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An engineer turns to a successful vegetable grower

Mr Animesh Sharma, a young engineer of Electronics and communication faculty, who is resident of village Padali, block Badwaha, district Khargone (Madhya Pradesh) began his career in some private firm, but soon he discovered that his own interest lies in the field of farming, hence he moved on to vegetable growing for his satisfaction and earned more profits. Before entering into the new venture he thoroughly studied all the technical aspects. In this endeavour he met many successful vegetable growers and also analyzed market trends. He obtained information and technical knowledge from scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and Zonal Agricultural Research Station (ZARS), specially under the guidance of Mr S K Tyagi, SMS (Horticulture) in KVK and Dr R C Jain, Senior Scientist (Soil Science), ZARS. Subsequently, 2006 was a turning point in his life when he started growing vegetables using all the modern techniques like sowing hybrid seeds, drip irrigation system, fertigation technique, plastic mulching, pro-tray and insect-proof net house to grow seedlings of vegetables etc. He trusted on integrated nutrient management and integrated pest management. Soon his efforts brought him a good fortune, to utter wonder for everybody his profits reached to ₹6 lakh from little piece of land of 7 acres only, climbing ladders of success the profit level reached to ₹35 lakh in 2010 with expansion of land under cultivation from 7 acres up to 35 acres.

His production level of tomato recorded to the tune of 750q/acre (highest in the Khargone district). His contribution in vegetable production was widely appreciated and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan personally honoured him for the success.

Now Mr Sharma is a source of inspiration for many farmers and unemployed rural youth of the region. Revealing his ambition Sharma told that he would like to develop a 50 acres big Green house, the produce of which shall be exported for foreign exchange.

CIPHET has now presence in southern India

Taking a significant step ahead to promote entrepreneurship in post harvest sector, Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana has established a state-of-the-art Agro-Processing Complex at University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru.

Deputy Director General, ICAR, Dr M M Pandey inaugurated the Agro-Processing Complex. Notably, CIPHET has provided ₹1 crore of grant for establishing this complex. "The idea of establishing such a processing complex was to provide incubation facility for farmers and entrepreneurs. Before establishing their own processing units, they could develop their products and take them to market for testing," he said, adding that idea is to develop confidence and reduce their risk. Dr RT Patil, Director, CIPHET said that establishing processing complex at UAS, Bengaluru was just a beginning. "Looking to the success of this joint activity to promote agro-processing and value-addition, many more such centres in different universities could come up," he said, adding that CIPHET was providing such facilities to farmers/entrepreneurs from quite some time at its own campus at Ludhiana as well as at Abohar. He hoped that facility at UAS, Bangalore would help the local farmers.

The Complex established by the CIPHET has both wet and dry processing facility for various food crops and a research wing. After initial investment of ₹1 crore by CIPHET, the centre has got grants to tune of ₹3.5 crore from other funding sources looking at its high potential for farming community.

Inauguration of Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela

Shri Harish Rawat, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries inaugurated Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela on 3 March 2011 at IARI, Pusa, New Delhi. The theme was "Enhanced Productivity and Income Through Farm Technologies". In his presidential address, the Minister briefed about the efforts of Central Government to enhance the agricultural productivity and for the benefit of the farmers. He further informed that the Government has outlayed additional ₹1 lakh crore for current financial year for agriculture. He also warned the farmers and scientists regarding the major challenges of farm productivity including the climate change and globalization.



The Director of the Institute, Dr H S Gupta told that Mela will be of great attraction in respect of purchase of seeds, agricultural equipments, knowledge of farm technologies, facilities of soil and water testing and agro-advisory services. The Institute is organizing this Mela annually since 1972 and more than lakh of farmers get benefitted.



Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) and Director General (ICAR), New Delhi showed his concern on the challenges of agriculture and preparedness of scientists in respect of climate change, decreasing production, fragmentation of land, farmers dissentient etc. He expected farmers initiative for taking up the agricultural challenges and boost the farm production. He also stressed to make green revolution to ever-green revolution and the scientists and farmers contribution in achieving it.

Indian Veterinary Research Institute technologies commercialized

The technologies of PPR vaccine and Goat Pox vaccine from Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar have been successfully commercialized. The technology commercialization was earlier done by NRDC but this time the Institute directly commercialized the technologies through Zonal Technology Management-Business Planning and Development Unit (ZTM-BPD Unit).

The demand for veterinary vaccine and diagnostics are increasing and many commercial houses are contacting IVRI for the technologies. One of these commercial houses, M/s Hester Biosciences Pvt. Ltd, Ahmedabad has taken two potential technologies, i.e. PPR vaccine and goat Pox vaccine developed by IVRI. The Institute has a glorious history of 120 years in veterinary immune-biologicals and very recently Veterinary Business Incubator laboratory has been established which is the first Business Incubator in Veterinary Sciences in the World. The institute is offering various veterinary vaccine and diagnostic technologies for commercialization. Mr Rajiv Gandhi, CEO, Hester Biosciences was highly delighted with this new beginning of technology commercialization from IVRI and wished to develop good collaboration with this remarkable research institute. He was also interested to take Business incubator Laboratory in IVRI.

Considering the potential of technology commercialization and business incubation, ICAR has selected IVRI and established ZTM-BPD Unit for technology commercialization, intellectual property management and entrepreneurship development in ICAR North Zone II. The ZTM-BPD Unit extend its services to 20 ICAR institutes of animal sciences, crop and horticultural sciences, natural resource management and fisheries.

Meeting-cum-workshop of ZTM-BPD, West Zone

The Zonal Technology Management Centre and Business Planning and Development Unit (ZTM-BPD), West Zone at CIRCOT, Mumbai, organized a two-day Meeting-cum-Workshop on 11 and 12 March 2011. The workshop aimed at promoting intellectual property management and technology transfer in the ICAR institutes. Out of the 18 institutes of West Zone, 16 participated. Total number of participants were 105. The workshop comprised three Technical Sessions containing presentations about IP and BPD activities of West Zone, IPR perspective-ICAR, Patent search training, presentations from all the institutes of West Zone regarding IPR activities of their institutes and theme talks by IPR experts, etc. A very good interaction was observed between all the participants in which they shared their experiences, problems and tried to find solutions for them. Before wrapping up, various recommendations were made for smooth functioning of the IPR scheme of ICAR in the West Zone.

Partnership initiation between ICRISAT, ICAR and IACG

A new partnership has emerged among three important organizations, viz. International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and International Agriculture Consulting Group (IACG) to engage with Africa in providing solutions and helping the region exploit its potential in food and agriculture through country- and region-specific interventions and strategies, involving public-public and public-private partnerships and providing backward and forward linkages, besides research and development support.

In the changing dynamics of world agriculture and the challenge of feeding the growing population, there is need for collective global efforts to address the food security concerns, said Dr M J Khan, President IACG and Agriculture Today Group. Among the untapped regions with vast potential, Africa offers the scope and opportunity for the world community to engage in the agriculture development and not only meet the challenge of global food security, but also hold out hopes to millions of poor people, added Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR. He added that if three (ICRISAT, ICAR, IACG) partnership is forged, this will deliver tremendous value and substantial results on the ground; and emphasized that ICAR is ready to extend whatever support it could in making this a reality.



Director General, ICRISAT, Dr William Dar and Chairman of ICRISAT Governing Board Dr Nigel Poole, while launching ICRISAT South-South Initiative (IS-SI) said that the three strong partners coming together will tremendously boost up our engagement level with Africa in driving prosperity and economic opportunities in Dryland tropics. Dr William Dar said that \$1 spent on international agricultural research yields economic value of \$9 for the developing countries. He said that IS-SI will open more opportunities for increased financial and technical support for enhanced public-private partnerships on research for development.

Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR visits NRC on Yak

Dr S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR along with senior officers from ICAR Headquarters and officers of the NEH Region visited NRC on Yak on 26 March 2011. During the interactive session he said that ICAR is very much appreciative about the staff working in this very difficult terrain. He said that he is greatly touched by the commitment of the staff working under extreme difficult conditions. He emphasized that the Institute should develop linkages with universities within India and outside India, particularly China who have a major population of this species. He also suggested that the Institute should have interface meeting with the state departments and SAUs and also stakeholders meeting involving yak rearers. Dr KML Pathak, DDG (AS) welcomed the dignitaries. Dr KK Baruah, Director, NRC-Yak briefed about the activities of the Institute. Dr SN Puri, Vice-Chancellor, CAU, Imphal, Dr AK Singh, DDG (NRM), Dr KD Kokate, DDG (Agricultural Extension), Dr SV Ngachan, Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam, Dr CS Prasad, ADG (ANP) also spoke on the occasion and appreciated the good work being carried out at the Institute. The officers of the other ICAR institutes, KVK and state departments and scientists gave their critical inputs.

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