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Indira Gandhi Raj Bhasha Award goes to DARE



New Delhi, 14 September 2014. His Excellency President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, bestowed Indira Gandhi Raj Bhasha Award to Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) on 14 September 2014 in President House.

XXIII ICAR Regional Committee VI Meet

Anand, 12 September 2014. The XXIII meeting of ICAR Regional Committee No. VI was organized by Central Arid Zone Research Institute at Anand Agricultural University. It was chaired by Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) who focused on water harvesting, cultivation of multi-purpose tree species in agro-forestry system in Gujarat and Rajasthan, diversification and integrated farming system etc. The DG, ICAR added that documentation of success stories about fruit crops and livestock must be given due priority in Gujarat and Rajasthan. Local livestock breeds like Banni and Mehsana buffaloes should be promoted for improving milk availability and further economic gains in the region. Shri Raj Kumar (Principal Secretary, Agriculture) emphasized on the need to develop a compendium of crops suitable for this region. He said organic farming and protected cultivation needs to be taken up on priority in the state. He also stressed that the farming community should be taught how to reduce the cost of cultivation and discourage over use of chemical fertilizers.



XXII ICAR Regional Committee, Zone IV Meet

Lucknow, 5 September 2014. Shri Narendra Singh (Minister of Agriculture, Government of Bihar) inaugurated the XXII Meeting of ICAR Regional Committee, Zone IV. He highlighted the progress of Bihar and called upon to increase the investment in agricultural research and extension to strengthen the network of related institutions. He exhorted the

scientists and educationists to be vigilant and realistic in development of plans for the welfare of small farmers. Shri P.K. Sahi (Minister of Environment and Forests, Planning and Development) highlighted the road map developed for Bihar and the progress made by Uttar Pradesh in increasing rice productivity. He further emphasized on the quality fodder production and management of animal health. Shri Vaidyanath Sahni (Minister of Animal and Fish Resources,



Government of Bihar) appreciated the role of ICAR for providing a platform where the problems of the states could be discussed for finding out feasible solutions.

Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR) said that this region offers tremendous scope and opportunities for multifaceted growth in agricultural sector, horticultural science, animal husbandry, fisheries, sericulture etc. The DG, ICAR highlighted that impetus would be imparted for fruits and vegetables, fodder, seed production in developing farm implements for the region. He also highlighted the need for trained manpower and skill development.

Shri V.N. Garg (Agriculture Production Commissioner, Government of Uttar Pradesh) emphasized on developing infrastructure in terms of market and agri-business in Public, Private, Partnership mode, early warning systems, weather prediction systems and drought management systems. Shri Garg thanked ICAR for its role in developing drought contingent plan and helping Uttar Pradesh in its implementation.

Nematodes problems under protected cultivation

Bengaluru, 8 September 2014. Growing of vegetables and floricultural crops under protected cultivation is receiving utmost attention and gaining popularity among farming community across the country. The Government of India has launched 'Horticultural Technology Mission Project'. Under this programme large number of polyhouses were established in the various states in India. The crops grown in all the states of India are seriously infested with nematodes and the problem has assumed an alarming dimension leading to huge crop losses of up to 80% in some cases. Hence, the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research and All India Co-ordinated Research Programme on Nematodes conducted a Brainstorming session on 'Nematodes problems under protected cultivation' at IIHR.

The ideal conditions provided by protected cultivation and continuous availability of the host plant round the year often results in high populations build up of soil-borne pathogens

including plant parasitic nematodes. Indiscriminate use of agro-chemicals in crop ecosystem affected the useful microflora and adversely altered natural biological suppression which has hitherto been operating in Indian soils. The scientists suggested farmers to use certain safe chemicals, bio-nematicides/ bio-pesticides along with organic materials such as vermi-compost, farmyard manure neem/pongamia cakes during the bed preparation. Most of the officials felt that a policy has to be developed to make the use of bio-pesticides (bio-nematicides such as *Paecilomyces lilacinus*, *Pochonia chlamydosporia*), biofertilizers and organic materials mandatory before the preparation of beds. The National Horticultural Board and National Horticultural Mission could include these mandatory requirements for all the farmers who are availing their schemes.

Pengba fish awareness-cum-ranching programme

Umiam, 5 September 2014. The Fisheries Division of ICAR Research Complex for North-Eastern Hills Region organized a day-long awareness-cum-ranching programme of Pengba (*Osteobrama belangeri*) fish species of North-East India as an initiative under NICRA project in Umiam Lake of Barapani. Dr S.V. Ngachan (Director of the Institute) expressed his concern over the endangered Pengba fish and asked for convergence approach with the cooperation of line departments for conservation of this endemic germplasm under climate change. He congratulated Division of Fisheries for the successful production of Pengba fish seeds under the institute project 'Species Diversification' for introducing the species Meghalaya as one of the potential candidate species for mid-hill aquaculture.



The Chief Guest, Mrs I.R. Sangma (Director, Department of Fisheries) said this is a major landmark in the accomplishment history of ICAR for their maiden attempt to introduce the rare Pengba fish species in Meghalaya. It was pointed out that in the context of present climatic aberrations, this is a novel step for conservation and maintenance of Pengba fish species of Manipur, which fetches good market price due to high consumer demand. On this occasion thousands of Pengba fingerlings of 8 to 10 cm size (produced by the Institute) were released into the Umiam lake followed by distribution of Pengba and Amur common carp seeds to a group of selected farmers of Ribhoi district.

XXI Zonal Workshop of KVK

Raipur, 5 September, 2014. Shri Brijmohan Agrawal (Agricultural Minister, Government of Chhattisgarh) inaugurated Zonal Workshop of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishvavidyalaya (IGKV). Shri Agrawal applauded that KVK is a means for faster agricultural growth in Chhattisgarh. He asked KVKs to focus on new technologies along with the government schemes more specific for benefitting small-and marginal- farmers. He announced ₹ 5-6 lac government support for 'Water Technology Park' to be established in each KVK to act as model for the farmers. Dr S.K. Patil (Vice Chancellor, IGKV) highlighted the contribution of KVKs and urged these centres to play vital role in disseminating

the technology for socio-economic empowerment of farmers and farm-women. He emphasized on strengthening of the KVK system and enhancing coordination among KVKs and line department functionaries. Dr Anupam Mishra (Zonal Project Director, ZPD, Zone VI) emphasized on the resource conservation, increasing double cropped area and climate change issues to be addressed by the KVKs. Besides Dr Mishra also stressed on the mobile messaging sent to maximum number of farmers by Zone-VII i.e. 8.78 lac farmers which is the highest by the zone. An exhibition was laid out displaying recent technologies useful for the farmers of the Zone.

DDG (NRM) visits Research Centre of CSWCRTI

Vasad, 11 September 2014. The Deputy Director General (NRM) visited Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Research Centre to review the centre's work and the problems faced by the staff members. DDG (NRM) discussed the research projects being carried out and their outcome with implications on policy interventions. DDG (NRM) visited infrastructures at the centre, he advised to upgrade the building, equipments on state-of-the art basis. During visit to research farm, he discussed the scientific issues in depth and motivated the scientists to think new and big issues with society's welfare in mind.



NDDB Chairman visits NIANP

Bengaluru, 15 September 2014. Shri T. Nanda Kumar (Chairman, National Dairy Development Board) visited in all the laboratories in National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (NIANP), and had a profound interaction with the scientists. He drew attention on the 'National Dairy Plan (NDP)' aiming to double India's current milk production level. He added that National Dairy Plan emphasizes a focused multi-state initiative to augment animal productivity, strengthening the infrastructures for milk procurement at village level and enhancing milk processing capacity and marketing through appropriate policy and regulatory measures. He also mentioned that to achieve the goals, key importance will be given on the production of bulls of greater genetic merits, developing models for artificial insemination service at doorstep, improving fodder production, ration balancing with locally available feed resources and strengthening milk procurement system at village level.



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