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## Hindi Divas 2012 – DARE bags coveted Indira Gandhi Rajbhasha Puraskar



His Excellency President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee conferred prestigious Indira Gandhi Rajbhasha Puraskar (2010-11) to Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) on 14 September 2012 for excellent work and commendable achievements in the field of implementation of the Official Language Policy of the Union. Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) and Director General (ICAR) received the award on behalf of the organization. Shri Pranab Mukherjee in his address highlighted the important role of Hindi and regional languages in governance and other sectors. With the government efforts Hindi is developing as a link language for whole country giving due recognition and place to regional languages. He hoped that the forthcoming 9th World Hindi Conference being organized at Johannesburg this month will effectively push the agenda of Hindi as an International Language.

In the category of Indira Gandhi Rajbhasha Puraskar for original book written in Hindi, Directorate of Water Management Research, Bhubaneshwar won first prize for the book *Vaishvikaran aur Bhartiya Khadya Suraksha* written by Dr Pothula Srinivasa Brahmanand, Dr Souvik Ghosh, Dr A Kumar and Shri B S Parswal.

Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi was awarded third prize in the "C" region for implementation of Rajbhasha Policy. Dr G Syda Rao, Director received the prize on behalf of CMFRI.

## Broiler goat rearing ensured livelihood security for rural women

Pursuing timely endeavours and farmer-friendly technologies through research, and answering to the very need of the farming community, the scientists at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) have come up with a unique idea.

"After a long study, our scientists have fine tuned a new technology called broiler kid rearing where goat kids reared in sheds attain a better body weight and fetch remunerative income for farmers. This method benefits landless labourers and small farmers," said Dr M Anandaraj, Director IISR, Kozhikode. Broiler rearing method is unique in itself. It is done by exploiting the high reproductive efficiency of female goats through proper planning and breeding, thus maintaining the quality of the offspring. At the same time to counter the scarcity of green fodder, a scientific and low-cost feeding procedure is evolved.

Various women self-help groups like Kaveri Kudumbashree and Nidhi and several other individual farmers in Peruvannamuzhi of Kozhikode district of Kerala have been rearing goats in this method for the past five years. According to the members of the group the method is highly suitable for those who don't have enough land for grazing

animals. For these landless women, this is a win-win proposition. The technology helps them to rear more number of goats in a very short span of time. Less cost, more profit, ease in cattle management, and a good demand for the goat meat are some of the many favourable factors encouraging the farming community to adopt broiler goat rearing more passionately.

## Homage to Father of White Revolution in India

'Father of White Revolution in India' Padma Vibhushan Dr Verghese Kurien, left for his heavenly abode on 9 September 2012 at the age of 90.

Kurien's Model of Co-operative capitalism permeated into the lives of millions of dairy farmers to get empowered. The huge success of the model got growing appreciation and culminated in creation of the National Dairy Development Board in 1965 with Dr Kurien as its founder Chairman. The then Prime Minister, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri asked Dr Kurien to replicate the Anand Model throughout the country. Dr Kurien started the 'Operation Flood Programme', which ushered 'White Revolution' in India. Dr Kurien did not pay heed to the opposition that buffalo milk cannot be processed, but made all efforts to standardise the technology for processing of buffalo milk getting it the much deserved international recognition. Dr Kurien was instrumental in developing the 'Amul' brand for marketing of the milk & milk products of Khaira Milk Union and the 'trade mark' being registered.



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For promoting the continuance of the revolution, Dr Kurien later created many institutions like National Co-operative Dairy Federation of India, Institute for Rural Management, Anand, Indian Dairy Machinery Cooperation, and many other cooperative institutes. Dr Kurien, over years, revolutionized the production, procurement and marketing of milk and other farm produce in India through co-operative institutional set up and India could achieve the coveted position as number one milk producer in the world.

Dr Kurien was crowned with several national and international awards, recognitions and laurels for all the yeomen services rendered by him. Indian Council of Agricultural Research remembers Dr Kurien with great respect and reverence. In the death of Dr Kurien, India has lost a True Dairyman, a Visionary and a great institutional builder.

## Convergence between KVK and ATMA in Bihar Strengthened

Dr KD Kokate, DDG (Agricultural Extension) addressed various issues of agricultural development of Bihar during his visit to Jehanabad and Gaya District of Bihar on 19 September 2012. Dr A K Singh Zonal Project Director, Zone-II, and Dr R K Sohane, Director Extension Education, Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour accompanied him during the visit.

Taking part in a meeting of farmers field school (FFS), SMS of district Agriculture Department, ATMA and KVK Staff at Jehanabad, Dr Kokate interacted with all the stakeholders to assess the status of convergence and collaboration, particularly between KVK and ATMA towards the agricultural development of the district. He was highly appreciative of the convergence between ATMA and KVK and emphasised on its replication to all other districts of Bihar. Dr Kokate also discussed the mode of implementation of different activities in the NICRA adopted village. Dr A K Singh presented in brief the benefits of NICRA in the district. Dr R K Sohane, shared the success of *kisan*

chaupal organised by KVKs of BAU, Sabour regularly on Saturdays and stated that it has helped a lot in empowering the farmers to take up agricultural practices in a desired manner.

### CRIDA celebrates Technology Week

Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) and DG (ICAR) along with Shri Ashish Bahuguna, IAS, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and Dr A K Singh, Deputy Director General (NRM), ICAR participated in the Technology Week at Gunegal Research Farm of CRIDA on 10 September 2012.

Dignitaries addressed the large gathering of farmers on the inaugural day of the Technology Week and highlighted the initiatives of the Government of India/ICAR in research and development in dryland agriculture and farm mechanization. While visiting the research farm, they appreciated demonstrations on water harvesting, *in situ* moisture conservation, farm mechanization, conservation agriculture and drought management.

Shri Ashish Bahuguna launched a new product Zinsol which is a talc-based formulation of *Pseudomonas putida*. Zinsol solubilizes insoluble form of zinc and increases the availability to plants. The technology emerged out of the AMAAS Network Project of ICAR.



CRIDA has signed a memorandum of agreement with M/s Khedut Agro Engineering Pvt. Ltd, Rajkot for transfer of herbicide applicator technology which was developed by farm machinery scientists of CRIDA. The agreement covers the transfer of design and also further refinement of technology to suit to various farming systems.

### ICAR and IRRI co-hosted 16th CORRA Annual Meeting

The 16th Annual meeting of Council for Partnership on Rice Research in Asia (CORRA) was co-hosted by ICAR and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and was organized during 13-14 September 2012 at International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad.



The meeting was aimed at developing a roadmap for rice research-for-development (R4D) in Asia to achieve sustainable rice productivity and meet present and future food security and nutrition challenges. Senior officials from 14 member countries participated in the meeting.

In his opening message, Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) and Director General (ICAR) stressed the importance of making smallholder rice farmer stronger and more resilient as global threats of climate become more evident. On the other hand, Dr Robert Zeigler, IRRI Director General shared his view that while increased productivity may not make smallholder farmers richer, having various relevant technology available to them provides them strength.

Earlier welcoming the participants, ICRISAT Director General William Dar shared his early affiliation with CORRA, expressed confidence that CORRA as a strategic partnership mechanism plays a vital role in meeting the challenges of the global rice research system.

Dr Rita Sharma, Member, Board of Trustees, IRRI and Secretary, National Advisory Council, Government of India stressed the need for effectively addressing policy issues concerning rice research for development by CORRA members Countries. Dr V Bruce Tolentino,

Deputy Director General for Communication Partnerships, IRRI expressed that by 2035, global demand for rice will be more than 135 million metric tons. Rice growing countries in Asia, particularly members of CORRA, should therefore share research outputs and work together towards a food-secure world.

The meeting featured five country reports, namely: (1) Trends and current developments in studying the nutritional aspects of rice in Japan; (2) Intellectual property management in Thailand; (3) Public-private partnership in rice seed industry in Bangladesh; (4) Methods and tools used in generating rice statistics and progress of integrated crop management in Indonesia; and (5) Rice technology management in India focusing on the KVKs experiences. The concluding session was chaired by Dr K D Kokate, DDG (Agricultural Extension) where in summary of recommendations and follow up actions were discussed.

### ICAR Regional Committee – IV Meeting

Sri Narendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of Bihar inaugurated the XXI Meeting of ICAR Regional Committee-IV, organized at ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna on 21 September 2012. Sri Singh opined that there is lot of potential in Bihar and other eastern states for agricultural development which needs to be harnessed with concerted efforts of scientists and development departments. He exhorted the scientists and officials to pay maximum attention to the needs of the small farmers by improving the process of location-specific technological interventions and initiatives for timely transfer of technology.



Sri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Minister for Animal Resources and Fisheries highlighted the role of animals, poultry and fisheries in diversification of farming systems and augmenting the income of farmers and nutritional security in the form of high quality protein. He stressed that in eastern states animal husbandry sector is lagging behind despite its very high potential which need urgent attention.

Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) and DG (ICAR) in his presidential address said that agriculture needs a big push through technological interventions and technology transfer efforts, for which the ICAR is strongly committed. He emphasized on multi-faceted growth in agriculture sector and exhorted the participants to utilize the multiple platforms to identify areas of regional importance in agriculture and deliberate over for setting priorities for the XII plan and develop road map for agricultural development in states of Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Dr Mangla Rai, Advisor to Government of Bihar and former Director General, ICAR elaborated the agricultural development priorities in the eastern region. Dr S K Datta, DDG (Crops Sciences), ICAR highlighted the role of biotechnological interventions in crops and livestock for enhancing productivity in the region. Dr B P Bhatt, Director, ICAR-RCER welcomed the delegates and highlighted the achievements of RCER, Patna in development of agriculture in eastern region. Functionaries of agricultural institutions including the Vice Chancellors, Directors of ICAR institutes, Deans of SAUs, officials of development departments from the states of Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh in Region IV participated in the meeting to discuss the agenda of agricultural development in the region. Dr Gaya Prasad, Member Secretary and Director, IVRI, proposed vote of thanks.

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