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PM unveils the Foundation Stone of Centre of Excellence for Vegetable Production



Baramati, 14 February, 2015. Former Union Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar, highlighted the concerns of drought-affected farmers, sugar and milk producers at the Foundation Stone ceremony of Centre of Excellence for Vegetable Production, which is being set up under Indo-Dutch Programme at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Baramati. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, unveiled the foundation stone and said that NREGA may be used to build water storage capacity which would help in improving productivity in the agriculture sector hence, water storage capacities across the country need to be enhanced. Shri Modi also stressed on the need to modernize agriculture through the latest available technologies and promote value-addition. Referring to sugar production in Maharashtra, he added that sugar content has been enhanced substantially through technological interventions.



The Union Agriculture Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singh, highlighted the initiatives of new government mainly *Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana* (Prime Minister Agriculture Irrigation Scheme). Shri Radha Mohan also emphasized on the development of infrastructure at Krishi Vigyan Kendra to improve the dissemination of technologies to farmers. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, highlighted the policy initiatives of the state government to improve the agricultural production in Maharashtra.

86th Annual General Meeting of the ICAR Society

New Delhi, 18 February 2015. Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture and President of the ICAR Society inaugurated 86th AGM of the ICAR Society and said that farmers need to connect with agri-business, production systems, research institutions, public administration, other farmers, open market both at domestic and global-scale, and other numerous partners for making agriculture more remunerative. Shri Singh said, 'The Council covered milestone after milestone, in the form of improving farm productivity, farm-incomes, and

building institutions, human resources, developing new technologies, diversifying agriculture, creating new opportunities and opening up new frontiers of knowledge'. The infusion of modern technologies in agriculture has undoubtedly helped in reduction of poverty and hunger. The ICAR is committed to overcome farm constraints to make Indian agriculture truly sustainable and profitable, he added.



The Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Dr Sanjeev Kumar Balyan suggested that our approach should be more towards farmer-centric growth in agriculture through the application of appropriate location specific technologies for each agro-ecological region. It is also being perceived that the research system should play a pro-active role in reaching to the farmers for getting first-hand information, farmers' perceptions, and feedback on generated technologies and develop more appropriate processes, methodologies and technologies for diverse farm environments, he added.



The Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri Mohanbhai Kalyanjibhai Kundariya said, 'Our farming communities in general and in tribal and other difficult areas in particular are treasure trove of indigenous knowledge and innovations. We must access and document this valuable information that undoubtedly can prove to be source of eco-friendly farming practices as also of affordable solutions to some of problems encountered in agriculture.' A video film on *Krishi Anusandhan evam Siksha – Naye Kadam, Badhte Kadam* was also released on the occasion.



Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) made a presentation on recent achievements of ICAR and elaborated the new initiatives and goals of ICAR during the XII Plan. The Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Ministers of various states, Members of the Governing Body of the ICAR, representatives from national organizations etc. participated in the Annual General Meeting of the ICAR.



Sustainable Livelihood Security for Small Holder Farmers XII Agricultural Science Congress (ASC) 2015

Karnal, 3 February 2015. Hon'ble Governor of Haryana and Punjab, Prof. Kaptan Singh Solanki, inaugurated XII Agricultural



Science Congress 2015, jointly organized by NAAS, New Delhi; ICAR, New Delhi; at NDRI, Karnal. Prof. Kaptan Singh focused on the theme of XII ASC 2015 Sustainable livelihood security for small premises holder farmers. He urged that the conference should deliberate on the problems of small farmers and they should be educated with new technologies for optimum utilization of resources. Prof. Kaptan Singh stressed that we need a second Green Revolution to increase production, while minimizing environmental impact. He also emphasized to make agriculture more rewarding for small farmers.

Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR and President, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences)



emphasized that in India more than 90% of the farmers cultivate on less than 2 ha land holdings and contribute nearly 70% food

to national food basket. Thus, for more sustainable growth, the problems of small farmers need to be addressed and we must work on smart farming for small farmers. Dr S. Ayyappan also emphasized that farming should be made knowledge- and science -based and we should work towards profit, prestige and partnership in agriculture.

Prof. A.K. Srivastava (Director, NDRI) said that researchers, policy makers, farmers, entrepreneurs and students will be brainstorming for remunerative and sustainable growth of the agriculture in India.

XXVIII Annual Workshop of AINPJAF

Barrackpore, 14 February 2015. A two-day XXVIII Annual Workshop of All India Network Project on Jute and Allied Fibres (AINPJAF) was inaugurated on 13 February 2015 at Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres. Dr Subrata Gupta (Jute Commissioner, Government of India) stressed upon the reduction of cost of cultivation of jute to make the farming profitable and also on improvement in fibre quality to catch the global market of value added diversified products. In the three subsequent technical sessions, the research achievements made in 2014-15 crop season in crop improvement, crop production, crop protection and fibre quality aspects were reviewed in details and the research programme for 2015-16 crop year were finalized.

Rashtriya Krishi Vigyan Mela

Ajmer, 17 February 2015. A two-day National Agricultural Science Farmer's Fair was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Dr Shanti Lal Mehta (former Vice-Chancellor, MPUAT, Udaipur) on



16 February 2015 at National Research Centre on Seed Spices. He said that farmers should come forward in right spirit to adopt the various good agricultural practices as well as technologies for quality production. He advocated the use of precision farming, protected cultivation, cryogenic grinding of seed spices and sensor-based farming for better output. In *mela* various exhibitions covering organic farming, precision agriculture, Integrated Pest Management, protected cultivation, Integrated Farming System and many more allied features were demonstrated.

Sri R.A. Mishra (General Manager, NABARD) informed about various schemes of bank for agriculture in special reference to seed spices Shri H.S. Sharma (General Manager, BSNL) also highlighted the role of Information Communication Technologies in agriculture.

Dr Balraj Singh (Director, NRC on Seed Spices) outlined the activities of the *Mela* and stressed on the recently developed important varieties of seed spices like-ACR-1 coriander which is resistant to stem gal (the major disease of coriander) as well as AFG-3 fenugreek which has high medicinal value.

XIII Convocation of NDRI

Karnal, 14 February 2015. Hon'ble Governor of Haryana, Prof. Kaptan Singh Solanki, Chief Guest said that the National Dairy Research Institute, Deemed-to-be-University, has made the nation richer through the human resource development and training the young minds.

Dr Mangala Rai (Former DG, ICAR) delivered the 'Convocation Address' and said that Institute has been successful in transferring a record number of 12 technologies to 20 dairy and food sector industries during this year. Hon'ble Governor conferred Doctor of Science *Honoris Causa* to Dr Mangala Rai and awarded the degrees B.Tech. (43), Masters (110) and Ph.D. (61) during XIII Convocation of NDRI.



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