba College, Hazaribag.

Out-reach programmes

- Off-Campus Extension Education programme was organised at Gabrie and Khunti villages of Ranchi District in which about 113 farmers participated.

TV/Radio talks

- 'Lah poshak vrikshon ke shatru keet avam unka nijjantran' by Dr KK Kumar was telescast from DDK Ranchi in July, 2000
- 'Lah utpadan mein dhyan dene wali baaten' by Dr KK Sharma was telescast from DDK Ranchi on 4.9.2000
- 'Lah utpadakon ko milne wali swavidhayen' by Dr KK Sharma was broadcast from AIR Ranchi on 9.9.2000

Institute Publications

- ILRI Newsletter, Apr.-June, 2000, 4 pp.
- Prashikshan Vivanika, in Hindi, a brochure
- Training Prospectus, a brochure
- Heat and Water Proof Varnishes, a folder, 4 pp.
- Lac-based Hot-melt Adhesive, a folder, 4 pp.
- Exaltone for Perfumery Industry, a folder, 4 pp.
- Canlac-Lacquers for Internal Coating of Cans, a folder, 4 pp.
- Lac cultivation Promotional Multicolour Posters with Slogans, 6 nos.

Museum
The institute museum was visited by 64 persons from all walks of life during the period. Besides 123 farmers/trainees sponsored by various GOs and NGOs also visited the museum.

Quality Testing Lab
The laboratory carried out 38 tests of 15 samples received from entrepreneurs/business houses/different Divisions of the Institute during the period under report. An amount of Rs. 1840/- was realised as testing charges.

Resource Generation
An amount of Rs. 58,648/- (Rupees Fifty eight thousand six hundred forty eight only) was earned through sale of products, lac sale counter, registration, advertisements etc.

Evaluation of varnish
A sample of high thermal resistant insulating varnish (Code ShAKDB) was supplied to a local consumer for evaluation. The performance of the varnish was found to be very good when applied on the coils of a 750 kW 6.6 kV electric motor.

Signing of MoU for technology transfer
MoUs have been signed between ILRI and two private agencies, namely M/s Tajna Shellac Pvt.Ltd., Khunti and Encon, Ranchi for the transfer of technology of recently developed insulating varnish compositions for promotion in foreign market. Besides, samples of lac-based products developed by the Institute were also supplied to interested entrepreneurs for evaluation.

"The heavy dependence on foreign markets for the sale of lac and the... marketing structure are responsible for ... high price fluctuation of lac and a low proportion of price reaching the adivasi cultivators."

Dr M. S. Swaminathan
Former DG, ICAR

EVENTS

Platinum Jubilee National Symposium on "Lac in the New Millennium"

Platinum Jubilee of the institute along with their families members were invited. A two-day National Symposium on Lac in the New Millennium was organised by the Institute on 20-21 Sept. 2000 on the occasion of Platinum Jubilee year of establishment of the Institute. The Symposium was inaugurated by Honble Union Agriculture Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar and presided over by Dr. Anwar Alam, DDG (Engg.), ICAR, New Delhi in a well attended ceremony. Honble Minister exhorted the scientists to develop the technologies which could be transferred at global level, spread the lac cultivation to other states of the country to stabilise lac production and develop the institute into an international centre of excellence for lac. He stressed on a closer liaison between the industry and the institute to overcome the challenges of future. Dr. K.K.Kumar, Director welcomed the delegates and Dr. RP Kachru ADG (PE), ICAR, New Delhi delivered keynote address. A number of publications were released during the occasion. Shri Nitish Kumar also planted a kusum sapling in institute plantation to mark the completion of 75 years of establishment of the institute.

ILRI celebrates Platinum Jubilee of its establishment

A cultural show was arranged by the children of the staff in the evening. Dr. KK Kumar, Director cut the 'birthday cake.' Mementoes were given away by Dr. BL Amla, Chairman, RAC to all the employees of the Institute.

"Cultural programme by the children of ILRI Staff during Platinum Jubilee Celebrations"

Indian Lac Research Institute has completed 75 years of its establishment this year. A grand get-together was organised on 20th September, the Foundation Day of the Institute in which all the staff members of the institute along with their families members were invited.
On this occasion Ex-Directors of the Institute namely Dr JN Chatterjea, Dr SC Sengupta & Dr SC Agarwal were felicitated by the Honible Minister, Mr Birsa Mroon, the oldest surviving employee and first pensioner of the institute was also honoured. Other dignitaries who were present on the inaugural ceremony were Mr. RT Choudhary & Mr. Raghunath Jha, MPs; local MLAs; Dr. BL Amla, Chairman RAC; Dr. RP Roy Sharma VC, BAU, Ranchi.

The symposium was attended by over 140 delegates representing academicians, entrepreneurs, business houses, students etc. 47 scientific papers including invited lectures were presented under the following theme areas:

- Lac culture, tribal upliftment and ecosystem development
- Value addition, process upgradation, product diversification and trends in R&D
- Transfer of Technology, bottlenecks in lac consumption, means of overcoming them; quality management

Some of the important recommendations which emerged after deliberations included:

- Collection of traditional knowledge on medicinal uses of lac should be taken up
- Survey, collection and conservation of lac insects & hosts should be taken up in a big way
- Large scale broodlac distribution programme should be taken up to augment lac production and for quick recovery of lac production after major crop failure

ILRI should reach lac growers through industrial houses to promote lac cultivation
- Quality of the procured lac and its price should be maintained in order to minimise their adverse impact on demand
- Collection of lac production data should be strengthened and improved to obtain a more reliable estimate of lac production
- Lac crop insurance scheme should be introduced to overcome the adverse effects of crop failure in the farmer's field
- Agricultural tax on lac should be abolished and regulation on inter-state movement of lac should be removed.

DDG inaugurates Sophisticated Instrumentation Laboratory

The Sophisticated Instrumentation Laboratory of the LP & PD Division was inaugurated by Dr Anwar Alam, DDG (Engg.), ICAR on 19th September, 2000 on the occasion of Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the ILRI. Dr RP Kachru, ADG (PE), ICAR and Dr BL Amla, Chairman, RAC were also present on the occasion. The laboratory is centrally air-conditioned with standby window-type air conditioning and has on-line uninterrupted power supply for the entire laboratory. Presently, the laboratory houses High Performance Liquid Chromatograph, Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectrophotometer, Micro-balance, Vapour Pressure Osmometer and Differential Scanning Calorimeter.

Institute management Committee (IMC) Meeting

30th meeting of IMC was held on 17-18 August, 2000 under the chairmanship of Dr KK Kumar, Director, ILRI. Other members of the committee present were: Dr RP Kachru, ADG (PE), ICAR; Dr JB Tomar, Incharge, NBPGR Station, Ranchi; Dr PC Gupta, Head, LPPD Division; Dr P Kumar, Head, LP Division; Mr G Singh, Sr Sc and Mr Md. Samiullah (Member Secretary). The Chairman welcomed the members and apprised them of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations to be held on 20-21 September, 2000. Fund utilisation, works to be taken up under Catch-up grant and items to be procured during the financial year were discussed and approved. Progress of regular and adhoc research projects was reviewed. It was recommended that all the scientists and technical & administrative staff should be given training at institute level. Some important points regarding infrastructure development and smooth functioning of the institute were also discussed in the IMC.

MISCELLANEA

Papers/popular articles published


Participation in exhibitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name and location of the exhibition</th>
<th>Organised by</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-9.2000</td>
<td>Khunti (Ranchi)</td>
<td>Jan Utthan Samiti</td>
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\* भागत ML और कुमार KK 2000. 
Chhotanagpur: Jahan molian pedon par ugte hain. हिंदीस्तान (पटना) जून 3, 2000


**Library**

15 new books pertaining to different disciplines have been procured.

**Visits/meetings/workshops attended by the Director**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.7.2000</td>
<td>4th meeting of SEPC, Calcutta</td>
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<tr>
<td>27/28.7.2000</td>
<td>Scientific panel meeting at IASRI, New Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.8.2000</td>
<td>Society for Rural Industrialisation programme level workshop at Angara, Ranchi</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.8.2000</td>
<td>2nd Site committee meeting of NATP at BAU, Ranchi</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.9.2000</td>
<td>At Purulia &amp; Balarampur (WB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>29.9.2000</td>
<td>Advisory Committee meeting of All India Radio, Ranchi</td>
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**PERSONNEL**

**HRD**

Three newly joined scientists of the Lac Processing & Product Development Division were trained in testing and analysis of lac in the Quality Testing Laboratory.

**Transfer**

Mr L Ram T-6 to IVRI w.e.f. 1.7.2000

**Obituary**

Mr JK Ambuj, T-2 expired on 20.8.2000. Director and the staff of the institute condole his untimely death and extend their heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family. May his soul rest in peace.

**अंताश्री प्रतिभोपतिनी का आयोजन**

संस्थान द्वारा दिनांक 7.8.2000 को नगर राजभाषा वार्ता-निवास समिति (नरकास) के सदस्य कार्यालयों से आयोजित प्रतिभोपतिनी के बीच अंताश्री प्रतिभोपतिनी का आयोजन किया गया जिसमें बाईं प्रतिभोपतिनी ने भाग लिया। निदेशक महोदय के द्वारा राजभाषा निर्माण नियम-निर्देश द्वारा निदेशशील प्रतिभोपतिनी के विविध विषयों में भाग लिया।

महोदय, तिरंगी कुमार सिन्ना – प्रथम, श्री प्रभात सिंह, श्री संत कुमार पाण्डेय – द्वितीय, श्री राम प्रताप विवाही तथा श्री अनुज कुमार चौड़ा – तृतीय।

विवाह गोदी का एक डिस्क महामहिम निदेश द्वारा, लोकने बुद्धाद्रि, आधुनिक मुख्यायत्त, बीमार किशोर कुमार (अध्यात्त से कहें)

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