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Prosperity knocks the door of Sushil Kumar

Mr Sushil Kumar Bind is a marginal farmer in village Bahuti, block Marihaan District Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. He has about one hectare land for cultivation. Earlier, he was a worried farmer and was unable to fulfil his family's requirement. A transformation happened in his life when he attended *Kisan Mela* at the Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR), Varanasi and interacted with the vegetable scientists. He came to know about early varieties of vegetable pea matching very well in rice-wheat cropping system prevailing in eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh. Further, a help was provided to him under NAIP Sub Project – livelihood security in disadvantaged districts of Purvanchal. Under the project, he obtained quality seeds and fertilizer.



He initiated pea cultivation under the supervision of scientists of IIVR. He began with land preparation, first of all he examined his land and did deep ploughing of the farm land. He applied organic fertilizer (*gobar khad*) and irrigation of his land to destroy unnecessary weeds and pest. After land preparation, he did seed sowing of Kashi Uday and Kashi Nandini in the last October. These varieties are not only early but having high yield also. Kashi Uday gives production about 750-900 kg/ha whereas yield potential of Kashi Nandini is about 900-110kg/ha. These varieties possess high degree of diseases resistance also. Seeds germinated very soon. He started taking care of plant and destroyed all unwanted weeds. After one month, flower blooming started and fruiting started profusely. Mr Sushil Kumar Bind started picking of peapods in December and sold to the market @ ₹25-35 /kg. In December, he earned about ₹40,000 by sale of 1,200 kg of pea pod.

Mr Sushil Kumar spent about ₹ 23,000 and earned about Rupees one lakh in a short time by cultivation of pea. Now, he is planning to cultivate sweet pea in his whole land. He is regularly in touch with vegetable scientists for getting more information. He also motivates other farmers for vegetable cultivation.

ICAR signed MoU with Ethiopian Institute for Agricultural Research

Shri Rajiv Mehrishi, Additional Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Secretary, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on behalf of the Council and Dr Solomon Assefa, Director General of Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of agricultural research and education on 12 December 2011 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Shri Wondirad Mandefro, Hon'ble State Minister for Agriculture of Ethiopia graced the occasion.

The priority areas of cooperation include agricultural research in Horticulture, Crop Science, Fisheries, Animal Science, Agricultural Engineering and Natural Resource Management, Agricultural Extension and Agricultural Education. The cooperation will be implemented through exchange of scientists, scholars, technologies, literature, information and germplasm and collaborative research projects. Precise areas of collaboration were also discussed and a draft biennial work plan was developed and shared.

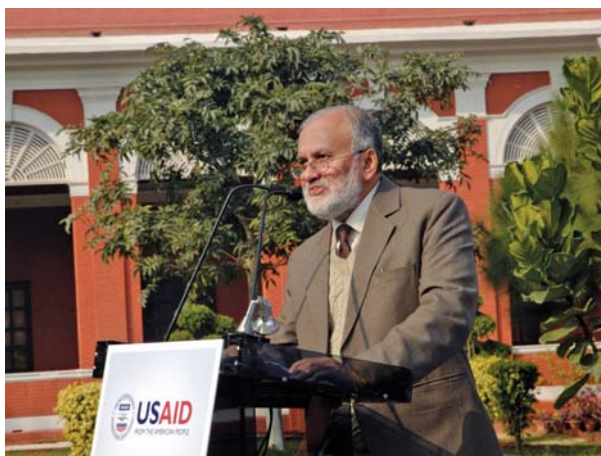


The Indian delegation led by Shri Mehrishi comprised Dr Arvind Kumar, DDG (Education); Dr K M L Pathak, DDG (Animal Science) and Dr R K Mittal, ADG (EQR), ICAR. The delegation also called on Shri Tefera Derbew, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture of Ethiopia who appreciated the science-led agricultural growth in India and desired to have greater cooperation with Indian Agricultural Research and Education System for development of Ethiopian agriculture leading to food security and sustainability. The delegation had detailed discussions with the Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa. Various issues related to on-going India-Africa Fellowship Programme and setting up a Centre on Life and Earth Sciences by India under India-Africa Forum Summit were discussed. The Team also visited the International Livestock Research Institute, Addis Ababa; Holetta Agricultural Research Centre of EIAR and the Karuturi farms.

Celebrating 60 years of fruitful partnership between India and US

Indo-US collaboration in agricultural research has helped India in many ways. The establishment of SAUs was instrumental in rapid adoptions of the early green revolution technologies developed by IARI in collaboration with CGIAR Institutions. The area under wheat nearly doubled and the production tripled within the first decade of the Green Revolution.

To mark this occasion, 'Agricultural Research and Innovation Event' celebrating over 60 years of fruitful partnership between India and the US was organized at IARI, New Delhi on 20 December 2011. It has paid rich dividends not only to India but has led to several innovations, which have a potential to address development challenges globally.



Dr Rajiv Shah, the Administrator of the USAID, Dr M S Swaminathan, Member of Parliament and Chairman, M S Swaminathan Foundation, Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR and Dr H S Gupta, Director, IARI were distinguished speakers on the occasion.

Since that first partnership over half a century ago, the relationship between our two nations has transformed dramatically, delivering meaningful results for both our people, said Dr Rajiv Shah, the Administrator of USAID. Dr M S Swaminathan hoped that this partnership will be more fruitful for glorious future.

Dr S Ayyappan highlighted the results of completed 60 years of successful partnership between the USAID and Indian NARS. "Students Ready and Farmers First," he also advised to follow this message on the occasion.

Earlier, Dr H S Gupta in his welcome address said that IARI has successfully played the role of the lead Institution in development of the agricultural research and education systems. The representative from US, African and Indian Universities, senior officers of ICAR and USAID attended the event.

DG, ICAR visits International Coconut Genebank for South Asia

Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR appreciated the efforts being taken by the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI) to conserve and maintain the valuable genetic resources under difficult conditions. The genebank is the treasure house of genetic diversity for the future generations to combat the exigencies of changing climate and to ensure food and nutritional security, said Dr Ayyappan.

DG, ICAR accompanied by Dr George V Thomas, Director, CPCRI visited the International Coconut Genebank (ICG-SA) at the CPCRI Research Centre, Kidu, located in Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka on 25 December 2011 and also the CPCRI Regional Station, Vittal. He called upon the Institute to "Do and Show" to improve the visibility and be 'heard' in the national and international forums. He called upon the staff members to work in a mission mode to address burning issues and develop appropriate need-based technologies for the plantation crop sector.

DG, ICAR appreciated the research and developmental activities, especially the dwarf arecanut hybrid developed by the Institute. He also inaugurated a seminar hall at RC Kidu with facilities for organizing small farmers' meeting for popularization of technologies developed at Institute and a tissue culture facility at Regional Station, Vittal.

Apart from the ICG-SA, he also visited the National Genebank, the experimental plots, seed production plots and the facilities created for quality planting material production in the mandate crops, viz. coconut, arecanut and cocoa at the CPCRI Research Centre, Kidu, and Regional Station, Vittal.

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