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### GLANCE 2014: Global Animal Nutrition Conference



Bengaluru, 22 April 2014: The three-day Global Animal Nutrition Conference, jointly organised by Animal Nutrition Society of India with the collaboration of NIANP, CLFMA and VIV India, was started on 20 April 2014 at hotel Taj Vivanta. Hon'ble Governor of Goa, Shri Bharat Vir Wanchoo, was the Chief Guest and Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) presided over the function. The deliberations were on the novel feed resources, improving feed utilization, feed quality and ensuring food security in the changing climate scenario during this global conference. More than 400 delegates from India and abroad participated.

### New Laboratory Block at CIRG



Farah, 6 April 2014. Dr S. Ayyappan, (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) inaugurated newly constructed Laboratory Block of Central Institute for Research on Goat, Makhdoom. This new

Laboratory Block will act as a referral laboratory for meat quality and standardization, Central Instrumentation facility (CIF), Division of Genetics and Breeding and PME section. Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) appreciated the research work and technologies generated by the scientists for upliftment of goat farmers of our country. He also urged scientists to present goat as a future animal and develop low cost, pro-farmer, innovative technologies for sustainable goat production in the country. The DG, ICAR also released a DVD on 'Scientific Goat Farming'.

Dr K.M.L. Pathak (DDG, Animal Sciences) assured that new laboratory facility will provide quality infrastructure for the research in the institute. He also assured for full support from the ICAR. The other scientists emphasized on the need to conduct research on effect of climate stress on production performance in goats and its amelioration by implementing new managerial and biotechnological strategies. Dr S.K. Agarwal (Director, CIRG) briefed about the progress and achievements accomplished by the institute and put a roadmap for goat development in India.

Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) visited various livestock units, agricultural farms, technology exhibition and research laboratories of the Institute.

### 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Maize Workshop

Udaipur, 23 April 2014. The 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Maize Workshop, jointly organized by the Directorate of Maize Research and Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology was inaugurated on 21 April 2014. The Deputy Director General (Crop Science), Dr S.K. Datta, said that India has still a long way to go to match the global productivity of 5.5 tonnes/ha. He also highlighted the various challenges in the maize sector and extolled researchers not to shy away from using the best modern technologies for maize improvement. The Vice-Chancellor (MPUAT), Prof. O.P. Gill, stressed upon the need of genetic engineering and genomics for future maize improvement. Dr R.P. Dua (Assistant Director General, F & FC) emphasized on the need of maize based diversification of agriculture and also called for solving the weed problem in maize, especially during *kharif*.



Dr O.P. Yadav (Project Director, DMR), informed that maize recorded highest ever production of 22.23 million tonnes. Highlighting the flagship role played by the Directorate, he informed that this year a total of 651 germplasm lines were distributed by the Directorate of Maize Research to various centres of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Maize. The variety identification committee, which met during the workshop, identified 25 new hybrids of different maturity groups for cultivation in different seasons of various production ecologies in the country. Three hybrids (HM 10, HM 8, KMH 22168) and one composite [Pratap Makka Chari-6 (EC3135)] were registered under PPV&FR Act, 2001. Besides, DUS testing of 91 genotypes was also undertaken. The other important deliberations were on:

- Two inbred lines, viz. MCM 11/01 (early maturing and prolificacy) and DMRQPM 102 (Medium maturity, low ASI, high tryptophan, high protein and resistance to MLB) were registered at NBPGR, New Delhi.
- A total of 60.33 q of breeder seed of 34 parental lines of 17 hybrids and 15 OPVs was indented by DAC, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. Against the indent, 63.65 quintals has been produced up to March 2013.
- The seed production of hybrids 'HQPM 1' and 'HQPM 5' is being taken up in Rajasthan by the State Department of Agriculture, while the seed production of CO-6 is being taken up in Gujarat by GSSC.
- During 2013, maize experimental cultivars (400) were evaluated in 26 All India Coordinated Research Project trials at 34 locations across the country in *kharif* and *rabi*, and 481 inbred lines were evaluated at hot spot locations against important diseases of maize. Out of these 113 inbred lines were having multiple disease resistance.

More than 200 delegates participated in the workshop.

### Co-operation between DOGR and RKEW

Pune, 15 April 2014. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Director, Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research with M/S R.K. Engineering Works, Rajgurunagar at this Directorate. As per MoU, DOGR extended a non-exclusive license to R.K. Engineering Works, Thigal Sthal, Rajgurunagar, Pune for manufacturing the motorized onion grader.



The R.K. Engineering works, a small-scale industry, is involved in the manufacturing of agricultural implements. Motorized onion grader works with the 1hp motor and grades the onion into four grades. The Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research believes that the said MoU will promote the widespread adoption of this onion grader in India.

### Technological empowerment of farmers in north-eastern states of India

Lingdong, 16 April 2014. The ICAR Sikkim Centre organized a mega programme at Dzongu, North Sikkim on 'Technological Empowerment through Input Support System' to strengthen farmers' capacity by dissemination of scientific knowledge and distribution of inputs, viz. seeds of various *kharif* vegetables, biopesticides, biofungicides, sprayers, plastic-sheets for construction of low cost plastic tunnels, agro-shade nets and BIO NPK etc. Additionally, a Front-line Demonstration programme on 'Leafy Vegetable Production under Low Cost Plastic Tunnels during Rainy Season' was also organized. Farmers from eight Self-help Groups of *Tarang, Gnon, Sangdong, Lingdong, Tingvong, Passingdang, Sangkalang, Hee-Gyathang* villages of Dzongu, North Sikkim attended the programme and benefitted with the various input distributed.



Dr R.K. Avasthe (Joint Director, ICAR Sikkim Centre) stressed that 'Change in thought Process' is must for commercial and intensive production of vegetables to bring about perceptible change in the vegetable production scenario of the region. He further emphasized that selection of crops and its bulk production is important from marketing point of view which ensures higher returns as organic products have immense value. The scientists of different disciplines deliberated on following issues:

- The Entomologists discussed the pest and disease management in vegetable crops and stressed upon the importance of regular visit and proper monitoring of farm in organic production system for better control of pathogens as 'prevention is always better than cure'.
- The Horticulturists highlighted the hi-tech production of vegetables with low-cost technologies that give maximum benefits to the farmers.
- The organic nutrient management in vegetable production system was discussed, and emphasis was on significance of crop rotation with leguminous crops to

avoid nutrition depletion in soil because of mono-cropping. He also suggested that green manuring with *Sesbania rostrata* (*dhaincha*) is also good option.

### Improving livelihood security of tribal farmers

Lingdong, 16 April 2014. With the aim to improve the livelihood security of the tribal farmers of remote area of the state, the ICAR Research Complex for North-Eastern Hills Region, Sikkim Centre organized 'Vanaraja Chicks Distribution-cum-Training Programme for Improving Livelihood Security of Tribal Farmers' at Dingdong, Dozing, North Sikkim. Necessary inputs along with 1,550 numbers of day-old-chicks were



distributed to 52 tribal beneficiaries of five Self-Help Groups.

Dr R.K. Avasthe (Joint Director, ICAR, Sikkim Centre) emphasized upon the importance of backyard poultry farming for improving the rural livelihoods. He also highlighted the advantages of Vanaraja poultry birds over the local fowl under backyard poultry farming. The scientists interacted with the farmers and emphasized on the adoption of scientific management practices for generating higher returns from rearing Vanaraja in backyard poultry. It was also informed that Ranikhet disease is the most important one under backyard poultry system and that timely vaccination of birds is essential particularly against Ranikhet disease under improved health management.

### Cashew production and processing technologies

Kochi, 24 April 2014. The three-day National Level Training Programme on 'Cashew Production and Processing Technologies', jointly organized by the ICAR Research Complex for Goa and Directorate of Cashew nut and Cocoa Development, Kochi, Kerala, was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor of Goa, Shri Bharat Vir Wanchoo. He categorically highlighted the need of replacement of senile plantation with new improved varieties, co-operative strategies for enhancing production, and marketing system, frequent scientists-farmers interface meeting to increase the cashew production, and productivity and concerted attempts for utilization of cashew apple for additional profit from cashew plantation.

Dr S K Malhotra (Horticulture Commissioner, Government of India) highlighted the availability of >40 varieties of cashews for different regions of India and appealed the participants to advice farmers to use correct varieties and maximum plantation for better production.

Dr N.P. Singh (Director, ICAR Research Complex for Goa) described the Tribal sub-plan programme that the ICAR is running at Cinchona and other parts of Goa where the cashew rearing farmers earned the double income because of proper utilization of fertilizers and related technologies.

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