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Broadbased, inclusive and sustainable second green revolution is needed: Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

You must never lose sight of the fact that your main client is the farmer. Unless you engage with farmers and their problems, you will not succeed in transforming knowledge into higher productivity and better incomes to farmers', said Dr Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India while delivering 83rd Foundation Day Lecture of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.



He complimented the ICAR for the contribution in achieving self-sufficiency in foodgrains and diversity in food production, which is enormous. However, to increase the food production to meet future demands, 'we clearly need a second green revolution that is broadbased, inclusive and sustainable; we need to produce more without depleting the natural resources any further, and we look towards our agricultural scientists for ushering this in.'

'India currently spends about 0.6% of its agricultural GDP on agricultural Research and Development. This needs to be enhanced 2 to 3 times by 2020 since a substantial portion of our agricultural growth would come through the application of new technologies and new knowledge,' Prime Minister added.

Dr Manmohan Singh specifically mentioned two areas which need focus for accelerating agricultural growth. 'The first is the protection of crops, animals and farm produce against new and emerging diseases and pathogens. The second is careful application of biotechnology to improve productivity, enable better resilience to stress and also enhance the incomes of farmers', he emphasized.



Prime Minister honoured 10 best performing States in foodgrain production with Krishi Karman Awards (2010-11) instituted by the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture under two categories. Punjab, Uttar Pradesh (Group-1), Odisha, Asom (Group-2) and Tripura (Group-3) were awarded for achieving highest total foodgrain production in respective groups. In individual crop category, Chhattisgarh was awarded for rice, Haryana for wheat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan for pulses and Karnataka for coarse cereals production. Awards were received by the respective Chief Ministers and Ministers of Agriculture of the States.

Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries expressed satisfaction and joy over the fourth advance estimate for this year total foodgrain production which has gone up to 241 million tonnes. Emphasizing the need to increase investment in the agricultural research he said, 'at present our investments form about 0.50% of Agriculture Domestic Product which must be at least 1% and ideally be 2-3% if Indian agriculture has to be truly competitive.'

Shri Harish Rawat, Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Food Processing Industries and Parliamentary Affairs expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for providing continuous guidance and support. Dr Charan Das Mahant, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries was also present.

Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR highlighted the achievements and future research strategies of the Council to accelerate agricultural growth and development in the country. Notable initiatives of the ICAR were e-launched in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister – 'Making a Difference in Indian Agriculture – The Journey of the ICAR' (e-book), Rice Knowledge Management Portal, The Agriculture Centre, e-Courses in Agriculture and Design of Bharat Ratna C Subramaniam Auditorium.

Senior Officials of the Government of India, State Governments and ICAR participated in the Foundation Day Ceremony.

Making a Difference in Indian Agriculture – The Journey of the ICAR

This e-Book is a concise pictorial depiction of the glorious journey of Indian Council of Agricultural Research and a tribute to the inspiring leadership and mentors. Milestones, innovations and transformations amply demonstrate the difference ICAR has made in the Indian Agriculture. The e-Book was launched in the presence of Dr Manmohan Singh, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, on 16 July 2011, the Foundation Day of ICAR.



Research needs to be more selective and focused – Sharad Pawar

'Our research needs to be more selective and focused by adopting a problem-solving approach. Your research priorities must be demand driven and should promote rapid generation of innovations', said Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries. He was addressing 83rd ICAR Foundation Day and Award Ceremony on 16 July 2011 at New Delhi.

Shri Pawar honoured awardees of the ICAR and Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA).

Shri Harish Rawat, Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Food Processing Industries and Parliamentary Affairs and Dr Charan Das Mahant, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries complimented awardees for their noteworthy contributions.



The various award categories include, besides researchers, progressive farmers, farm journalists, teachers, authors etc. This year, there were 85 awardees under 17 different categories. These comprise 13 institutions, 59 scientists, 10 farmers and 3 journalists. Out of 59 scientists and 10 farmers, there are 9 women scientists and one woman farmer.

ICAR's first Norman Borlaug Award was presented to Dr TK Adhya, Director, Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack for the work on methane production in tropical paddy having a bearing on climate change strategies. The award has been named after eminent agricultural scientist and Nobel Laureate Dr Norman E Borlaug who was instrumental in ushering green revolution in the country.

The first ever Plant Genome Savior Community Awards (2009-10) was presented to Kopatgiri Nandiveerimath Seva Foundation, Gadag, Karnatka and Pachabati Gramya Unayana Samiti, Koraput, Odisha. Instituted by the PPV&FRA, it is the first attempt to appreciate the outstanding contribution of individual farmers and farming communities in conserving agro-biodiversity.

Earlier, Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR welcomed dignitaries and awardees.

Publications and CDs on agriculture and allied sciences published by the ICAR institutes and Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture were released by the dignitaries.

Shri Rajiv Mehrishi, Additional Secretary, DARE and Secretary, ICAR proposed vote of thanks.

Dr Ayyappan urges to adopt mission mode approach in research

Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR has called water crisis, soil degradation and fatigue, low input-use efficiency, increasing biotic and abiotic pressures and inefficient energy consumption as major concerns for Indian agriculture. He urged the ICAR institutes to take up research in this direction in mission mode to address these problems. He

was addressing Directors' conference of ICAR institutes at New Delhi on 15 July 2011.

While appreciating the achievements of the institutes he said that ICAR and State Agricultural Universities have 76% of total agricultural research and developmental strength. He urged the scientists to adopt strategic approach for emerging areas such as high-value agriculture, secondary agriculture, specialty agriculture and harness inter-departmental platforms to uplift economic conditions of farmers. ICAR is moving forward with farmers first approach utilizing the professional expertise and enhanced connectivity with farmers. Dr Ayyappan highlighted the salient features of National Projects on Agricultural Education and Agricultural Entrepreneurship. Dr Ayyappan felicitated Prof. Diwa Bhatt (lyrics of ICAR title song), Mr D Bhoomaiah (designing logo of The Agriculture Centre) and Mr Anil Verma (designing e-launch presentation) during the conference.



Success through improved technology

Mr Jagdish Sugandhi is a simple farmer who earns livelihood through little piece of land in village Nagziri of Block Gogawa, district Khargone. His limited earnings are mainly through traditional and some horticultural crops. Somehow scientists of KVK, Khargone approached to Mr Sugandhi during their routine tours in 2007. Sugandhi and other farmers of the village narrated about their problems to the team of scientists subsequently to find the solutions for the problems they raised, KVK Khargone organized a training for farmers of village Nagziri, which turned into the livelihood of many farmers of the village.



In 2007-08 KVK, Khargone conducted on-farm trials on integrated weed management and frontline demonstrations on AFLR improved variety of onion in which 21.16 % and 25.41 % more yield was recorded respectively as compared to farmers' practice. Inspired by the activities of KVK, Khargone Mr Jagdish Sugandhi decided to go for scientific and improved cultivation of onion. In 2009 he cultivated onion crop, as a result he harvested 275q of onion from 1ha of land and the produce was sold @ ₹ 900/q. He earned total of ₹ 2,11,282 as a net profit. Now he has become a symbol of success for many farmers. Sugandhi gives whole credit of his success to KVK, Khargone.

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