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किसानों का हमसफर
भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद

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Union Minister of State for Agriculture inaugurates *Kisan Goshthi-cum-Exhibition*

Muzaffarnagar, 14 December 2014. *Kisan Goshthi-cum-Exhibition* was organized in Barwala village of Muzaffarnagar with a theme of 'Efficient water management for higher sugarcane productivity'. Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Dr Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Chief Guest of the programme, emphasized that such sensitization programmes and live demonstration of technologies at farmers' door will enthruse confidence to adopt modern technologies. He added that action research programmes can help tremendously in diffusion of technologies.



Dr Alok K. Sikka (DDG, NRM) said that Muzaffarnagar district is known as Sugar Bowl of India as is under severe stress due to over-exploitation of groundwater. In over-exploited blocks, the groundwater is declining at a alarming rate and urged that integrated effort of managing demand and augmenting supply can reverse the process of declining water resources. Dr H.S. Gaur (Vice Chancellor, SBPAU&T), stressed upon the soil-health management and informed that soil-health card is prepared by the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Muzaffarnagar and fertilizer application based on soil-test will help to balance the fertilizer application. Dr A.K. Singh (DDG, Agric. Extn) urged the farmers to make use of scientific technologies as this is the era of science and organization of such awareness programme help in demonstrating of modern technologies. More than 700 farmers participated in the programme.

DG, ICAR releases *Food Security of India: an overview*



New Delhi, 23 December 2014. Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) released a book, *Food Security of India: An Overview* (authored by Dr Suresh C. Modgal and published by NBT, Delhi) in a book release function which was jointly organized by the ICAR and National Book Trust (NBT). The DG, ICAR emphasized that food is in plenty but writing is a casualty, hence, this is a welcome book on a most topical issue having many concerns of global implications. He said now food is not limited only to cereals and pulses but also includes fruits, vegetables, fishes etc.. Hence, ICAR has expended its spectrum of research for Rainbow Revolution. Food security involves

nutrition, health, environment, employment and many other social issues.

Shri Anand Sarup (Former Chairman, NBT) suggested that books on such important issues should be published regularly to make aware and cater the needs of various stakeholders. Dr R.B. Singh (a renowned academician) expressed his concern for a large number of hungry people in India despite surplus food production.

Workshop on Licensing of microbial genetic resources

Mau, 20 December 2014. A three-day workshop on 'Interfacing Innovation and IPR for Licensing and Commercialization of Technology in the Changing Global Scenario with special reference to microbial genetic resources' was started on 18 December 2014 at National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Micro-organisms. Researchers of various research institutes/universities need to ensure compliance with ethics and protection of IP rights to avoid future litigation and heavy cost of losing innovative ideas/technologies. Dr A. K. Sharma (Director, NBAIM) stressed on the need to have awareness about technical details on protection of intellectual property and maximizing its usage through commercialization of technologies in the current global scenario. A technical bulletin on *Intellectual Property Rights: Facts and Procedure in India* along with informative brochures on IPR were distributed to the participants of the workshop. Dr A. K. Sharma who felt after receiving response from participants that such kind a of workshop where amalgamation of lectures with practicals is there, is more successful in serving its purpose and is much required.



Strategies for sustainable pig production

Guwahati, 21 December 2014. A two-day National Conference on 'Opportunities and Strategies for Sustainable Pig Production' was organized at National Research Centre on Pig on 20 December 2014. The technical sessions of the conference started with the keynote address of Dr K.M.



Bujarbaruah, who shared a vision for development of sustainable pig production systems in India, where he emphasized on how ecology, economics and society should coordinate to achieve the same. Based on the deliberations over six technical sessions, a road map was prepared to augment sustainable pig production in India to

ensure nutritional and livelihood security among farming community. The conference critically deliberated the issues of contemporary relevance in sustainable pig production such as feeding systems, climate change, pig breed development, health, zoonosis, pork product development and value chain under different production systems.

More than 100 delegates including leading researchers from different parts of India participated in the conference.
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Special Postal cover on IVRI

Izatnagar, 9 December 2014. During 'Quascentennial Celebrations' of Indian Veterinary Research Institute, this Institute released 'Special Postal Cover' to mark the commendable contributions made by IVRI during its 125 years of glorious existence.

The Chief Guest of the function, Shri Sanjay Kumar (District Magistrate, Barielly) lauded the important role played by the institute in the national growth by providing comprehensive health cover to the livestock and poultry sector as well as to wildlife by serving as a national hub for veterinary vaccines and diagnostics. He, however, stressed up on the need to have more



veterinarians in the country as well as to create more awareness about the role and scope of veterinary profession so as to attract more young talent to its

stream. Speaking on the occasion, the Guest of Honour, Shri Kalia said that IVRI has earned this honour of "Special Postal Cover Release" by virtue of its notable contribution in national and global arena. The Director (IVRI), Dr R.K. Singh, briefed about the significant contributions made by IVRI for effective control, prevention and management of many important diseases of livestock, poultry and wildlife. He attributed these tremendous achievements including the eradication of Rinderpest, Dourine and African horse sickness from the country to the dedicated efforts made by the professional and their colleagues.

Dr Arvind Kumar (Vice Chancellor, Rani Laxmibai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi) delivered Foundation Day Lecture on this momentous occasion and presented a comprehensive view of Indian agriculture and its present status, challenges faced and strategies taken to address the core issues. He also narrated the initiatives taken to strengthen higher education in agriculture sector for a better outcome. The *Indian Farming* special issue on 125 years of IVRI, and one monograph on *Nutritional Microbiology Research at IVRI* were released.



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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015

Training to ITBP on Handling and Management of Yak

Dirang, 17 December 2014. The Director, National Research Centre on Yak, Dr S. M. Deb, developed a training module, as per the request of the Commandant (Veterinary) Director General, ITBP, New Delhi, and conducted ten days in-house training on 'Handling and Management of Yak' for 22 *jawans* from different battalions of ITBP from Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh from 8 to 17 December 2014 at its Centre. Dr Deb elaborated on the packability of the yak and compared with other pack animals and informed that yak is best choice to carry load in snow bound high altitude border areas.



During training major emphasis was given on the housing, nutrition, feeding, disease and health care management. Trainees were given a hand on practical exposure on selection of yaks as a pack animal and handling of yak during load carrying. Shri Sunil Kandpal (Commanding In-Charge, 4th Battalion, ITBP, Dirang) said that both ITBP and NRC on Yak will work together for better protection of high altitude border areas. A training manual on the *Handling and Management of Yak* was published for the ITBP *jawans* in difficult hilly terrain.

Farmer-Scientist interaction in seed-village

Alipurduar, 10 December 2014. A farmers' scientist interaction meeting was organized at Simlabari village. Dr B.P. Bhatt (Director, ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna) emphasized upon development of seed-village by the women and youth in the adopted village, especially for vegetable seeds, planting materials and mushroom spawn production. Dr Bhatt also stressed upon use of efficient irrigation methods, like drip irrigation and community-based water harvesting structures. During interaction, villagers besought for development of water resources for assured irrigation, as the area is best suited for vegetable cultivation. Women groups pleaded for capacity building in mushroom production. A field visit was also organized in the village to visit improved vegetable cultivation, forestry, mushroom production, backyard poultry and goat rearing.

Under the programme, 75 ha area has been brought under vegetable (potato, brinjal, tomato, bottle-gourd, chilli, cabbage and radish) cultivation. The village has started producing 500 kg of oyster mushroom on monthly basis. About 10 ha of fallow land was rehabilitated with agro-forestry interventions.

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