



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

*AgriSearch with a human touch*

*Icar  
mail*

### Krishi Vasant 2014

#### Learning and Educational Platform for Farming Community

Nagpur, 9 February 2014. Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, inaugurated the five-day 'Krishi Vasant 2014' (jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture,



Government of India, and Government of Maharashtra) at Central Institute of Cotton Research and said that India has made tremendous progress in agriculture during the last decade and has got capacity to export foodgrains. Hon'ble President of India emphasized that improving the access of farmers to markets is critical to reduce farm wastages, control inflation and increase incomes. There is a need to encourage greater investment by the organized logistic players, processors and retailers for developing markets under the Private-Public Partnership mode. The President said in a scenario of growing grain stocks and increasing production of high-value commodities, it is ironical for food inflation to continue for long periods. Shri Mukherjee called upon all stakeholders to make technologies and best practices accessible to farmers, especially small- and marginal- farmers. He stated that the agricultural extension network has to be galvanized to ensure prompt delivery of services to farmers. *Krishi Vasant 2014* was the right platform to interact, deliberate and demonstrate what needs to be done to provide fillip to Indian agriculture.

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Shri Sharad Pawar, highlighted some of the major and recent achievements of Indian agriculture, and credited hard working farming community for the accomplishments. Shri Pawar also informed that our foodgrain production is estimated to touch 263 million tonnes in 2013-14 which is a record production ever in India. Now, India is the largest rice exporter and second largest cotton, wheat and sugar exporter country in the world. While remembering the contributions of Late Shri Vasant Rao



Naik, Former Chief Minister of Maharashtra in the field of agriculture, he said that on the occasion of 100 birth centenary of this great visionary, *Krishi Vasant* is being organized as the biggest ever *Kisan Mela* and exhibition in the country. The ICAR displayed its innovations, technologies and best practices through an especially created pavilion on the theme, 'Era of Resurgence in Agriculture'. Around 80 ICAR institutes and 30 *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* (KVKs) from different parts of the country displayed S&T strength through attractive displays and products. Knowledge and Information products of ICAR were also on display and sale.

Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR) released special issues of *Kheti* and *Indian Farming* dedicated to *Krishi Vasant 2014*.

#### Shri Sharad Pawar announces Establishment of Rani Laxmi Bai Central Agricultural University

New Delhi, 26 February 2014. Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries announced the establishment of Rani Laxmi Bai Central Agricultural University (Headquarters at Jhansi) with special focus on development of agriculture in the Bundelkhand region with an outlay of ₹ 467 crore during the XII Five-Year Plan.

#### Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela 2014

Shri Sharad Pawar inaugurated *Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela, 2014* at IARI *Mela* ground. He emphasized upon the importance of climate resilient technologies for sustainable agriculture and



enhancing farmers' profitability. He hoped that farmers will learn and experience about new climate resilient technologies for adoption in the fields. Shri Pradeep Jain 'Aditya', Union Minister of State for Rural Development, said that the development at the village level can only be achieved by the agricultural progress. Shri Anand Singh, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Uttar Pradesh thanked the Government of India for establishing the Central Agricultural University in the state and assured all possible support and help from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR) expressed his gratitude for the leadership of Shri Sharad Pawar for bringing Indian agriculture to new heights through his visionary approach. The Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture (DKMA), ICAR also participated in the *mela* showcasing the knowledge products of ICAR.

## 101<sup>st</sup> Session of Indian Science Congress

Jammu, 3 February 2014. Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh inaugurated five-day 101<sup>st</sup> Session of Indian Science Congress on 3 February 2014 at Jammu University. He emphasized upon the need to eliminate unscientific prejudices to ensure food security and to improve land and water productivity.

He said that government remains committed to promoting the use of these new technologies for agricultural development. There is a need to increase communication and engagement with society at large in explaining socially productive applications of technology alternatives and for improving the productivity of small and medium enterprises, he added. Dr Singh said, "I would like science to be high in our value system so that our entire society provides both moral and material support for its development. This is not only necessary because our future depends on it, but also for developing a progressive, rational and humane society. I do hope that our scientists and educators will ponder seriously on how we can achieve this transformation in the mindset of our society". Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, Minister for Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences inaugurated the India Vision 2020 Mega Expo organized on the sidelines of ISC, 2014. The pavilion of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) focused on the recent technologies, innovations and products that have made impact on Indian Agriculture.



## ICAR-Public Outreach Session



The Indian Council of Agricultural Research organized a Public Outreach Session on sidelines of 101<sup>st</sup> Session of Indian Science Congress at University of Jammu. Dr R.B. Singh (Ex

President, National Academy of Agriculture Sciences) urged farmers to adopt latest technologies for enhancing productivity and profitability. ICAR, with its vast network, has all the ingredients to serve the Indian farmers through technological interventions and knowledge dissemination. Dr Rameshwar Singh (Project Director, Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture, ICAR) made an illustrative presentation on the ICAR services being offered to entrepreneurs and farmers. He also elaborated upon various scholarships and fellowships available to students. Dr Singh urged farmers to avail facility of Krishi Vigyan Kendras and the ICAR institutes of the region for increasing profitability through diversified agriculture.

Dr K.S. Risam (Director Extension, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Jammu) initiated dialogue and conducted interactive session with farmers and students. Farmers, students, young researchers, extension functionaries and members of general public participated in the Public Outreach Session. Participants were provided useful literature on activities and services of ICAR. The event was

jointly organized by the Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology at Jammu.

## New initiatives under Tribal Sub Plan

Simlabari, 14 February 2014. The ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region selected Uttar Simlabari (a tribal dominated village in Jalpaiguri district, West Bengal) to implement agricultural based activities under Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for improvement of livelihoods of the tribal community. Improved breeds of poultry (Gram Priya), goat (Black Bengal) and pig (T&D) were made available to 250 tribal households for improvement of their income from livestock. A pig breeding unit has been started for providing quality piglets to tribal farmers.

A farmer and scientist interaction meeting was organized on 13 and 14 February 2014 at Uttar Simlabari village. Farmers were given the overview of the activities being undertaken at the village depending upon needs and resources of the village, and improved irrigation methods and water harvesting structures for better yield. Action plan for livelihood improvement of villagers with the provision of irrigation facilities, improved high-yielding seed materials of agri-horti crops and improved farm implements was discussed. As a part of prophylactic measures, the birds and animals were administered with required antibiotics and B-complex medication. The tribal community of the village (around 400) shall be benefited through improved animal husbandry, seed material, improved farm implements, proper use of available natural resources and capacity building of the farming community.

## MoU signed between ICAR and Royal Botanic Gardens

New Delhi, 13 February 2014. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, India and the Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG), Kew, United Kingdom. Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR) and Mr Richard Deverell



(Director, RBG, Kew) signed MoU in New Delhi. This MoU would enhance the capacity of both the premier institutions in research on conservation science especially in the area of difficult-to-store species. Further, implementation of MoU provisions would enable India to fulfill the objectives of 'Updated Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-20' of Convention on Biological Diversity, which emphasizes on conservation of plant diversity and focuses on achieving *ex situ* and in *situ* conservation of at least 75% of known wild, endangered and socio-economically important species. Human resource development and exchange of students and faculty would enhance the capacity building in both the organizations and benefit scientists of developing countries from Asia and Africa.

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