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THE DIRECTOR

ILRI-Lac Newsletter

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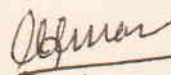
From this issue, the ILRI Newsletter has been renamed as ILRI-Lac Newsletter, based on the recommendation of the Research Advisory Committee of the Institute. The format of the Newsletter has also been changed for a fresh outlook; it has been completely composed and printed using the in-house facility of the institute-editors.

From Director's Desk ...



The institute organized a one-day *kisan mela* on February 15, 2001. There was an excellent response and we felt that the *mela* should have been held for at least two days, so that more farmers could have benefited from this event.

Lac is not only an important component of the tribal economy of Chhotanagpur, but is also inseparably linked with the culture of the growers. Therefore, it is quite obvious that the government of the newly formed Jharkhand state is taking keen interest in promoting lac in the region. The institute was honoured by the visit of His Excellency Shri Prabhat Kumar, Governor of Jharkhand, who is taking keen interest in developing lac culture and lac-based industries in the region. As a result, the ILRI has submitted a project for developing a model village for lac. I am confident that this initiative would prove to be catalytic in building a stronger lac industry in the region.


(Dr KK Kumar)

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Better returns from bushy host

Flemingia semialata is a useful bushy lac-host plant, which can be utilised, in alternation with major lac-hosts for lac cultivation during rainy season. Studies have shown that all the plants with settlement at lower portion and 57.2 % of them with settlement at the upper portion of the shoot did not yield lac. Lac insects preferred middle portion of one-year old stem for settlement. Average broodlac and scraped lac yields were maximum (63.5 g and 33.0 g respectively) in the plants with settlement in the middle portion of the plant. A coverage of 40 % of inoculable shoot length resulted in maximum broodlac yield, although scraped lac yield increased with increase in shoot coverage, upto 80%. Irrigation of host plants at regular interval improved the quality of the broodlac obtained, in terms of survival of female lac insects and the larvae emerging therefrom.

Survey of lac insects and host-plants under NATP

A survey of selected areas in Kerala and Tamil Nadu was undertaken in Jan-Feb to explore the availability of lac insects and their host-plants. Wild populations of *Kerria* spp. were recorded on *Ziziphus mauritiana* and *Albizia saman* at Madurai and of *Paratachardina* sp. on *Pongamia pinnata* at Madurai in Tamil Nadu; these were in addition to those reported earlier from Kerala. Samples of living as well as dead lac insects along with seeds of *Acacia auriculiformis* and *A. saman* were collected for further studies.

TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

Training programmes conducted

- ❑ Six trainees from West Bengal successfully completed four-month certificate course in "Modern Methods of Lac Culture."
- ❑ Four courses of one week training in lac cultivation were organized for 86 farmers sponsored by Tata Steel Rural Development Society, Jamshedpur; Gramin Vikas Trust, Ranchi; Forest Dept. Ranchi; TRIFED and Action for India Development, Arki.
- ❑ One-day orientation programme on lac was organized for 100 farmers in three batches and one group of 72 students from XISS, Ranchi
- ❑ On-farm education programme on lac cultivation was organized in village Chandra Bugchi and at village Palasi in Bundu block. 340 farmers participated in the programme.
- ❑ Field education programme including demonstration of pruning technique was organised in villages Natapara, Dist. Mayurbhanj and Debakochi, Dist. Kuliana, Orissa in collaboration with Kishore Chandrapur Lac Industrial Co-operative Society, Natapara in which 125 farmers participated.
- ❑ Twelve villages of Bankura and Purulia districts of W.B. were surveyed for Socio-economic conditions of farmers.

Institute Publications

- ❑ ILRI Newsletter, Oct.-Dec. 2000, 4 pp.
- ❑ *Lakh ki kheti: kab? kyon? kaise?*, a booklet in Hindi, 24 pp.
- ❑ *Hast chalit lac chhilne ki machine*, a folder in Hindi, 4 pp.
- ❑ *Krishaker sevai satat tatpar: Bharatiya Lakkha Anusandhan Sansthan*, a folder in Bengali, 4 pp.

TV/Radio talks

- '*Lah utpadan ke liye kisanon ko milne wali suvidhayen*' by Dr KK Sharma was telecast by DDK, Ranchi on 10.03.2001.
- '*Lah keet palan ke adhunik tareeke*' by Dr KK Sharma was broadcast by AIR, Ranchi on 31.03.2001.

Resource Generation

An amount of Rs. 1,16,825 (Rupees one lakh sixteen thousand eight hundred twenty five

only) was earned through training, sale of products and Lac Sale Counter.

Papers published

- Mishra YD, Sushil SN, Chakravarty PK, Bhattacharya A and Kumar P. 2000. Estimating sticklac productivity of lac on *ber*, *Zizyphus mauritiana* Lamk. through regression model. *J. ent. Res.* **24**(4): 343-348
- Mishra YD, Srivastava SC, Ghosal S, Choudhary SG, Kumar P and Singh BP. 1999. Estimation of shoot length for summer lac inoculation on *ber* (*Zizyphus mauritiana* Lamk.) *J. Non-Timber Forest Prod.* **6**(3/4): 134-136
- Saha SK and Jaipuria SK 2000. Variability and inter-relationship of biological parameters and resin characteristics in lac insect, *Kerria lacca* (Kerr). *Shashpa*, **7**(1):17-20
- Saha SK, Jaiswal AK, Singh BP 2000. Forecasting of lac yield from insect culture on *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) for rainy season crop. *Shashpa*, **7**(2): 125-132.
- Singh BP, Mishra YD, and Agarwal SC. 1999. Determination of harvested biomass and leaf area index of *Schleichera oleosa* (Lour) Oken. *J. Non-Timber Forest Prod.* **6**(3/4):159-162.

Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting



Interaction of RAC with the scientists

The Seventh Meeting of RAC was convened on March 22-23 under the Chairmanship of Dr BL Amla, Former Director, CFTRI, Mysore. Other members present were: Dr M Yaseen, Former Head, Organic Coatings and Polymers Division, IICT; Dr N Krishnamurthi, Former Head, Organic Coatings and Polymers Division, IICT; Dr DRC Bakheta, Former Head, Dept. of Entomology, PAU as subject matter specialists; Mr Madhu Agarwal, Secretary,

Participation in Exhibitions

The institute put up stalls and distributed literature on lac cultivation and technologies in the following occasions

Date	Name and location	Organizing agency
Jan. 3-7	Agrivision 2001, IARI, New Delhi	Indian Science Congress, Kolkata
Feb. 1-3	Annual Kisan Mela, Getalsud, Ranchi	Divyayan KVK, R.K. Mission, Ranchi
Feb. 10	Kisan Mela, S.S. High School, Silli	INDAL, Chotamuri
Mar. 3-4	Kisan Mela, Ghatotand, Hazaribag	Tata Steel Rural Development Society, Jamshedpur
Mar. 5-6	Kisan Mela, BAU Campus, Kanke	Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke
Mar. 17	Rural Exhibition, Bano	Support for Sustainable Society, Bano, Gumla
Mar. 26	Annual SHG Meet, Angara	Rural Technology Park, Angara
Mar. 29	Annual Kisan Mela, Kandra, Ranchi	Gramin Vikas Trust, Ranchi

Maharashtra Rajya Lah Utpadak & Chapra Nirmata Sangh, Gondia and Mr Roshan Lal Sharma, MD, Tajna Shellac (P) Ltd., Khunti representing the industry; Dr RP Kachru, ADG(PE), ICAR; Dr KK Kumar, Director and Mr R Ramani (Member Secretary) from ILRI. After a careful review of the research and extension work done, the committee made a number of specific and general recommendations for improving the R&D output of the institute. It was the final meeting of this Committee.

Institute Management Committee (IMC) Meeting



Dr RP Kachru ADG (PE) addressing the members

31st meeting of newly constituted IMC was held on August 17-18, 2000 under the chairmanship of Dr KK Kumar, Director. Other members of the committee present were: Dr RP Kachru, ADG (PE), ICAR; Dr JB Tomar, In-charge, NBPGR Station, Ranchi; Dr GS Dubey, Dean (Extension), BAU; Mr Krishnanand Mishra; Dr PC Gupta, Head, LP&PD Division; Mr G Singh, Sr Sc and Mr A Rastogi (Member-Secretary). The chairman apprised the committee of the salient achievements of the Institute, fund utilisation, purchase, works etc. Various agenda items were discussed and proposals approved. Progress under regular and Ad hoc research projects was also reviewed.

Staff Research Council (SRC) Meeting

The SRC meeting was held on 14-16th March under the Chairmanship of Dr KK Kumar, Director. The progress of research was reviewed and plans of future work discussed.

Institute Joint Staff Council Reconstituted

IJSC was reconstituted for two years consisting of the following members:

Chairman: Director

Official side / Nominated members:

Dr P Kumar, Head, LP Division; Dr BP Singh, Sr Sc ; Mr SC Srivastava, Sr Sc ; Mr A Rastogi, AO; Mr RK Singh, F&AO; Dr KK Sharma, Scientist (Sr Scale) -- Member-Secretary

Staff side/ Elected members :

Mr ML Rabidas (Technical); Mr Binod Kumar (Technical); Mr R Toppo (Administration)
Mr Lodo Lakra (Supporting); Mr Etwara Oraon (Supporting); Mr Prahalad Singh (Administration)- Member-Secretary

Seminars/workshops attended/visits undertaken

By the Director

- 2-8 Jan. Indian Science Congress at New Delhi
- 19-22 Feb. Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur (Chhattisgarh)
- 26 Feb. Working Group meeting for the Xth Five year Plan at ICAR, New Delhi
- 4-5 Mar. 2001 Participated and presented a paper, 'Empowerment of women in agriculture' in the Symposium organised by RAU, Pusa, Samastipur.
- 28 Mar. Inaugurated *Kisan Goshthi* at Parsi, Ranchi organised by *Durgam Parvatiya Pariyojna*

By Other staff members

- Dr PC Sarkar attended the first workshop on, 'Evaluation of location specific IPM modules for eco-friendly and sustainable cotton production' at NCIPM, New Delhi on 7-8th March, 2001. The ILRI is Supporting Centre in the above Mini Mission - I, under the overall Technology Mission on Cotton of CICR, Nagpur.
- Dr KK Kumar, Director, Dr PC Sarkar and Mr D Ganguly attended a seminar on, 'Internet and beyond' organised by CMC Ltd., at SAIL RDCIS, Ranchi on 5th December, 2000.

EVENTS

ILRI activities impress Governor

His Excellency Mr. Prabhat Kumar, Governor of Jharkhand visited the Institute on 30th January. Impressed by the ILRI's research work and other activities, the Governor, who spent nearly an hour in the institution, asked scientists to disseminate the benefits of technology among the lac cultivators. He also stressed the need for integration of lac culture with other cropping systems for sustainable tribal development and preservation of the ecosystem. He also stressed on lac-based cottage industries as well as product refinement and diversification for better returns. He assured the support of the State govt. for promotion of lac in the region.



His Excellency Shri Prabhat Kumar having a closer look at the lac insects

His visit included visit to the Museum, watching the video film on and planting of *kusum* sapling in the plantation. The Governor also sought better involvement of TRIFED in marketing of lac.

ILRI Organises Annual Kisan Mela



Shri Ram Tahal Choudhary, MP lighting the lamp

The Institute organised its Annual *Kisan Mela* at its premises on 15th February with a view to promote lac cultivation and to showcase latest lac production

technologies. The *Mela* was inaugurated by Mr Ram Tahal Choudhary, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and presided over by Swamy Shashankanand ji, Secretary of Ram Krishna Mission Ashram, Ranchi.



Dr KK Kumar, Director, ILRI addressing the audience

Dr KK Kumar, Director of the Institute, urged the farmers to undertake intensive lac cultivation for economic development. He stressed upon exploitation of quick growing lac hosts and also to integrate lac cultivation with agriculture for better and assured returns. Head, Lac Production Division of the Institute, Dr Pranay Kumar, presented the achievements of the institute.

Mr Choudhary, in his inaugural address urged the farmers to incorporate advanced techniques of lac cultivation developed by the Institute. He exhorted the Non Governmental Organisations to play a vital role in promoting the precious gift of the nature.

Swamy Shashankanand ji stressed upon spreading awareness among the lac growers, promoting lac-based small-scale industries to increase employment opportunities and judicious exploitation of the natural resources. Mr. Roshan Lal Sharma, Lac industrialist urged the farmers to grow more lac. A number dignitaries from government and non-government agencies were present on the occasion Mr. Thomas Kohlberg of the Kane International Corporation a leading importer in US was also present. Three extension publications were released on the occasion. Dr. KK Sharma who conducted the proceedings of the inaugural ceremony also presented vote of thanks.

There were eighteen stalls put up by GOs and NGOs in the exhibition at the venue. Good Quality *Kusmi* broodlac produced under the Revolving Fund Scheme run by the institute

was also available for sale to the farmers. A number of publications of the institute on lac cultivation, including the newly released ones were distributed among the interested farmers.

Farmers were also shown around the institute Plantation and Museum to make them aware of the latest technologies developed by the institute. Screening of educational Video films on lac was also arranged in the lecture hall of the institute. Later, a *Kisan Goshthi* was organised in the institute wherein experts from different institutions answered the queries of the farmers regarding lac, horticulture and sericulture. Nearly 500 farmers from various parts of Jharkhand participated in the *Mela*.

The event was covered widely by the local media including AIR which carried a 20-minute feature.

PERSONALIA

HRD

- Dr Sanjay Srivastava, Sc, LP&PD Division successfully completed 71st Foundation Course for Agricultural Research Service (FOCARS) conducted at NAARM, Hyderabad from 25.8.2000 to 22.12.2000.
- Dr PC Sarkar, Dr SN Sushil, Dr N Prasad En, Dr SK Pandey and Mr D Ganguly attended a training course on, 'Computer applications: internet, web designing with HTML, networking and MS project' at MECON, Ranchi from 19th February to 1st March, 2001.

Transfer

Dr VK Rao, Sc. LP&PD Division to IIHR, Bangalore w.e.f 19.1.2001.

Study Leave

Mr SK Yadav, Sc. LP Division has been granted study leave for one-year w.e.f. 11.1.2001 to complete his Ph.D. at GB Pant University of Agriculture & Technology.

Retirement

Mr U Sahay, T-II-3 w.e.f. 31.1.2001

Obituary

Mr Jeevan Lal, T-I-3 posted at RFRS, Dharamjaigarh expired on 2.2.2001. Director and the staff of the institute condole his untimely death and convey their heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family. May the departed soul rest in peace.

हिन्दी में वैज्ञानिक गोष्ठी

वैज्ञानिक कार्यों में हिन्दी के प्रयोग को प्रोत्साहित करने के उद्देश्य से आयोजित वैज्ञानिक गोष्ठी में संस्थान के वर्य वैज्ञानिक डॉ निरंजन प्रसाद ने दिनांक 24.2.2001 को प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण विभाग के व्याख्यान कक्ष में "लाख पौध एवं इसको संभावित उपयोगिताएं" विषय पर व्याख्यान दिया जिसमें संस्थान के सभी वैज्ञानिकों ने भाग लिया ।

घंटक में सहभागिता

गौरी नगर राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति को घंटक दिनांक 26.2.2001 को मेकन कॉन्फ्रेंसिटी हॉल श्यामली रांची में आयोजित की गई जिसमें संस्थान का प्रतिनिधित्व डॉ प्रणव कुमार, अध्यक्ष, लाख उत्पादन विभाग सह प्रभारी निदेशक तथा श्री लक्ष्मीकान्त सहायक निदेशक (रा.भा.) ने किया।