



हर कदम, हर डगर
किसानों का हमसफर
भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद

AgriSearch with a human touch



MoA and MoS (Agriculture) assume Office



New Delhi, 28 May 2014. Shri Radha Mohan Singh (Union Minister of Agriculture) and Dr Sanjeev Kumar Balyan (Minister of State for Agriculture, Government of India) assumed their

offices at Krishi Bhawan. Shri Singh emphasized upon the participation of private sector as partners in agricultural research, education and extension so as to bring in more investment in these key areas. The initiatives proposed by the ICAR during the XII Five-Year Plan include Secondary Agriculture, Farmer FIRST, Student READY, ARYA (Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture), Agri-Tech Foresight Centre, National Agri-Science Foundation, National Agri-Innovation Foundation, National Agri-Science Foundation and Vision-2050 for Science-led Agriculture were appreciated by the Union Minister of Agriculture.



New records in production of many crops

The production of foodgrains during 2013-14 (includes *kharif* 2013 and *rabi* 2013-14 crops) in India is likely to be 264.38 million tonnes. This is more than 7 million tonnes than the production of last year. In the earlier estimates (2nd Advance estimates) released in February, the total foodgrain production was pegged at 263.2 million tonnes. Rice production is expected at record 106.29 million tonne and wheat production is expected to reach 95.85 million tonne, again a record. Record production has also been achieved in the case of *tur* (3.38 million tonne), chickpea (9.93 million tonne), maize (24.19 million tonne), all pulses put together (19.57 million tonne), cotton (36.50 million bales) and jute (10.82 million bales).

The production estimates for major crops for 2013-14 when compared with final estimates for the previous 5 years are as follows:

Crops	(million tonnes)					
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 3rd Advance Estimates
Rice	99.18	89.09	95.98	105.31	105.24	106.29
Wheat	80.68	80.80	86.87	94.88	93.51	95.85
Sorghum	7.25	6.70	7.00	6.01	5.28	5.25
Pearl millet	8.89	6.51	10.37	10.28	8.74	9.19
Maize	19.73	16.72	21.73	21.76	22.26	24.19
Coarse Cereals	40.04	33.55	43.40	42.04	40.04	42.68
Total Pulses	14.57	14.66	18.24	17.09	18.34	19.57
Total Foodgrains	234.47	218.11	244.49	259.32	257.13	264.38
Total nine oilseeds	27.72	24.88	32.48	29.80	30.94	32.41
Cotton #	22.28	24.02	33.00	35.20	34.22	36.50
Jute, Mesta # #	10.37	11.82	10.62	11.40	10.93	11.40
Sugarcane	285.03	292.30	342.38	361.04	341.20	348.38

million bales of 170 kgs each MP: SS: CP (3rd advance estimates) 16 May 2014
million bales of 180 kgs each (Source:PIB Release ID :105083)

Rice-Fallow System reviewed

Hundru, 5 May 2014. Under Tribal Sub-Plan the ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna is implementing a programme on Rice-Fallow System at Hundru, Chhota Ghagra and Saraitoli villages in a participatory mode involving 160 farm-families. Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR) reviewed the progress of Rice-Fallow System. He interacted with the farmers of Hundru village and comprehended farmers' own innovations on transplanted cowpea (*Cajanus cajanus*) being developed through the technological support of the institute and expressed their optimism about the outcome of the programme. He was appraised about the on-going activities like development of water resources, increasing soil and water productivity and appropriate cropping options for Rice-Fallow System under this programme. Dr Ayyappan was also informed about the capacity building activities being undertaken for the farmers.



NAIP Agri-Innovation Conclave 2014



New Delhi, 19 May 2014. Mr Onno Ruhl, Country Director for India, World Bank inaugurated the NAIP Agri-Innovation Conclave 2014 at NASC Complex. He appreciated that India is transforming fast, especially in the agricultural sector, and meeting the enhanced demand of food and nutrition successfully. India has the potential to become a modern and developed country in the near future and this can be achieved through the route of agriculture and allied activities. He emphasized that now Indian farmers are also taking up various on-farm and off-farm enterprises to become an entrepreneur, which is raising their income significantly.

Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR) said that Indian agriculture has attained sustainability through good science and technology that has permeated to fields and farms. "NAIP has brought a change in the mindset of Indian farmers who are now more eager to adopt new technologies and many of them have become innovators as well", he said. NAIP's Agri-Innovation Conclave is to encourage active participation from the public and privates sector in promoting



innovations, partnership and entrepreneurial climate in the Indian agricultural sector. This Conclave is a culmination of two major initiatives: The Agri-Biz Idol Camp, with top 10 promising agri-entrepreneur youth and the *Krishi Parivartan Yatra*, which brought together NAIP's 50 most innovative farmers and agribusinessmen of the country. The *Yatra* was organized by NAIP-ICAR for sharing innovations and success stories of the farmers across seven states.

Scientists-Farmers Knowledge sharing at Zonal Project Directorate

Kanpur, 21 May 2014. A 3-day Zonal Workshop on Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, organized by the Zonal Project Directorate, Kanpur was inaugurated by Prof. H.S. Gaur (Vice-Chancellor, SVPUA&T, Meerut) on 19 May 2014 at Indian Institute of Pulses Research. He said that income generating activities may be focused as per the need of the farmers in each district; availability of quality seed and planting material should be assured to the farmers for enhancing productivity of major crops; and a KVK must work on 'On-Farm Experimentations' based on location specific problems. Low-cost interventions need to be promoted among farmers. Exposure visits of ideal KVKs should be organized.



Prof. Munna Singh (Vice-Chancellor, CSAUA&T, Kanpur) chaired the inaugural session and motivated the KVK experts for doing social service to the farmers. He focused more on skill-oriented programmes and enterprises. Interaction of KVK experts with farmers is required to develop realistic action plan and appropriate technology application. The KVK system should have web-enabled technology, modules/capsules as alternative options for knowledge empowerment of farmers, extension agencies and other stakeholders; facilities of plant health diagnostic and minimal agro-processing; micro-irrigation system, portable carp hatchery and integrated farming system.

Tribal farmers learn vegetable production technologies

Amba, 8 May 2014. Under Tribal Sub-Plan and Horticulture Mission for North-East and the Himalayan States-I, the ICAR Sikkim Centre organized a mega programme by clubbing the activities of Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) and Horticulture Mission for North-East and the Himalayan States (HMNEH-I) to strengthen tribal farmers' capacity by providing them full package of dissemination of scientific knowledge and input support. Seeds of various summer vegetables, leafy vegetables, plastic sheets for construction of low-cost plastic tunnels were distributed under HMNEH-I for Front-Line Demonstration and biopesticides, biofungicides and sprayers were distributed for organic disease and pest-management. Farmers from seven Self-Help Groups attended the programme and benefitted with the various inputs distributed. Farmers showed keen interest in learning the scientific vegetable production technologies developed by the ICAR Sikkim Centre.



Dr R.K. Avasthe (Joint Director, ICAR Sikkim Centre) inaugurated the programme and stressed upon the importance of scientific knowledge for commercial and intensive production of vegetables to bring about perceptible change in the vegetable production scenario of the region. He said that hi-tech low-cost production technologies are available with ICAR, which can be a good source of income for the rural youth.

Weed Management

Jabalpur, 21 May 2014. A 3-day Training-cum-Workshop on Weed Management, organized by the Directorate of Weed Science Research and the Zonal Project Directorate, Zone VII, was inaugurated by Dr A.R. Sharma (Director, Directorate of Weed Science Research) on 19 May 2014 for the scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendras from Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. He gave an overview of the Directorate's activities for strengthening weed management through on-farm research and organizing training/awareness programmes. Dr Sharma delivered his lecture on 'The Weed Management in Indian Agriculture - An Overview'. Dr Anupam Mishra (ZPD, Zonal Project Directorate, Zone VII) explained the strength and opportunity of KVKs to disseminate technologies on weed management among farmers.

NICRA Project reviewed

Bhubaneswar, 8 May 2014. Dr Alok K. Sikka, DDG (NRM) visited Directorate of Water Management, Bhubaneswar on 7 May 2014. He suggested to apply frontier research technologies like nano-technology, bio-remediation, geo-informatics to solve the water management problems at national level; and work in harmony with All India Co-ordinated Research Projects on Irrigation Water Management,



Dryland Agriculture, Farming Systems, Agro-meteorology etc. Dr Sikka also advised to work out energy productivity along with water productivity and emphasized on

utility of simulation modeling in Farming System Research. The water portal developed by Directorate of Water Management was also demonstrated and in this regard he suggested to make it more user friendly so that user can provide feedback easily. After scientific discussion, he also interacted with the administrative, technical and supporting staff of the Institute and suggested to work with a positive attitude.

The Deputy Director General (NRM) also interacted with the farmers of the NICRA-villages and observed positive response from the farmers about technological interventions for climate change adaptation. He emphasized on conducting integrated studies on water and nutrient used efficiency under drip fertigation system and suggested to adopt conservation agriculture also along with drip irrigation. He also expressed usefulness of the dug well in an area for irrigating crops because of shallow groundwater-table. About 150 farmers attended the interactive programme.

Dear All

Please submit topical news along with photo in .JPEG and .TIFF format related to agriculture to:

Project Director

e-mail: pddkma@icar.org.in