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Union Minister of Agriculture addressed NIRJAFT



Kolkata, 21 June 2016. Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, visited National Institute of Research on

Jute and Allied Fibre Technology (NIRJAFT). During his visit of the Institute's facilities, pilot plants and diversified products developed by the NIRJAFT specially on home textiles, technical textiles including by product utilization, Shri Singh stressed on emphasis to be given on marketing of products at the national and international level. The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Singh, also evinced keen interest in the Institute's showcasing of ornamental and utility fabrics woven in its own jacquard handloom which are displayed in the Institute's Display-cum-Sales Counter. Later on, the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Singh, addressed all the Institute employees and noted the cadre strength and existing strength of all categories of scientists, technical, administrative and supporting grade personnel. During his address, the Union Minister emphasized that Institute must create and maintain a harmonious environment where all its employees can work together following strict punctuality. At the end, Union Minister, Shri Singh, addressed a press conference of electronic and print media and elicited his views on increasing awareness on jute and its products among the common mass.

IARI to be established at Balhata Chariali, Assam

Khanapara, 17 June 2016. An interactive meeting under the Chairmanship of Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare with Vice Chancellor of Central Agricultural University, Directors and scientists of KVKs, ICAR Institutes, Assam Agricultural University (AAU) and State Government Officials was held at Assam Agricultural University, Khanapara campus. Union Minister in his interactions informed that three new Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes (ATARI) have been created in the country in last year. The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare also said 3 new Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK), one each in Baksa, Morigaon and Bongaigaon districts and a Food testing laboratory 'EN-Geo Consultancy and Research Centre' at Ambari, Guwahati was established during last two years in Assam. Shri Singh said, "District contingency plans for 22 districts of Assam with regard to climate resilient Agriculture have also been finalized". A new breed of poultry named 'Kamrupa' has been developed and released last year, he added. Shri Singh stated the proposed IARI- Assam at Bomnala, Bamonigaon, Balhata Chariali at Kamrup district shall be

established shortly. The Union Minister highlighted that the technologies generated by AAU and ICAR Institutes located in Assam have reached the farmers' field which helped the farmers to increase their income. Shri Singh emphasized on greater coordination with the state Departments through quarterly meetings involving the ICAR scientists and state officials for effective technology transfer to the farmers. Shri Atul Bora, Minister of Agriculture and Veterinary, Government of Assam, and Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, [Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR)] also gave deliberations.



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Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare urged scientists to focus on farmer-oriented research



Kochi, 15 June 2016. Dr Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' welfare visited the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute. In an Interface Meeting with Kochi-based Institutes under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Dr Balyan urged the scientists to focus on farmer-oriented research activities to improve the agriculture sector of the country. Long-term planning was required to formulate developmental projects aimed at boosting the agriculture and fish production in the country, he added. The Minister appreciated the contributions of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in the development of sea cage farming and seed production technology for species such as cobla, silver pompano and orange spotted grouper. Dr A. Gopalakrishnan (Director, CMFRI) briefed about Institute's recent activities and achievements and apprised of the on-going core activities and technologies developed by the various Institutes.

DG, ICAR focused on 'Scientific management of natural resources for fisheries growth'

Kolkata, 15 June 2016. Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) visited Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore. Dr Mohapatra said Inland fisheries growth in India is led by CIFRI and to move forward we must focus on changes occurred in size of the resources, habitat characteristics, biodiversity of the open water-bodies and the impact of pollution and climate change on these resources over the decades. Dr Mohapatra lauded the Institute's effort in mapping of open-water resources of different states on GIS platform, and emphasized that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has given the call for "Blue Revolution" and this Institute has to play a very big role in this endeavor.

Need of transfer of proven dairy production technologies to the farmers of eastern India

Kalyani, 16 June 2016.

Dr Trilochan Mohapatra (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) stressed on the significance of linking farmers directly with the processing units while interacting



with dairy farmers/tribal animal rearers' separately at the Eastern Regional Station of National Dairy Research Institute in West Bengal. The DG, ICAR also emphasized on the integration of different agricultural enterprises which can augment the livelihood of the farmers. During the interaction session, Dr Mohapatra emphasized the need of transfer of proven dairy production technologies to the farmers in liaison with the state governments and creating the entrepreneurship who can aptly adopt those technologies in this region. The DG, ICAR visited different laboratories, cattle yard, forage farm and interacted with the scientists of this Regional Station of NDRI.

Prof. A. K. Srivastava (Director, NDRI) briefed the audience about various pioneering initiatives taken by National Dairy Research Institute for securing better livelihood of dairy farmers.

Strategy workshop towards achieving self-sufficiency of pulses in India

New Delhi, 8 April 2016. A two-day strategy workshop on 'Towards achieving self-sufficiency of pulses in India' was organized at NASC Complex under the auspices of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences. It was organized in 6 specialized themes covering genetic enhancement, productivity enhancement, smart farming, harvest and post-harvest management, trade and policy, new dimensions and way forward. Based on the discussions and technical inputs an action plan was prepared for achieving self-sufficiency in pulses in the country by 2020. Several recommendations related to policy and research aspects were also made.

Recommendations

- Restructuring plant types for higher productivity, pre-breeding for broadening the genetic base and genetic enhancement through integrated approach, supporting and promoting transgenic technology, enhancing biological nitrogen fixation through super nodulating plant

types, bringing photo-thermal insensitivity and breeding short duration varieties, hybrid technology in pigeon pea, conservation agriculture, etc.

- Among policy related recommendations, need to have a separate mission on pulses and establishment of a National Pulse Board, incentivizing the pulses producers through attractive (substantially high) minimum support price and a robust procurement network, rationing of pulses at subsidized rates to below poverty line families through price distribution system, expediting the crop insurance scheme to cover risky crops such as pulses and increased core government funding for research and development in pulses.
- It was opined that technologies for promotion of pulses are available but need large-scale adoption by the farmers and with active research, extension and policy support achieving the target of sustainable self-sufficiency is not unachievable and no stone will be left unturned for achieving this target.

38th Foundation Day of CIARI



Port Blair, 23 June 2016. Smt R. Maneka (Secretary, Agric., AH &VS & Fisheries, A & N Administration) Inaugurated 38th Foundation Day of the Central Inland Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI). Smt R. Maneka said that the yeoman services done by the Institute in research, development and extension services has taken the Institute this far. Smt Maneka placed on record the adoption of rice seeds of CIARI and carrying forward the soil health card and other programmes of the Administration, which are very progressive in the island when compared to many states in mainland India. Smt Maneka also released bulletins and folders for the benefits of the farmers, youth, extension beneficiaries, and launched the website of Andaman Science Association.

Dr C. Raghunathan (Officer i/c ZSI, Port Blair) delivered the Foundation Day lecture on 'Coastal and marine biodiversity of India'. Dr S. Dam Roy (Director, CIARI) placed the coordination with the line departments to be of high order which has enabled us to reach the unreached, benefitting the farmers, women, youth and other stakeholders of the Islands over the years.

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