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भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद

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Workshop on National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases

Lucknow, 28 May 2013. Dr S. Ayyappan inaugurated two-day workshop on 'National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases' at National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), Lucknow on 27 May 2013. He emphasized the prospects of increasing agricultural productivity of the country by 30% through lessening the biotic and abiotic stresses. He cited the successful example of zoning concept of Foot- and-Mouth Disease free Haryana through animal disease surveillance programme. He advised the scientists to take holistic approach in disease investigation instead of



concentrating only on limited pathogen (s) of their area of interest. This workshop was organized by NBFGR in collaboration with National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad, and Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries (DAHDF), Government of India, New Delhi. More than 50 fish health experts from leading fisheries research institutions and other organizations participated.

Dr Meenakumari, DDG (Fisheries), appraised the humble attempt of NBFGR for taking such a challenging task of Surveillance Programme on 'Aquatic Animal Diseases' to reach the goal. She stressed the need on the involvement of State Fisheries Departments for successful implementation of the programme. In the workshop, the participating organizations presented the activities to be commenced under the surveillance programme and the modalities of implementing the surveillance programme were finalized for both passive and targeted surveillance in the selected states.

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CMFRI-SAARC International Workshop

Cochin, 5 June 2013. Dr R. Paul Raj (Member-Secretary, Coastal Aquaculture Authority, Chennai) inaugurated CMFRI-SAARC International Workshop on the theme of 'Status of good practices and lessons learnt in aquaculture in the SAARC region' on 5 June 2013 at CMFRI, Cochin. He emphasized the relevance of aquaculture production in the scenario of fish graduating from the so called 'cheap protein' to an 'expensive protein'. He exhorted the SAARC



member countries to adhere to proper solutions for the lessons learnt from aquaculture practices in the region. Dr Dilip Kumar (Ex-Director, CIFE) shared his experiences in SAARC countries and said the types of similar problems envisaged in the region and the resources available to resolve them. Dr G Syda Rao, (Director, CMFRI) indicated the strength of CMFRI in resolving mariculture issues and shared various success stories, which rightly helped SAARC countries to identify CMFRI as the lead institute to coordinate the issues in SAARC region.

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52nd Foundation Day at CIFE, Mumbai

Mumbai, 6 June, 2013. The Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai celebrated its 52nd Foundation Day. Dr Panjab Singh (Ex-DG, ICAR)



highlighted the need for an enabling higher agricultural education policy and stressed upon the importance of research to improve the quality of education. He emphasized that large investment should go in the development of intellectual quality of faculty rather than investing heavily on infrastructure development. Dr J.C. Katyal, (Ex-DDG, ICAR) promoted the national and global scenario of higher education and significance of right to education. He said that in the globalised economy the focus is shifting from 'education for classes' to 'education to masses'. However, he said that quality, relevance, employability and societal aspects of education are significant.

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ICAR shines in Kargil district

Kargil, 1 June 2013. With the aim to enhance the agriculture production in Kargil district a team of ICAR visited Kargil under leadership of Dr A. M. Narula (Zonal Project Director, Zone I) and had a meeting with Shri Haji Ghulam Amir Kamran (Executive Councillor, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry); Er Punchuk Tashi (Executive Councillor, Tourism and Zanskar's affairs) and Shri Fida Hussain (Deputy Commissioner, Kargil). The ICAR team visited one of the traditional areas in Sonku block at Panikhar. The KVK, Leh has successfully introduced Pashmina goats in non-traditional areas of Kargil under NAIP, Sub-Project.



New onion varieties released

The Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research has recommended 5 improved onion varieties for release at national level in a workshop held at Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Kalyani. Major characteristics of the varieties are as follows:



Bhima Super: Identified for release in Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, average yield is 20 to 22 tonne/ha in *kharif* and 40

- 45 tonne /ha in late *kharif*. Bulbs attain maturity within 100-105 days after transplanting in *kharif* and 110 -120 days after transplanting in late *kharif*. It produces mostly single centered bulbs.



Bhima Dark Red: Identified for release in Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu for *kharif*. Average marketable

yield is 20 to 22 tonne/ha. It has attractive dark red flat globe bulbs and attains maturity within 95-100 days after transplanting.



Bhima Red: Identified for release in Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu during *kharif*. However, it is grown in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh in *rabi*.

Maturity is 105-110 days after transplanting during *kharif* and 110-120 days after transplanting during late *kharif* and *rabi*. The average marketable yield is 19-21 tonne/ha in *kharif*, 48 to 52 tonne/ha in late *kharif* and it is 30-32 tonne//ha in *rabi*.



Bhima Shweta: Identified for release in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu for *kharif*. It matures within 110-120 days after transplanting.

It has medium keeping quality and can be stored up to 3 months. Average marketable yield is 18 to 20 tonne /ha during *kharif*.



Bhima Shubhra: Identified for release in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu for *kharif*. It is also recommended for late *kharif* in Maharashtra. It

matures in 110-115 days after transplanting during *kharif* and 120-130 days after transplanting in late *kharif*. It is a medium storer with a capacity to tolerate environmental fluctuation. Average marketable yield is 18 to 20 tonne/ha during *kharif* and 36-42 tonne /ha during late *kharif*.

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The Pashmina goat farming became an attraction among farmers of Leh. The farmer-beneficiary showed great interest in Pashmina goat farming, and also shared their experiences with ICAR team and other farmers. The team observed that major crops of Kargil district are wheat and millet. The Programme Coordinator of KVK, Kargil will take up demonstrations on pest management and processing in apricot growing blocks of the district. The climatic conditions are also favourable for potato cultivation in the Kargil valley. The district remains cutoff about six months in a year from rest of the state due to snowbound Zojila pass.

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KIRAN: Agricultural Messaging Service for NEH Region

Barapani, 9 June 2013. KIRAN, a Knowledge Innovation Repository for Agriculture in North-East, initiated 'Agricultural Messaging Service' (AMS) to share agricultural knowledge and innovation among farmers, researchers, students, and industries of the north-eastern hills region. The AMS aims at agriculture development in north-eastern hills region. Apart from delivering agro-meteorological data and advisory on a regular basis for crop management and allied agricultural practices, it will establish linkage between market and farmers using modern mode of information.



The messaging service has been initiated among 400 farmers in Meghalaya on a pilot scale. It is envisaged to include a total of 2,475 farmers from all over the north-east by the end of July. The messaging service would be contextual and would deliver season specific agro-husbandry practices, relevant to the needs of farmers in north-eastern hills region. Advisories regarding practices, problems and interventions would also be given on every alternate day to the farmers through an SMS portal designed under the KIRAN platform.

web site: www.KIRAN.nic.in

Scientists-farmers interaction on Basmati rice

Dehra Dun, 4 June 2013. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dehra Dun organized one-day workshop on Basmati rice in collaboration with Basmati Export Development Foundation (APEDA), Government of India in which 78 Basmati growers participated. The scientists appealed to growers that Pusa Basmati-1121, Pusa Basmati-1460, and Pusa Basmati-1401 have proven their yield potential and have export quality attributes. The scientists suggested farmers that balanced dose of chemical fertilizers need to be applied especially in Basmati rice. Otherwise it makes the plants more vulnerable towards various pests and diseases.

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Dear All
please submit topical news related to agriculture to:
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