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किसानों का हमसफर
भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद

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ICAR Directors' Conference

New Delhi, 20 March 2013. *Padma Vibhushan* Dr N.R. Narayana Murthy (Founder and Chairman Emeritus, Infosys Limited) inaugurated a two-day ICAR Directors' Conference on 19 March 2013 at NASC Complex. He emphasized upon the agricultural research and said that human beings can forego any other luxury but not food, and appreciated the efforts of the ICAR in attaining self sufficiency in foodgrains and nutritional security. On this occasion, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan (Member of Parliament, *Rajya Sabha*) shared his reminiscence of developing the agricultural research in India.



Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR) addressed the gathering and reviewed the glimpses of the ICAR that took place during 2012-13. In the category of Big Institutes Best Annual Report (2011-12) award was given to CRIDA, Hyderabad whereas in small institutes it went to NRC Grapes, Pune. The important deliberations included Student Ready, ICAR

Policy for Research Publications, Communication Strategies, Open Access Policy, Agro-pedia, ARYA, NICRA, Farmer First, etc. For details contact: ravinku2004@yahoo.co.in

Role of IT in Agriculture and Food

New Delhi, 16 March 2013, Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR) inaugurated a two-day ITRA-ICAR



strategy formulation meeting on 'IT in Agriculture and Food' on 15 March 2013 at NASC Complex. He emphasized upon knowledge-based agriculture to enhance the productivity and efficiency of farmers through information technology. He further said that Indian agriculture would significantly benefit from IT in various dimensions, ranging from education, research and development to extension. He hoped that deliberations of

this meeting would help in mobilizing science and technology by linking agricultural specialists into virtual communities and accelerating agricultural research exchange among different entities. Shri J. Satyanarayana (IAS), Secretary DeitY, stressed upon the need of Information and Communication Technology in agriculture. He said that Information Technology can link agricultural producers to increasingly globalized production chains and help develop trade opportunities. Prof. Narendra Ahuja, Coordinator (PSIG), ITRA, gave brief presentation on Information Technology in Agriculture and Food. Dr M.M. Pandey, DDG (Engineering), ICAR, presented the overview of ICAR with special emphasis on IT in the ICAR System. Dr G.V. Ramaraju (MD and CEO, Media Lab Asia) briefed the audience about objectives of the meeting. The Deputy Directors General, Directors of ICAR institutes, foreign delegates, Information Technology professionals and senior officials participated.

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Foresight and future pathways of agricultural research through youth in India

New Delhi, 2 March 2013. Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) chaired a two-day national workshop on 'Foresight and Future Pathways of Agricultural Research through involvement of Youth in India', jointly organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) from 1 to 2 March 2013 at NASC Complex. He said that the objective of the workshop was mainly to know the long-term vision of the young agricultural professionals about agricultural research in India. Dr R. S. Paroda (Chairman, TAAS) exhorted the young agricultural professionals to commit themselves to meaningful inter-institutional and interdisciplinary agricultural research; to make it more relevant to the needs of small and marginal farmers. Dr Thomas Lumpkin (Director General, CIMMYT) emphasized that linkages with different national and international institutions, and partnership with the private sector, is the order of the day. Dr H. S. Gupta (Director, IARI) stressed upon for cutting-edge research and relevant novel technologies to address the needs of food and nutritional security.



The two-day deliberations by young and senior agricultural professionals covered the wide range of disciplines and components of Indian agriculture, viz. natural resource management, crop improvement and protection, horticulture, post-harvest technology, livestock and fishery sector, agriculture engineering and implements, and ICTs and socio-economics. These deliberations identified the research requirements across disciplines and regions. About 300 participants attended the workshop.

Agricultural technologies for farmers prosperity

New Delhi, 8 March 2013. Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Shri Sharad Pawar, inaugurated three-day *Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela* on the theme 'Agricultural Technologies for Farmers Prosperity' at the



ground of IARI on 6 March 2013. He emphasized upon the importance of new farm technologies in the development of agriculture and enhancing farmers' profitability and called upon farmers to produce more pulses and oilseed crops to meet the growing demand. He hoped that farmers would learn about new technologies for adoption in the fields.

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Shri Tariq Anwar, presided over the inaugural function and released publications of IARI on 6 March 2013, Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR) also demanded research work for the further betterment of farmers. During 3-day, from 6 to 8 March 2013 farmers from different parts of the country, scientists, students and exhibitors participated.

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Facebook page of ICAR flashed

New Delhi, 7 March 2013. Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR) flashed Facebook page of the ICAR. He said that Face book page is an attempt to develop a dialogue

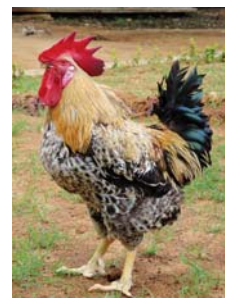


and share. The knowledge resources of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on a social media platform with the objective to make agriculture more productive, profitable, stable and competitive. He was of opinion that this platform will be a vibrant and dynamic one with feedback and responses from visitors.

New poultry strain Srinidhi released

Hyderabad, 2 March 2013, Prof. K.M.L. Pathak (Deputy Director General, Animal Sciences) released a new promising dual-purpose strain 'Srinidhi' for rural poultry at Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Project Directorate on Poultry. This strain, evolved at Project Directorate on Poultry, Hyderabad, has multi-colour plumage and longer shanks, colour and bigger eggs (53-55 g), juvenile body weight (500-550 g at 6 weeks), early maturing in 175 days quality, and 150 egg production in a year.

It has been selected from the six test crosses developed at Project Directorate on Poultry. It was evaluated twice for full length of production cycle of 72 weeks at the Institute farm. Its juvenile body weight at 6 weeks of age was 650 g and males weighed 2,353 g at 15 weeks of age. The age at sexual maturity is 161 days. The egg production up to 40 weeks of age was 90 eggs and the annual egg production 228 eggs under intensive system of rearing with survivability more than 95%. Subsequently, the variety was also evaluated under field conditions in Tripura, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh. In the backyards, the juvenile body weight at 6 weeks of age was 500-550 g, the age at sexual maturity 170-175 days and egg production up to 40 weeks of age 55-60 eggs. The bird showed potential to lay 140-150 eggs/year under backyard.



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'Swarn', cloned buffalo calf born

Karnal, 18 March 2013. Dr A.K. Srivastava (Director, NDRI) informed that a male cloned buffalo calf, namely 'Swarn' is born by using Hand-guided Cloning Technique at National Dairy Research Institute. The calf was born by normal parturition, and its weight was around 55 kg at birth. The new born calf is keeping in good health and has started suckling milk. This cloned buffalo calf is unique and is different from the earlier clones because in this case the donor somatic cell used was isolated from the seminal plasma of a bull which is currently being used for donating semen at Animal Breeding Research Centre (ABRC) of NDRI, Karnal. The scientists said that this achievement was of particular interest as it makes it possible to re-create highly valuable progeny tested bulls, which may have died long back, using their frozen semen.



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Green fishing systems for tropical seas

A new project initiative for green fishing systems has been initiated by Central Institute of Fisheries Technology to achieve energy efficiency in fishing. The project aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Design and construction of a 19.8 m energy efficient new generation combination fishing vessel.
- Development of energy saving selective fishing gear systems through material substitution and design optimization.

The outcome of the project is intended to benefit the fishing industry, in particular, and will also benefit researchers and policy makers, in general, by quantifying and evaluating the characteristic parameter and operational efficiency of the existing fishing craft and gear design against target performance values.

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Dear All
please submit topical news related to agriculture to:
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