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### Indira Gandhi Rajbhasha Puruskar 2012-13 goes to *Ishu: a Rajbhasha Patrika* from IISR

New Delhi, 14 September 2013. On Hindi Diwas Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, gave away Second



Prize to *Ishu*, a *Rajbhasha Patrika*, at Vigyan Bhavan. This periodical is brought out by the Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow.

### Director General, ICAR visits Leh and Ladakh

● Ladakh, 15 September 2013. Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) visited Leh and Chang-La (a hilly location snow-cladden throughout the year) from 13 to 15 September 2013 in connection with a collaborative programme between ICAR and DRDO for setting up a National Permafrost Facility for storing plant germplasm, as a safe repository on the lines of Svalbard in the North Pole. The National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources has been maintaining a germplasm collection of over four lakh accessions in its Gene Bank at New Delhi. In view of the need for long-term storage and safety net against any disaster, it had been envisaged that a Permafrost Facility is established in Ladakh.



This visit paved the way for the Permafrost facility, that could be built over the period of four years, and is projected to cost approximately over ₹2,000 million. A detailed note is being prepared by colleagues

in the three agencies. The Permafrost Facility to be established at a height of about 18,000 ft, would be a unique facility for the purpose.

● Leh, 13 September 2013. Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) visited the Regional Research Station, Central Arid Zone Research Institute. He appreciated these efforts and advised to organize demonstrations on the improved production technologies applicable to this region. Convergence of such technologies from Indian Grassland and

Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi; Central Institute of Tropical Horticulture, Srinagar; Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla; Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana; and Directorate of Mushroom Research,



Solan may be planned under Tribal Sub-Plan and coordinated by this centre of Central Arid Zone Research Institute. He also suggested strong collaborations

with SKAUST station and Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Leh for improving the productivity of Ladakh region.

The Director General, ICAR mentioned that crops like barley, potato, wheat and oat should be accorded higher priority in a farming system mode. He also discussed about the infrastructure development like buildings and fencing at Regional Research Station, CAZRI, Leh. He visited along with the team at a farmer's field at Ranbirpur village near Leh where a demonstration on drip irrigation in apple orchard has been carried out by SKAUST, sponsored under Tribal Sub-Plan of cold arid network research of CAZRI.

### National Demonstrations of Pearl Millet Commercial Hybrids

Jodhpur, 21 September 2013. The All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Pearl Millet organized a National Demonstration of Pearl Millet Commercial Hybrids. The demonstration included 99 pearl millet commercial hybrids grown in a large plot under good management. More than 150 participants including Policy Makers, Researchers, Plant Breeders, State Department of Agriculture, Rajasthan State Seed Corporation and National Seed Corporation observed these hybrids in a compact block.

Dr B.S. Rajpurohit [Professor (PB&G), AICRP on Pearl Millet, Mandor] highlighted that these demonstrations provided unique opportunity to assess all commercial hybrids of pearl millet simultaneously at one place by all stakeholders. Information was also provided on a whole range of choices in terms of maturity, plant type, seed size and colour and different combinations of grain and dry stover yields

Dr A.S. Faroda (Ex Vice Chancellor, MPUAT, Udaipur) addressed the gathering and asked researchers and scientists to develop the rainfed varieties according to suitability of climate of Western Rajasthan, Western Haryana and North Gujarat. He also emphasized that Rajasthan State Seed Corporation need to play a catalytic role in production of hybrid seeds developed by the ICAR and State Agricultural Universities to further enhance the pearl millet productivity in the country.

Dr K.R. Solanki (Former Assistant Director General, NRM) emphasized the role of hybrids to enhance crop productivity under rainfed conditions particularly in Rajasthan. Dr Govind

Singh (Director Research, SKRAU, Bikaner) said that demonstrations play a very critical role in educating the farmers and seed production agencies with the latest released hybrids in order to reduce the time gap between hybrid development and its adoption. He stated that SKRAU, Bikaner is also trying to take up seed production of pearl millet at Suratgarh and Padampur farm.

### DMR organizes National Demonstration of Maize Hybrids

New Delhi, 22 September 2013. The Directorate of Maize Research organized a two-day 'National Demonstration of Maize Commercial Hybrids' and brain storming sessions on 'Public-Private Partnership', 'Trait Prioritization in Breeding', and 'Improving Drought Tolerance' from 21 to 22 September 2013. More than 120 researchers, policy makers and other stake holders participated in these events. A total of 106 hybrids of maize were demonstrated in a compact block. While visiting the demonstration, Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) appreciated the efforts of national programme in attaining the huge diversity among maize hybrids that is essentially required to cater to the need of farmers in different agro-ecological regions of country. He expressed his satisfaction in the development and fine-tuning of production technology of maize that have paid a huge dividend especially during the last decade. Shri Ashish Bahuguna (Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Government of India) termed this initiative as unique showcasing of hybrid technology that has a great potential to enhance the income of farmers. He conveyed that providing such a wide choice of hybrids to farmers would help achieve crop diversification in different regions of country. He also took keen interest in looking at the new hybrids that are in pipe-line and are likely to be made available to farmers in near future to give another push to maize production of country.



### Makhana cultivation evokes great response

Darbhanga, 16 September 2013. The Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Shri Tariq Anwar, inaugurated Farmers' Training Programme on 'Improved Cultivation Techniques in Makhana' at Makhana Research Centre, ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region. Shri Tanwar said that the Centre has got a yield potential of makhana 3.0 tonne/ha. He called upon scientists to work for mechanization in makhana cultivation, especially popping of makhana, so as to reduce the drudgery. He emphasized the importance of food security bill for 67% people of the total population in India, for which scientists and farmers' have to work together. He also released a technical bulletin *Makhana Kheti Ki Unnat Taknik*.



Dr B. P. Bhatt (Director, ICAR Research Complex for Eastern

Region, Patna) apprised visitors about the *makhana* cultivation and the priorities of the institutes for its further growth, particularly during XII Five-Year Plan. Further, 120 kg of breeder seed of *makhana* was also distributed to the progressive farmers. Around 1,250 farmers, representatives from SBI, NABARD, KVKs and NGOs participated in the training programme.

### FISHPROT Database on Fish Proteomics

Barrackpore, 10 September 2013. The Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore developed a comprehensive biological fish proteomic database for biomarker discovery and evaluation named FISHPROT. The database contains proteomic information on different fish species. Currently, FISHPROT contains information on muscle proteome of Indian Major Carp, *Catla catla*, riverine catfishes *Sperata seenghala* and *Sperata aor*, muscle and lens proteome of riverine catfish *Rita rita*, liver proteome of the murrel, *Channa striatus*, plasma proteome of Indian major carp, *Labeo rohita*.



FISHPROT is a web-based database developed using open source technologies Apache, PHP and MySQL. It is linked to other proteomics and bioinformatics database like NCBI, SWISSPROT and proteomic societies like SPS, BSPR and PSI (Proteomic Society, India). The database is being updated with recent proteomic information and can be accessed at <http://www.cifri.ernet.in/fishprot.html>.

### ICAR Central Zone Sports Meet

Bhopal, 28 September 2013. Shri Anant Kumar Hegde (MP) inaugurated the five-day Central Zone Sports Meet 2013 on 24 September 2013 at Motilal Nehru Stadium, Lal Parade Ground, Bhopal. Seventeen Research Institutes located in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, New Delhi and Uttar Pradesh have sponsored 600 sports persons to participate in this mega event, organized by the ICAR.



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