



# ICAR



# Reporter

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## From the DG's Desk

Dear Readers,

Initiation of systematic wheat improvement programme in India dates back to 1905 at Pusa, Bihar. An important milestone in this process was created with the establishment of the All-India Co-ordinated Wheat Improvement Project (AICWIP) in 1965. This paved way for multilocation evaluation and development of location, situation and system specific technologies, and a major breakthrough came with the introduction of dwarf varieties of wheat that were responsive to added dosage of fertilizers and irrigation. In this process of sustained research efforts on generation of improved production technologies India has become one of the leading wheat producing nations in the world. Today we cultivate wheat in about 26 million ha land with a production of nearly 75 million tonnes that is little over 11% of the global wheat production and ranks second after China.

Historically, stem *Puccinia graminis*, caused heavy losses (40%) in early 1950s in the US and as an epidemic in Australia in early 1970s resulted in loss of wheat to the tune of Aus \$ 200 million. In India, the rust

was reported before the introduction of semi-dwarf Mexican wheat. Development and cultivation of rust-resistant varieties world-wide brought the inoculum levels down, resulting in sporadic occurrence of rust.

The beginning of the new millennium threw up a challenge for wheat researchers with emergence of a new virulent race of stem rust Ug 99 (TTKS), which originated in



Uganda. It poses a serious threat to wheat cultivation because it has rendered a group of commonly used *Sr* genes including widely used *Sr 31* gene ineffective in providing resistance against this stem rust. The quick spread of this race in the African continent raised an alarm amongst the wheat community, world-wide. Since this race is moving fast east-ward from Africa and reached Yemen and then to Iran, there is every chance that it will enter

India either through predicted route, or through extraneous factors. An idea of the threat potential can be had from the fact nearly 80% of all wheat varieties cultivated in Asia and Africa are susceptible to Ug99 stem rust.

Realizing the potential and magnitude of the threat, we in the Council in 2004 requested wheat research community including Nobel Laureate Dr Norman Borlaug for forging international partnerships and co-operation to arrest the spread of rust, which if not addressed in time could break havoc to wheat linked food and livelihood security of millions of households especially in the developing nations. It was stressed that the importance of long-term commitments of the international community were, therefore, crucial to effectively counter the transboundary spread of Ug99. While complementing the ICAR in bringing up such a pertinent issue, Dr Borlaug called up on the wheat community across the globe to join hands in the launching of Global Rust Initiative to combat wheat rust around the world with India as one of the core members. We from India started funding the global initiative as well. Our efforts through this international co-ordination are also aimed at exhorting the countries (wherever Ug99 has appeared) in the predicted path to reduce the inoculum build-up of Ug99. With the report of Ug99 appearance in Iran, the wheat scientists who met in Syria recently under the Initiative have decided to spray fungicide or even stopping the farmers from planting susceptible wheat in the spores' path. Such measures together with planting of resistant cultivars would certainly delay the build-up of rust inoculum and its subsequent migration to our country. In the Indian context, the initiative assumed great importance

as wheat variety PBW 343, occupying 7–8 million ha in the country is susceptible to Ug99.

Our National Wheat Programme was re-oriented to insulate the wheat crop against Ug99. In 43rd Annual Wheat Workshop in August 2004, it was decided to initiate action to counter the threat of UG99. Since use of genetic resistance has been the most effective method of control, the first-line of action was to identify sources of resistance. Having done that it was then to explore the fastest means of incorporating this resistance into the Indian wheat. In collaboration with Global Rust Initiative, CIMMYT (Mexico), and ICARDA (Syria) seeds of 22 Indian wheat varieties and genetic stocks

**We need to continuously support our resistance breeding and disease surveillance programmes considering the threats such new variations pose to our wheat.**

could be sent to Kenya by the end of April 2005. The screening of 22 Indian wheat genotypes of Njoro (Nakuru) in Kenya against Ug 99 during summer of 2005 led to identification 3 genetic stocks (FLW 2, FLW 6, FLW 8) and 1 variety (HW 1085). The seed of these resistant stocks was multiplied and distributed to wheat workers all over the country. Further the response of cultivars released earlier was evaluated. Another set of elite wheat material sent for evaluation led to the identification of Raj 4119, PBW 575, HD 2948, Raj 4120, Raj 4121, UP 2682, HP 1901, HUW 605, Raj 4124, Raj 4125, Raj 4132, UP 2338, NI 5439, Hyb. 65 as rust-resistant material. Our efforts are continuing and we would continue to send the wheat cultivars and elite germplasm

from India to Kenya and screen. This anticipatory breeding programme of our country would certainly pay good dividends for alleviating the threat of this race.

Presently, our priority is on extensive surveys in the target areas to pick up first infection of Ug99, if and when it comes, and before it acquires alarming proportions. Our experience is that it takes some time for the race to build-up and appear on a large scale to cause economic losses. Hence the time available could be utilized to multiply the already identified resistant varieties and then aggressively distributing these to the cultivators to avoid any loss in the farmers' field. An emergency measure, if needed would be chemical intervention to ensure that this race does not spread and cause damage.

We need to continuously support our resistance breeding and disease surveillance programmes considering the threats such new variations pose to our wheat. As variants of rust races are bound to pose problems on a changing time-scale pyramiding of rust resistant genes was undertaken in the country about 3 years back and we were successful in pyramiding 3 genes in our wheat agronomic backgrounds. Further, we joined with Australia to mutually pyramid 6 genes in each of our wheat agronomic backgrounds. Also there is synteny between 12 chromosomes of rice and A, B and D genomes of wheat. Therefore, technically there is no reason why rust immunity system of rice cannot be transferred to wheat, of course, it would call decades of intensified research.



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## 209<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Governing Body of the ICAR Society

New Delhi, 22 January 2008. Shri A K Upadhyay (Additional Secretary DARE and Secretary, ICAR), welcomed the members of the Governing Body at NASC Complex. He introduced and welcomed Shri B A Coutinho (Additional Secretary, DARE and Financial Adviser, DARE/ICAR) who has recently taken over this charge. He informed about presentation of the Annual Accounts along with the *Auditor's Report for 2006–2007* which was for the first time being presented as early as in January 2008.

Dr Mangala Rai (Secretary, DARE and Director-General, ICAR) added about the receipt of the Audit Utilisation Certificate in October 2007 for ending March 2007, and emphasized that at present there was only one Audit Para which is required to be an integral part of the Annual Report and all-out efforts were being made by the Council to get it cleared at the earliest possible.

The Hon'ble Members were apprised about 'International Agricultural Conservation Congress' organized by the ICAR from 4 to 7 February, 2009.

### Recommendations

- *Annual Report of DARE/ICAR 2007–2008* was approved.
- Annual Accounts along with the *Auditor's Report for 2006–07* was approved.
- Proposal vide para 3 of the agenda under Proposed Qualification was approved as under:

Past service rendered after regular appointment to the post of Reader/Associate Professor/Senior Scientist or equivalent post in the pre-revised pay scale of Rs 3700-5700 (revised pay scale of Rs 12,000-18,300) in a College/University or a government organization up to a maximum of 5

years may be counted for promotion to the post of Principal Scientist under CAS effective from 27.7.1998.

- The recommendations made by Quinquennial Review Team in respect of National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, Hyderabad for 2001-2005 with the comments of the Council were accepted. It was decided that the gap between the Agricultural Research Management and Agriculture Management should be looked into.
- The recommendations made by Quinquennial Review Team were accepted with the comments of ICAR for (i) National Research Centre for Sorghum and All-India Co-ordinated Research Project on Sorghum for 2000-06; (ii) Project Directorate for Cropping Systems Research, Modipuram including AICRP on Cropping Systems and Networking Project on Organic Farming for 2002-06; (iii) Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture and AICRP on Agro-Meteorology for between 2000–01 and 2004–05; (iv) Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands for 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2006; (v) National Research Centre of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and

All-India Network Research Project on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Anand between 1 April 2001 and 31 March 2006; (vi) National Research Centre for Oilpalm (NRC for Oil-Palm), Pedavegi for 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2006; (vii) Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore for 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2006 and All-India Co-ordinated Research Project on Tropical Fruits from 1 January 1997 to 31 March 2006; (viii) AICRP on Floriculture for 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006; (ix) National Research Centre for Banana, Tiruchirapalli for 2001-07; (x) National Research Centre for Litchi, Muzaffarpur for 1 June 2001 to 31 March 2007; (xi) National Research Centre for Onion and Garlic, Rajgurunagar, Pune for 2001-06; (xii) Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla and All-India Co-ordinated Research Project on Potato for 1 January to 31 December 2005; (xiii) Central Institute for Sub-Tropical Horticulture, Lucknow between 1 April and 31 December 2006 and All-India Co-ordinated Research Project on Sub-Tropical Fruits between 1 January 2001 and 31 December 2006.

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### Annual Scientists' Meeting on Foot- and -Mouth Disease

Kavarati Island, 25 January 2008. A 3-day Annual Scientists' Meeting of the Project Directorate on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and All India Coordinated Research Project for the Epidemiological Studies on Foot-and- Mouth Disease was started on 23 January 2008 in Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

#### Recommendations

- Replacement of the current type A vaccine strain with a suitable candidate strain,
- Quality assurance of FMD vaccine being produced and used in the country.
- Development of appropriate methods to differentiate vaccinated from infected animals.

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## XX Meeting of ICAR Regional Committee No. VII

CICR, Nagpur, 1 March 2008. Dr Mangala Rai, (Secretary DARE and Director-General, ICAR) chaired a 2-day XX Meeting of the ICAR Regional Committee No. VII, organized by the Central Institute for Cotton Research, started on 29 February 2008 at Nagpur, to discuss key issues related to agricultural research, education and extension of the region which includes Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Goa.

Dr Nawab Ali (DDG, Agriculture Engineering, and Nodal Officer of the region) gave a brief outline of priorities of the region particularly soybean and its value-addition. Dr Mangala Rai (Director-General, ICAR and Chairman) expressed the importance of agriculture of the region in a national perspective and requested the members to focus the discussion on emerging issues and problems of the region and to find out plan of action

to overcome the problems. The Chairman emphasized the need to re-orient agricultural research and education, in view of the emerging global scenario. He also stressed the need to develop expertise in the form of human resources and infrastructure facilities. The need to develop modalities for diversification and commercialization of agriculture was also emphasized. The Chairman urged the members to identify the potential and opportunities of the zone for increasing agricultural productivity. The major priority areas as deliberated by the members included quality seed production and distribution, rain-water harvesting and utilization, crop diversification, farm mechanization, processing and value-addition etc. Dr Mangala Rai felt that there is need to give priority to livestock development and arid horticulture in rainfed areas and further research on fertigation



relating to different crops. The need of the hour is to develop innovative methods for technology transfer as many of the technologies developed were not satisfactorily transferred to the stake-holders.

The Chairman, Dr Mangala Rai, released *CICR-at a glance-2008* and *Cotton Bollworm Control in Small-scale Production Systems: A Handbook*.

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## XXI Meeting of ICAR Regional Committee No.VIII

CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, 12 January 2008. Dr Mangala Rai (Secretary, DARE and Director-General, ICAR), chaired a 2-day XXI Meeting of ICAR Regional Committee No. VIII, organized by the CTCRI, started on 11 January 2008 at Thiruvananthapuram.

The Chairman in his opening remarks requested the forum to discuss areas like post-harvest technology, product diversification, value-addition, marketing and conservation of indigenous animal breeds, which need priority attention and strengthening. He advocated intensive efforts to exploit the rich marine resources of the region and asked the researchers to formulate programmes to utilize the funds earmarked for agricultural research under *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana*.



The achievements and the requirements of the State Agricultural Universities were highlighted by the officials from the universities.

### Recommendations

- State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) should speed up the efforts for registration of germplasm, extant varieties/new varieties of crops. The

guidelines, to this effect, stand widely circulated by the NBPGR and PPV and FR Authority.

- Quality standards for a number of botanical pesticides are currently not available. The issue needs to be addressed through research.
- A strategic plan may be prepared by the IGFRI and SAUs to produce seed of fodder crops required by the Animal Husbandry Departments in the region.
- The requirement of potassium in banana, coconut and tuber crops is very high. There is a need to undertake systematic research on potash dynamics involving its utilization and recycling etc. in banana.
- Technology for the management of Eriophyid mite in coconut is available. Efforts may be made to

popularize the control methods.

- There is a need for mechanization of agriculture and designing gender friendly tools, implements and machinery to enhance agricultural productivity. Cotton picker/harvester, SRI mechanization, machinery for harvesting rice without affecting germination of rice fallow pulses, sugarcane mechanization, fertigation and application of liquid fertilizer etc. require greater attention.
- The possibility of manufacturing complete feed blocks incorporating vitamins, essential micro-nutrients, amino acids and minerals etc. need to be explored and popularized to overcome the problem of fodder scarcity and meet the nutritional requirements of livestock.
- An expert team may discuss the bio-security aspects of livestock disease management and prepare a blue print for establishing a bio-security laboratory in the region.
- Identification of potential mariculture zones along coastal belt of the region using GIS has to be expedited.
- For improving the quality of PG Research programme for exchange of students among the universities of the region should be evolved and implemented. Initially this may be tried on an experimental basis at State level and subsequently at Regional level.
- The universities and ICAR institutes should enhance expertise in IPR issues through capacity building efforts by availing the training facilities offered by ICAR and other organizations.  
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### VIII Annual Group Meet of AINP on Jute & Allied Fibres

CRIJAF, Hyderabad. 12 February 2008. Dr M V Rao (former Special DG, ICAR) in his inaugural address, stressed upon the need for seed

production and proposed for a seed programme at national level as a home work in meeting the challenge of domestic and international needs.

The meeting noted with interest the release and notification of:

- Two *oiltorius* jute varieties, JRO 204 and OJ 1 (Tarun) by the Government of India under Seed Act 1966.
- The Committee identified two *capsularis* entries, C 517 and C 532, and one mesta entry (JMB 2004 D) for release as promising varieties.

#### Recommendations

- AMV 5 Mesta is recommended for paper pulp production in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.
- Jute-potato-paddy cropping sequence for Coochbehar region.
- Second week of June for sowing of jute for seed production in Puruba crop at Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh.
- Seed treatment with *Trichoderma viride* followed by soil application with the same at 7 and 15 days after sowing for control of *Macrophomina* disease in jute.  
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### Research Advisory Committee Meeting

NRCWA, Bhubaneshwar, 13 February 2008. A 2-day Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting was started on 12 February 2008.

The RAC Recommendations on research thrust areas are:

- At the institution level, and as a matter of highest priority, the Management (Director and Heads of Divisions) should document the criteria/indices adopted for prioritization of research programmes and activities (including species, systems and regions) during the XI Plan.
- The Management should develop concept papers to demonstrate its preparedness to issues, viz. WTO/

IPR, Global climatic changes and Environmental impact assessments. As a first step, the Council may be approached for directions, and wherever relevant lessons learned by other agricultural crop institutes may be consulted.

- Mechanisms should be in place to evaluate all technologies, products and services on *ex-ante* basis for their economic and environmental impacts.
- The Management should develop strategies for equitable dissemination of technologies in a planned manner.
- The Management should address the critical issues of water and nutrient budgeting in aquaculture in a more aggressive manner covering different agro-climatic regions as well. As a first step it should develop “back-of-envelope” models involving simple parameters (sources and sinks across gross macro-environments). Interaction with agronomists and farming system specialists will be particularly useful in this regard.  
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### Research Advisory Committee XI meeting

NRC on Rapeseed–Mustard, Bharatpur, 28 February 2008. Dr J B Chowdhury (Ex-VC, GBPUAT, Pantnagar) chaired a 2-day Research Advisory Committee on Rapeseed–Mustard, started on 27 February 2008, at National Research Centre Rapeseed–Mustard, Bharatpur.  
Dr Arvind Kumar (Director, NRC on



Rapeseed–Mustard (RM) indicated the new additions of Scientists to the research team of NRC on RM and presented the *Research Highlights, 2006-07* of both NRC on RM and AICRP on RM, and also the action taken report of X RAC Meeting.

Dr J B Chowdhury, Chairman of the Research Advisory Committee, remarked that enough emphasis should be given to oilseeds and pulses



alike wheat, rice. He urged the scientists to take up the challenge, orient the research programmes focussing on the need of the farmers of all mustard-growing tracts of the country so that enough technology is generated and is available for the farmers, to increase productivity substantially, and prevent any decline in rapeseed–mustard area or production, particularly in relation to industrialisation.

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### Public-Private Partnership in Agroforestry

NRC on Agroforestry, Jhansi, 8 February 2008. Shri Rajeev Agarwal, District Magistrate, Jhansi, inaugurated the one-day workshop on Public-Private Partnership in Agroforestry at National Research Centre for Agroforestry. The main theme of the group meeting was to identify: the constraints / problems faced by farmers for crop productivity and diversification; bottlenecks for adoption of agroforestry; strategies to



improve the livelihood status of farmers through proper management of natural resources and development of value chain and promotion of agroforestry.

Participants representing officials from the different agricultural departments, and progressive farmers participated in this group meeting.

#### Recommendations

The main outcome derived from the deliberations and group discussions is:

- Agroforestry is one of the options for sustainability and might be adopted in the Bundelkhand region in large scale to safeguard the fragility of the ecosystem;
- Wood-based industries should be established for better remuneration to the farmers;
- Micro-irrigation systems can be adopted for efficient utilization of available water;
- Timely supply of agricultural inputs should be ensured at block level;
- Co-operative farming may be initiated for efficient resource sharing (technological, intellectual and financial);
- Proper value chain for agro-products can be strengthened;
- Need to establish the fodder banks to cope with adverse climatic conditions as livestock rearing is leak proof.

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### Vice-Chancellors of SAUs Meet

New Delhi, 19 January 2008. The meeting of Vice-Chancellors of Agricultural Universities was held at NASC Complex, New Delhi. Shri Sharad Pawar, Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister, asked agricultural universities to bring out concrete proposals to transform agricultural research and education. He focused on reorienting research and education to meet the needs of agriculture as well as the new emerging areas, viz. IPR, phytosanitary and other quality standards and processing. He complemented ICAR for supporting the establishment of 183 experiential learning units in universities for providing hands-on training to students. ICAR is also supporting a massive projects developing e-courses for B.Sc. (Agric.) and B.V.Sc. degree programmes, creating a digital library of Ph.D. and setting up consortium for e-courses in agriculture. Shri Pawar said that the use of information communication technology needs to be further enhanced for improving the standards of teaching.

Emphasising that agriculture universities must modernize their laboratories and farms, the Minister said not only would this help in improving the quality of research and education but by doing so the varsity would also be able to generate resources for themselves.

Shri Pawar also drew attention of scientists to the likely impact of climate change on Indian agriculture, and showed his happiness that ICAR has already taken initiatives to quantify implications of climate change to mitigate the emission of greenhouse gases.

Dr Mangala Rai assured full support to agricultural universities and other research and educational centres, and

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asked them to pay greater attention to reaching new technologies to farmers using their vast network.

Following agenda items were deliberated and specific recommendations were made:

Agenda 3: Climate Change: Mitigation and adaptations

Agenda 4: Bio-resources including registration of germplasm and extant and notified varieties

Recommendations were made on following issues:

- Registration and Protection of Plant Varieties under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001
- Ownership of Plant Varieties
- Benefit Sharing
- Registration of breeds/strains of animal and fish genetic resources
- Microorganisms
- Plant Germplasm Explorations and Management
- Molecular Genome Bank

Agenda 5: Filling up of the positions of AICRPs and KVKs

Agenda 6: Rating of SAUs

Agenda 7: Reducing Inbreeding depression in faculty of SAUs

Agenda 8: Status of IP management programme – Adoption and implementation of ICAR guidelines

Agenda 9: XI Plan proposal for strengthening and development of agricultural education

As a synthesis, the following eleven areas were identified that need financial support, target-setting and effective monitoring for much desired output, outcome and long-term impact:



1. Modernization of farms and laboratories including provision for refurbishing, renovation, equipment, implements and farm machinery.
2. ICTs, connectivity, video conferencing and modern delivery systems
3. Training, reorientation and faculty development especially in frontier areas of science and technology
4. Provision of Visiting Faculty and Adjunct Professorship to fill the critical gaps and excellence promotion
5. E-learning tools and course-content development, digitization, E-subscription and networking and overall library strengthening
6. Development of learning resources, Experiential Learning and Hands-on-Training facilities
7. Niche Area of Excellence and development of disciplines in a phased manner
8. Region-, situation- and system-specific integrated technology development with programme/project-based specific funding
9. Overseas Fellowships/scholarships

10. Gender mainstreaming including girls' hostel and other amenities and facilities

11. Sports and games facilities including gymnasiums.

Agenda 10: Utilizing RKVY provision for expansion of teaching research capability of SAUs in identified priority area

Agenda 11: Establishing Educational Museum in Agricultural Universities

Agenda 12: Review of Niche areas of excellence

Agenda 13: Establishment of experiential learning units

Agenda 14: Accreditation

Agenda 15: NET requirement for Assistant Professor and equivalent positions

Agenda 16: Adoption of revised curricula and syllabus

Agenda 17.1: Improvement and strengthening of Veterinary Clinical services / delivery in SAU/SVU

Agenda 17.2: Exchange of students and faculty AUs

Agenda 17.3: Modalities to bring out international competitiveness in education

Agenda 17.4: Creation of fund for area-specific project

Agenda 17.5: Introduction of practical/experiential courses in SAUs

Agenda 17.6: Modernization of research infrastructures of AUs

Agenda 17.7: Agricultural Bio-security

Agenda 17.8: Application of new tools in agricultural research and education

For details visit at [www.icar.org.in](http://www.icar.org.in)

### 79th Annual General Meeting of the ICAR Society

New Delhi, 23 January 2008. The 79<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the ICAR Society was held at NASC Complex. Addressing the 79th Annual General Meeting of the Council here today Hon'ble Union Union Agriculture Minister, Shri Sharad

Pawar said that there is need to revise the course curriculum of agricultural education to make it more relevant.

He drew the attention of the ICAR Governing Body towards the resources and facilities available under the recently launched *Rastriya Krishi*

*Vikas Yojana* (RKVY) and National Food Security Mission. The flexibility provided to States in proposing schemes under RKVY can cover seed production multiplication, development of watersheds, creation of farmer schools and many other



areas. Under the NFSM, ICAR institutes, agricultural universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras have a role in providing technological inputs at district levels, he said.

Dr Mangala Rai (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) focused on the need for genetic improvement of crops/livestocks. Other areas he highlighted for urgent attention included soil amelioration, use of organic manure, water harvesting and conservation, technologies for value addition, aquaculture and preparing for impact on global warming on agriculture.

### **Proceedings of the 79th AGM of the ICAR Society**

**Item No. 1.** Welcome and Reading of the Notice by the Additional Secretary (DARE) and Secretary, ICAR.

Shri A K Upadhyay (Additional Secretary (DARE and Secretary, ICAR) welcomed the members present. In compliance with the requirements of the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860, the Secretary, ICAR read out the notice.

**Item No. 2.** Presentation of report by the DG, ICAR and Secretary (DARE)

Dr Mangala Rai, (DG, ICAR) made a presentation on 'Agricultural Progress in Perspective' that structured broadly to highlight some salient research achievements during the year, new challenges, the Council's perspective, and new direction of research.

**Item No. 3.** Address by the Minister

of Agriculture and the President, ICAR Society

Shri Sharad Pawar (Union Agriculture Minister and the President, ICAR Society) appreciated the role of the ICAR in development of new technologies that ultimately led to achieving a record food grain, cotton and sugar production during 2006 and 2007. The first year of the 11th Plan focuses on faster inclusive growth with 4.1% annual growth from Agriculture, as against 2.3 % average growth achieved during the 10th Plan. Therefore, enhancing farmers' income is a vital issue. He pointed out 'the National policy for Farmers - 2007' and said that efforts are needed to increase investment in irrigation, watershed development, land reclamation etc. To rejuvenate agriculture, the National Development Council launched a 'Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna' in August, 2007 with a financial outlay of about Rs 25,000 crores. He also drew attention of the members to the emerging issue of climatic change leading to adverse change in temperature, precipitation and rise in sea level. He informed that ICAR has already initiated several research projects in the related areas to develop strategies and generate technologies to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. The ICAR scientists made significant contribution to the IPCC Report that received Nobel Prize for Peace during 2007. In the end, the Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister pointed out that a harmonized technology generation and delivery mechanism is the need of the hour. He urged that there is urgency to improve agriculture profitability and productivity while protecting environmental sustainability.

**Item No.4.** Presentation of the Annual Report of the ICAR for 2007-2008 by the Director- General, ICAR.

The Report was presented by Dr Mangala Rai (DG, ICAR) after which the resolution was adopted by voice vote.

**Item No. 5.** Presentation of Annual Accounts alongwith the Auditors Report for 2006-07 by the Financial Advisor, ICAR.

The Annual Accounts and the Auditor's Report was presented by Shri B A Coutinho (Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, DARE/ICAR) after which the resolution was adopted.

**Item No. 6.** Suggestions from the Members with the permission for the Chair.

Some members of Annual General Meeting gave their valuable suggestions and raised some issues. Shri Sharad Pawar (President of the ICAR Society) and Dr Mangala Rai (DG, ICAR) paid attention on raised issues and welcomed their valuable suggestions.

Shri Sharad Pawar (Union Minister of Agriculture and President of ICAR Society) observed the suggestions of the members and said that the issue of fertilizer subsidy is under active consideration of the Government. He also mentioned about the problems faced by ICAR institutes with regard to lease of land in several states. He said that lands were given free of cost or at a token amount of rupee one per annum. Now after a lapse of many years when ICAR has made huge investments and posted large number of scientists, if the state governments ask for a large sum of renewal of lease, it amounts to a breach of understanding, and causes enormous administrative difficulties. He requested the state Agriculture Ministers to use their good offices to see that such obstructions not put in the way of functioning of the ICAR institutes, which are doing such a good work for the benefit of the state

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and its farmers.

Dr Mangala Rai (DG, ICAR) thanked members for their valuable suggestions and issues raised. He confirmed that national deliberations

on land use planning is going to be held very soon and the Council will be coming up with a document on how to move forward. A budget of Rs 70 crore was allocated last year for quality planting material to intensify our efforts in the field of horticulture and floriculture. With respect to post-harvest technology, Dr Mangala Rai informed that we had laid emphasis in the X plan in this area and the same would be strengthened in the XI plan. He urged the concerned states to adopt ICAR Model Act for SAUs to bring more transformation,

improvement and synergy. As regards the strengthening of KVKs, he said that 90% of the KVK functioning comes under SAUs and personal interest is required by the state governments to fill up vacant posts and create infrastructure in the SAUs. As far as ICAR is concerned, it has already released funds for construction, vehicles and salaries. ICAR is also taking proactive steps for adaptation and mitigation of impact due to climate change.

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### AICRP on Home Science

NRCWA, Bhubaneswar, 16 February 2008. Dr Krishna Srinath (Director, NRCWA) inaugurated a 2-day Workshop of AICRP on Home Science, at National Research Centre



on Women in Agriculture on 15 February 2008. All technical co-ordinators of nine co-ordinating centres of AICRP participated in this workshop. Various issues including importance and scope of gender database, possible structure, methodology, approach and possible domains relevant in the context were discussed.

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### Agricultural Biosecurity

New Delhi, 25 March 2008. Dr Mangala Rai (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) inaugurated 'National

Workshop on Agricultural Biosecurity' at the NASC Complex and emphasized that introduction of exotic diseases and pests in plants and livestock from across geographical borders needs to be fully checked out. To avoid the introduction of these diseases and provide strong surveillance, quarantine measures are to be rigorously followed at the entry point. And continuous monitoring and management should be carried out as a team work. He also emphasized prioritizing researchable issues, develop infrastructure and capacity building in Agricultural Biosecurity to biosecure India. About 100 scientists participated in this workshop.

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### Biodiversity Awareness

CIFE, Mumbai, 24 January 2008. Dr S. Kannaiyan (Chairman National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai) inaugurated 'Biodiversity Awareness Workshop,' jointly organized by the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai, and National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai.

The emphasis was mainly on the biodiversity mapping and conservation in different aspects, viz. flora, fauna, intertidal biodiversity,

aquatic microbial biodiversity, Indian traditional knowledge, role of local communities and women in biodiversity conservation. The workshop outlined the followings:

- The importance of plant genetic resources and bioresources in India was emphasized.
- The importance of bioresources for the livelihood security of the local people cautioned the welfare of the human beings: Conservation of bioresources and sustainable and optimum use of bioresources is important for healthy and peaceful life of human beings was outlined.
- The people's participation in participatory mode is quite important for conservation of bioresources was indicated.
- To initiate a network among the schools in Mumbai so as to create awareness among the school students, imparting training to the school teachers on the importance of the biodiversity, bioresources and conservation was suggested.
- The various aspects of biodiversity like mapping and conservation in different aspects, viz. flora, fauna, intertidal biodiversity, aquatic microbial biodiversity, Indian traditional knowledge, role of local communities and women in biodiversity conservation were

stressed.

- Chairman, NBA, declared that around Rs 100 million are earmarked for the formation of People's Biodiversity Register at local level.
- Chairman, NBA, announced that Indian Biodiversity Information System (IBIS) will be established at NBA office, Chennai to document the biodiversity in India with a cost of Rs 100 million.

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### Feasibility of rural enterprises based on fish-processing technologies

CIFE, Mumbai, 19 February 2008. Dr S Kannaiyan (Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai) inaugurated Brainstorming Session on 'Feasibility of Rural Enterprises based on Fish Processing Technologies of CIFE', jointly organized by Centre for Technology and Development, New Delhi, in association with Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Mumbai, at CIFE, Old Campus, Mumbai.

#### Recommendations

Vasai Unit

- Revival of the Vasai unit
- Efforts should be made to source prawn and other material directly from fisherfolk
- Batch size be increased to 50 kg contributing to reducing processing costs, labour costs, energy costs, overheads
- Wider range of products be taken up so as to diversify production
- Rs 0.55 million was estimated for procuring equipment, market promotion, labels and packaging.

Ganjam unit

- Existing workshed needs some renovation and improvement to bring it up to FPO standards
- Training should be given in the area

of dehydration and related storage and bulk packaging

- Detailed marketing strategy needs to be worked out, given the need here to target relatively distant markets in Berhampur, Vizag etc.
- Rs 0.85 million was estimated for procuring equipment, market promotion, labels and packaging.

Sundarbans unit

- Major interventions are required in respect of raw material handling, storage, preservation and transportation
- At an appropriate stage, a competitive marketing strategy should be developed for processed products
- Back-up assistance from a suitable local/nearby agency would be required.

Tripura unit

- A Research and Development Project is recommended to be taken up by the College of Fisheries, Agartala.
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### Stem cell technology

IVRI, Izatnagar, 5 February 2008. The Chief Guest, Professor MP Yadav (Vice-Chancellor, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Meerut) inaugurated a 21-day short course on 'Introduction of Stem Cell Technology' at IVRI, organised by the Centre of Advanced Studies in Veterinary Physiology, IVRI. Prof M P Yadav highlighted the livestock sector scenario and the perspectives. He stressed the need to undertake research and development in nano-technology, biotechnology, bioinformatics, communication technology, stem cell technology, etc. He added that there is a huge potential and scope in stem cell technology to enhance the health and productivity of livestock.

Dr S P S Ahlawat (Director and

Vice-Chancellor, IVRI) emphasized briefly about the importance of stem cell technology and its necessity to veterinary and animal sciences research. He further stressed the need for establishing a stem cell conservation bank, gene bank, DNA bank, etc. at the IVRI, for utilization of these useful technologies for the welfare of human beings, as well as for promoting animal productivity.

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### Economically viable pest management strategies needed for sustainable agriculture

IARI, New Delhi, 11 March 2008. Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture, inaugurated First International Conference on 'Agro-chemicals Protecting Crop, Health and Natural Environment'. He said that for sustainable agricultural production, economically viable pest-management strategies need to be put in place so as to meet present and future requirements of food. The conference was organized by the Society of Pesticides Science, India in association with the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in New Delhi, from 8 to 11 January 2008. Delegates (450) were from USA, UK, Canada, Brazil, Pakistan, Sri Lanka etc. Various issues related to crop protection and health environment were discussed. The Society of Pesticide Science, India, is the leading academic institution in South Asia addressing multifarious aspects of pesticide science, technology and sustainable agriculture.

Dr Mangala Rai (Secretary, DARE and Director-General, ICAR) said in a message that there is an urgent need to review the advances made in

protection research and formulate future strategies to achieve our ultimate goal of more food, nutrition, income and employment.

Dr S A Patil (Director, and Vice-Chancellor, IARI) informed delegates that the conference is excellent opportunity for interactions between the scientists to provide further direction for developing future strategies of research, and bring out recommendations and roadmaps for providing effective protection umbrella for agricultural crops and food commodities to fulfil the quality food and fibre requirements of our fast growing population.

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### **Aquaculture Bio-informatics and statistics**

CIFA, Kausalyaganga. 24 March 2008. Dr Swadheenananda Pattanayak (Director, Institute of Mathematics and Applications, Bhubaneswar), the Chief Guest inaugurated a 3-day national workshop-cum-training on "Bio-informatics and Statistics in Aquaculture Research," organized by the Cenral Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Kausalyaganga. The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, (Government of India) sponsored the workshop. The workshop is intended to enhance knowledge and skills in application of ICT in aquaculture and life sciences.

The 3-day programme covered data warehousing, data mining, knowledge mining and discover modeling, reverse engineer gene regulatory networks, statistical package for exploratory data analysis methodological aspect of impact assessment and estimation of technical efficiency, forecasting, application of ICT in fisheries extension. Resource persons are drawn from prestigious

institutions like ISI, Kolkata, Kharagpur; NCAP, New Delhi; CRIDA, Hyderabad; CIFRI, Kolkata; NBFGR, Lucknow; IGAU, Raipur; OUAT, ILS, KIIT and RRL, Bhubaneswar.

More than 80 academicians, researchers and others working in the related fields from all over the country attended the workshop. *Applied Bio-Informatics, Statistics and Economics in Fishery Research and Social and Techno-Economic Aspects of Aquaculture in Kolleru Lake, Andhra Pradesh*, were released on the occasion.

Dr N Sarang (Director of CIFA) said that tools and techniques of bio-informatics have simplified data management leading to an in-depth understanding of various biological phenomena. He also informed that the bio-informatics centre of CIFA is doing a commendable work by extending facilities to students and researchers in conducting advance research in the field of fisheries.

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### **Livelihood security through rainwater management**

PDKV, Nagpur, 23 January 2008. Dr YS Ramakrishna (Director, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad) inaugurated a 2-day 13<sup>th</sup> Vasantrya Naik Memorial National Agriculture Seminar on 'Livelihood Security through Rainwater Management' organized by Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth on 22 January 2008 at College of Agriculture.

Dr V M Mayande, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola, presided over the function. Over hundred delegates across the country participated in the seminar from various organizations.

The organizers' pious object was to ultimately promote the process of research related to development, and encourage the agricultural scientists by honouring two best research papers with Gold Medals instituted by Vasantrya Naik Smruti Pratishthan, Pusad. Gold Medals were awarded to Dr V N Barai (Assistant Professor, MPKV, Rahuri) for his research work on 'Comparison of Different Soil Covers on Runoff, Soil Loss and Infiltration under simulated Rainfall' and Dr UM Khodke (Associate Professor, MAU, Parbhani) for his research work on 'Crop Planning based on Rainfall and Crop Evapotranspiration Analysis in a Semi-Arid Region.'

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### **Accelerating agricultural growth in India**

NCAP, New Delhi. 9 February 2008. Dr Y K Alagh, former Union Minister of Science and Technology inaugurated a workshop on 'Accelerating Agricultural Growth in India', jointly organized by the National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research and the Department of Agricultural Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Economics Research Association (India), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at NASC Complex. The report, a follow-up of a report submitted by the FAO during the visit of the FAO Director-General at the meeting with the Dr Man Mohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, has taken into consideration international experiences and emerging global trends, on narrowing the gap between the high rate of overall economic growth and the slow pace of agricultural change.

The key issues discussed related with: (i) maintaining and increasing

agricultural productivity, particularly in intensive cereal production regions; (ii) improving the efficiency of water withdrawals for agriculture; (iii) preventing environmental degradation; (iv) mitigating and adapting measures for climate change; (v) biofuels and food security; (vi) problems in distressed areas; (vii) increasing importance of rural non-farm employment and income; and (viii) improving agricultural systems and policies. It was emphasized that more non-farm employment opportunities need to be created besides massive investment to create need-based agri-infrastructure, strengthen agricultural research and improve resource use efficiency to accelerate agricultural growth and raise farm incomes.

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### **Agriculture Revolutions – Babu Jagjivan Ram centenary seminar conducted**

New Delhi, 7 February 2008. At the Babu Jagjivan Ram centenary seminar on 'Agriculture Revolutions, Inclusive Growth and State Policies of India,' Dr Man Mohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, said that during Babuji's tenure as the Agriculture Minister, country achieved self-sufficiency in foodgrains production. It is indeed apt that, today, as we discuss the challenges confronting our agricultural sector, once again we are reflecting on the leadership provided by Babuji at the grave crisis. We need to understand the role played by his visionary leadership in making a difference to the agricultural sector.

We once again need such vision and leadership of the type provided by Babu Jagjivan Ram, if our agriculture is to meet requirements of the coming decades.

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### **ICAR participated in International Horti-Expo, 2008**

New Delhi, 31 January 2008. A 3-day International Horti-Expo 2008 was inaugurated by Mr Haroon Yusuf (Minister for Transport, and Food & Civil Supplies Department, Delhi Government). The Indian Council of Agricultural Research along with its institutes of horticulture division participated in International Horti-Expo, 2008 from 31 January to 2 February 2008 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The latest information about new technologies, varieties, package of practices, publications, etc related



to each participated institutes were available at the ICAR stall in the exhibition. The screening of documentary films on horticultural crops produced by the ICAR was also an added attraction in the exhibition.

The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore; Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi; Central Institute for Sub-Tropical Horticulture, Lucknow; Central Institute of Arid Horticulture, Bikaner; Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla; Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram; Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Varago; NRC for Cashew, Puttur; NRC for Citrus, Nagpur; NRC for Mushroom, Solan; NRC for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Anand; NRC for Banana, Trichi; NRC

for Litchi, Muzaffarpur; NRC for Citrus, Nagpur; NRC on Seed Spices, Ajmer; Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; and DIPA, ICAR displayed their exhibits and publications.

A conference on 'Heralding New Horticulture Revolution' was also organized on the occasion. Dr H P Singh (Deputy Director-General, Horticulture, ICAR), focused on development of high-yielding cultivars and hybrids, having resistance to biotic and abiotic stress besides processing quality. Genomic research has also received due attention. He further said that exploitation of new crops and cultivars, development of suitable rootstock, effective water and nutrient management and plant architectural needs are also being addressed.

Dr H P Singh (DDG, Horticulture, ICAR) mentioned that the research efforts have recorded impressive achievements — new cultivars and production technologies, which have demonstrated 200 to 300% increase in yield, improvement in the quality of produce besides reduced post-harvest losses. Several value-added products have been developed, which are being processed for commercial adoption.

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### **Contract farming in horticultural crops**

IIHR, Bangalore, 9 January 2008. Dr PG Chengappa (Vice-Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore) inaugurated 'Contract farming in horticultural crops: options and opportunities'.

Three technical sessions covered vegetables, vegetable seeds, fruits, ornamental, medicinal and aromatic crops. Besides, farmers' interactive session was held to get the views from the farming community, who are directly or indirectly involved in the

contract farming of horticultural crops.

Following issues were discussed:

- Faith and credibility from both farmers and buyers
- Disproportionate sharing of margins
- Rigidity in product price—even over years
- Lack of innovative pricing policies and incentives to performers and rewards to loyalty
- No compensation paid to farmers in the event of crop failure: there is no sharing of risks
- The private sector gets requisite quality material regularly at predetermined prices
- Contract farming ensures stability and control on production and will increase productivity, timely harvest, improve handling and reduction in wastage (from 25% at present to 10%)
- Execution of technology transfer through well trained field staff
- Promotes long-term planning and investments
- Single tier regulatory authority for contract farming at the district level is essential
- Encourage agricultural students to work with CF as a part of their curriculum
- While Management is essentially interested in just one crop, it must recognize farmers' concern to protect their farming system
- Policy necessary to facilitate better flow of benefits to farmers and at the same time bring transparency in contracts/agreements
- To be successful in contract farming there should be institutional interventions from research and development and financial organization, knowledge driven enterprise, buy back arrangements; based on trust end-to-end mission and scientific monitoring at all the stages of value chain.

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### Science Week observed

NRCWA, Bhubaneswar, 4 March 2008. Prof Dr D P Ray (Vice-Chancellor, OUAT, Bhubaneswar) inaugurated a 6-day Science Week on 28 February 2008, in which about 200 students from different schools in Bhubaneswar were sensitized on various aspects of agriculture and allied sectors.

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### All India Dog Show

IVRI, Izatnagar, 4 January 2008. Dr Amresh Kumar (Director, Khandelwal College of Management and Technology, Bareilly) inaugurated All India Dog Show, organized for the first time at Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar in which 200 dogs of 30 breeds, namely, Pug, Miniature Pinscher, Fox Terrier, Lhasa Apso, Spitz, Dalmation, French Bull dog, Dachshund, Rampur hound, Basset hound, Labrador, Golden Retriever, Cocker Spaniel, Boxer, Doberman, Great Dane, Neapolitan Mastiff, Bull Mastiff, Tibetan Mastiff, Rottweiler, Terrier German Shepherd, St. Bernard, etc. were the main attractions. Dr Amresh Kumar said that 850 breeds of dogs are available in the world, but most of our Indian breeds are not well recognized internationally. He stressed the need for conservation of various Indian breeds.

Dr S P S Ahlawat in his presidential address exhorted the scientific



Dr S P S Ahlawat, Director, IVRI and other dignitaries inspecting the dog show.

community to initiate research on pet management, health, behaviour, genomics, breeding etc. so that the Indian breeds of dog can be conserved and the dogs could be included as the 15 species in the list of economically important animals to the human beings.

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### HACCP concepts in seafood industry

CIFT, Cochin, 14 January 2008. To ensure the seafood safety and quality, the inspection system, viz. Quality Control and Inspection in approved units were enforced among seafood processing units in the country. Hazard Analysis at Critical Control Points (HACCP) is the most modern seafood quality management system being introduced in India as prescribed by the importing countries like the European Union and USA.

The HACCP system is based on the concept that various types of hazards can occur at various points in seafood processing and can be analysed to locate critical control points and appropriate corrective measures can be taken to control or prevent them so that the seafood processed by the industry will be safe for human consumption.

For the implementation of HACCP in Indian seafood industry, the CIFT has already conducted a series of training courses on HACCP and other relevant topics to the technologists from the various fish processing units. Seven principles of HACCP plan, HACCP records and formats, Good Manufacturing Practices, Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures, Good Laboratory Practices etc. have been compiled in *HACCP Concepts in Seafood Industry*, and is useful to experts in production, processing, storage, transportation and marketing of all food products particularly fish and fishery products.

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## Village-linked pearl culture programme launched

CMFRI, Kochi, 1 March 2008. Smt Geetha Jeevan (Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu) launched a Village-linked Pearl Culture Programme, initiated by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi, at its Tuticorin Research Centre by handing over 100 nucleated oysters to women self-help group from Vellapatti village near Tuticorin. In the inaugural address, Smt P. Geetha Jeevan appreciated the efforts of the CMFRI in popularizing income generating programmes in the villages. She also indicated that the expertise of CMFRI in underwater explorations should be used for training youth who can take up related work in the Port area. More than 100 young oysters were given to another self-help group.

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## Promotion of secondary agriculture

SVBPUA&T Meerut, 25 January 2008. One-day Interface-Village Agriculture Forum on 'Promotion of Secondary Agriculture' was organized at the SVBP University of Agriculture and Technology, Meerut, in collaboration with Planning Commission (Agriculture Division), Government of India, New Delhi.

Professor M P Yadav, Vice-Chancellor, welcomed all dignitaries and delegates, and expressed his views on recent agricultural scenario, natural resources, investment on agriculture, post-harvest losses of food etc. He stressed the need of secondary agriculture for the benefits of the country. He suggested that for more sustainable development in agriculture, all basic facilities like electricity, cold storages, etc. should be provided to farmers/villagers.

Professor D P S Verma (Chairman,



Technical Advisory Committee) delivered key-note address and emphasized the use of state-of-art technology in India like USA, so as to promote secondary agriculture in India. He informed participants that the USA is producing more than 400 products from maize/corn which is the biggest industry in the USA. He stressed the need for integration of farms for large-scale production of fruits/vegetables; raw materials to food industries.

Dr V L Chopra (Member, Planning Commission and TAC) suggested that parameters like quality of primary produce, technology options and socio-economic conditions should be taken into account for value-addition.

Professor Chandrika Prasad (DG, UPCAR, Lucknow) said that we will have to consider farmers interest while advocating secondary agriculture. Farmers should have their shares in profits of agro-industries in one or other ways. He supported contract farming for overall growth of the country.

There were two technical sessions, chaired by Prof. Chandrika Prasad (DG, UPCAR) and Prof. D P S Verma (Chairman, Technical Advisory Committee). Papers were presented on promoting secondary agriculture, potato processing for chips, product processing technology for secondary agriculture in livestock, poultry and fisheries, preparation and utilization of fish-based products, funding arrangements for secondary agriculture.

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## New directions and dimensions of aquaculture and fisheries

CIFE, Rajahmundry, 19 February 2008. Dr Dilip Kumar (Director, CIFE, Mumbai) presided over the workshop on the theme "New Directions and Dimensions of Aquaculture and Fisheries" organized by the Adikavi Nannaya University, Rajahmundry. Dr Dilip Kumar drew the attention on sustainable aquaculture and problems faced by the fisheries industry. He emphasized the factors responsible for sustainable aquaculture, viz. technological feasibility, economic viability, social acceptability and environmental sustainability.

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## Wheat genome sequencing research

PAU, Ludhiana, 24 March 2008. The Department of Biotechnology of Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India has sanctioned a project on wheat genome sequencing research with a budgetary provision of Rs 10 crore for 3 years. Dr Manjit Singh (Vice-Chancellor, PAU) said that by increased understanding of the biology of agronomically important traits and deploying state of the art molecular tools, breeders will be able to pick up the pace of wheat improvement to meet the emerging challenges. The sequence of the wheat genome will ultimately result in healthier and more nutritious wheat that could take care of food and nutritional security in human beings and animals. Dr Kang said that this project will strengthen PAU Agri-Biotechnology capability and get a favourable impetus.

The approval of the project from the Ministry of Science and Technology has attracted appreciation of eminent

wheat scientists across the world. PAU has a team of dedicated young workers and we are supporting them in a number of activities. In addition, the university that has ushered in Green Revolution and the state that contributes 60% to the national food basket, richly deserves this project mentioned Dr Charak, Adviser, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.  
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### Plant Germplasm Registration

New Delhi. The Plant Germplasm Registration Committee since its inception in 1996 has registered, 601 potentially valuable germplasm accessions in 115 crops species, including their wild relatives. An 'Information Bulletin' has been published with detailed account of 403 accessions, to promote their use. The guidelines for registration of plant germplasm have been revised, circulated and are available at <http://www.nbpg.ernet.in>. All Institutes, All-India Co-ordinated Research Projects and Universities concerned with plants have been requested to constitute an Institute/Project/University level 'Plant Germplasm Identification Committee' for identification and endorsement of claims.

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### Registration of extant-notified varieties

NBPGR, New Delhi. The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA) notified crops in the first phase, namely wheat, rice, maize, pearl millet, sorghum, chickpea, pigeonpea, mungbean, urd bean, pea and kidney

bean. The PPVFRA started accepting applications for registration from May 2007. At the NBPGR, the procedure for filling the applications was streamlined after discussion among Project Directors/Project Coordinators of the 12 crops and subsequently with the PPVFRA. Over 500 applications of extant-notified varieties received from PDs/PCs were submitted to the PPVFRA. These included 30 applications of new varieties of maize, sorghum and pulses, released during the last year.

The extant varieties notified at State level should also be registered at the earliest. Accordingly, all State Agricultural Universities have been sensitized to constitute committees at each university and complete the process of submission of application of all extant varieties, as done for centrally released varieties, through NBPGR. New crops notified by the PPVFRA for registration would also be taken up for submission by the NBPGR.

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### Stamp released in memory of Dr B P Pal

Andhra University, Vishakapatnam, 5 January 2008. Prof MS Swaminathan, an MP and an eminent agricultural scientist, released a stamp in memory of Dr B P Pal during the



95<sup>th</sup> Session of Indian Science Congress held at Andhra University, Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

Dr B P Pal, first Director-General of ICAR, contributed to the agricultural renaissance of India. As a geneticist and plant breeder, he spearheaded the breeding of wheat varieties resistant to the rusts and other diseases; different varieties of roses etc. in Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

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### International Women's Day

NRCWA, Bhubaneshwar, 8 March 2008. The International Women's Day was observed at the National Research Centre for Women in Agriculture (NRCWA), by organizing various field level awareness programmes aimed at gender mainstreaming in agriculture. The celebrations were inaugurated by Smt Manorama Sahoo (Sarpanch, Simore Gram Panchayat of Kurda district, Orissa) at Kantamalim village, adopted by NRCWA under the research activities.



The programme was attended by 150 farm-women who were sensitized about their role in the nation building process and the need to adopt innovations in agriculture to increase food production and reduce drudgery of farming operations. The farm-women spoke about their experiences in the interactions with NRCWA, and said that the para extension worker model being experimented by the Centre has helped them in improving

the communication behaviour and also in getting hands-on training in animal production.

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## ICAR Vichar Manch

New Delhi. Shri A K Upadhyay (Additional Secretary, DARE, and Secretary, ICAR) introduced speakers of the ICAR *Vichar Manch* at NASC Complex. Dr Mangala Rai (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) welcomed the speakers and presented a memento to all the speakers.

- Shri Sharad Dutt, a noted film maker and writer shared his vast and practical philosophical experiences with the audience on 17 January 2008.



- Dr S P Tiwari, DDG (Education) spoke on 'Life and Beyond' on 25 February 2008. He said man should do *Karma* and work for *Moksha*. He added that man evolves at physical, mental, social and spiritual levels. He elaborated ethics, morality and virtue.



- Shri B K Sinha (DG, National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad) spoke on 'the Great Indian Distress: the Role of Social Movements in its alleviation'. Shri Sinha feels that we have no options except to go back to our roots for solution. The social movements, which often pass unnoticed offer hope for the future. He focused on *Swadhyaya* – the largest and the least known mass movement of the country.



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## Pashupalak Sahabgitha Karya Shala

IVRI, Izatnagar, 28 March 2008. "Greater attention is needed for the development of livestock and agricultural sectors as these sectors have great potential for generating income for the farmers and concerted efforts are needed to develop them to strengthen the economy of the nation", said Shri A K Upadhyay (Secretary, ICAR) at Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar. Inaugurating the "*Pashupalak Sahabgitha Karya Shala*" organised by the Joint Directorate of Extension Education, Shri Upadhyay drew the attention towards the burgeoning population, diminishing food production scenario, economic growth rate, climate changes, and increasing demand supply gaps throughout the globe and stressed on the need for another green revolution to face these burning problems. He expressed great satisfaction on the overall development of the Institute and hoped that the research outcome and technologies generated would benefit the farmers and farm women to harness the resources more efficiently for their economic upliftment.

The Secretary, ICAR distributed citations and mementos to some of the innovative progressive farmers namely, Shri Dudhir Agarwal, Mathura, Shri Dharam Pal Tyagi, Faridabad, Shri Ram Swaroop Chaudhary, Bareilly and Shri Munesh Tyagi, Meerut. These farmers adopted the technologies disseminated by IVRI for enhancing animal husbandry activities, increasing food production, as well as enterpreneurship development. Shri Upadhyay also inaugurated the Animal Health Camp, organised by the Division of Extension Education, IVRI at adopted Kamua Village, Bareilly District.



Shri A K Upadhyay, Additional Secretary (DARE) and Secretary (ICAR), inaugurating the Pashupalak Sahabgitha Karya Shala at IVRI, Izatnagar.

In his presidential address, Dr S P S Ahlawat, Director and Vice Chancellor of Indian Veterinary Research Institute briefed about the Institute's mandate, major research programmes and other highlights made by the Institute. He indicated that though the country is self sufficient in food production and farmers are called as "Annadata", but many people are still under nourished because of low purchasing power, improper public distribution system and marketing policies. He was of the view that the technologies generated by research institutes should reach the farmers and adopted to overcome the situation.

Dr M C Sharma, Joint Director (Extn. Education) and Organising Secretary of the Workshop presented a brief report on Transfer of Technology by IVRI and called upon the dairy farmers to pay greater attention on selection of breeds, nutrition and feeding, identification of diseases, use of medicines, timely vaccination, marketing of animal products, etc. Dr M C Sharma further stressed that IVRI is the leading institute in patenting and transfer of technologies as 36 technologies have been filed for patent and 5 technologies have been commercialized to 15 commercial houses.

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### ICAR Inter-Institutional Sports Meet (Western Zone)

Jodhpur, 8 March 2008. The ICAR Inter-Institutional Sports Meet (Western Zone) was organized at the CAZRI, Jodhpur from 4 to 8 March 2008. The Chief Guest, Dr Lokesh Kumar Shekhawat, Vice-Chancellor, JNV University, Jodhpur, announced sports meet open in a splendid opening ceremony presided by Dr K P R Vittal, Director, CAZRI.

More than 500 sports persons participated in different athletics and team events. Shri Bhuvanesh Verma of CAZRI, Jodhpur and Ms Rekha Singh of ICAR Hqrs were adjudged Best Athlete in Men and Women categories respectively. Fair play trophy was awarded to CIRCOT, Mumbai, and Best March Past Trophy was presented to NRC on Agroforestry, Jhansi. ICAR Hqrs' contingent won the Overall Championship by securing maximum



Shri B P Jain, the Chief Guest, is giving away Overall Championship Trophy to Shri K B Gupta, Chief-de-mission (ICAR Hqrs).

points. To witness the rich cultural heritage of various regions a Competitive Cultural Programme was also organized during the sports meet.

Chief Guest, Shri B P Jain, Income Tax Commissioner, Jodhpur, distributed trophies and prizes to winners and runners-up of different sports events at the Closing Ceremony.

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### Nineth ICAR sports meet at Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth

MPKV, Rahuri. The nineth ICAR sports meet was organized at MPKV, Rahuri in collaboration with the ICAR, New Delhi. Dr S P Tiwari (DDG, Education), ICAR inaugurated the meet.

Dr R B Deshmukh, Vice-Chancellor presided over the function. In his inaugural address, Dr Tiwari asserted about the ICAR's support to sports and allied activities for the students. Dr R B Deshmukh said that the event would help to develop national integration amongst the participating sports students.

More than 2000 sports students and girls from thirty SAUs and ICAR institutes from all over the country participated in the meet. The host MPKV team won the General Championship.

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### Organization and Management Reforms

ICAR (Hqrs), New Delhi. Reforms that took place from January to March, 2008 are enumerated here.

- Revised terms of employment of Advisers to the various committees of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- Follow-up treatment of CGHS beneficiaries in recognized hospitals
- Removal of Note 2 under Column 8 (II) Hospital treatment in form Medical 97
- Empanelment of Hospitals and Diagnostic Centres under CGHS in different cities/states for treatment and diagnostic procedures and fixation of package rates regarding
- Revision of rates and guidelines for various Coronary Stents for CGHS/CS(MA) beneficiaries
- Enhancement of age limit for scientific appointments
- Steps taken for Maintaining discipline and punctuality in the office
- Guidelines were revised for ICAR Sports and Tournaments
- Final Seniority List of Assistants appointed at the ICAR (Hqrs) up to 31.12.2006
- Seminar on 'Women empowerment/ rights' at ICAR in collaboration with Department of Women Studies took place at JNU, New Delhi
- Cadre Review Committee for review posts and cadres in Group 'A', Group 'B' and Group 'C' in Administrative cadre
- Computer/Manual Typewriter typing test in Hindi and English on 18 January 2008
- Issue of Individual Plastic Cards to each CGHS beneficiary
- Technical Service Rules ammended
- Approval to M/s Reuters Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore for use and redistribution of information available on the ICAR web site under the heading "Weather and Weather-based Agricultural Management Plan"
- Applicability of Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952 to casual laboures employed by the ICAR
- Amendment in the Model Qualifications for Various Scientific Posts including Research Management Positions
- ICAR Designated Central Public Information Officers and their Appellate Authorities in respect of specific subject matters
- Revised guidelines for evaluation of Scientists for promotion
- Terms and Conditions for Telecasting of ICAR Films by Private Television Channels

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## SAARC conference on Agriculture

New Delhi, 7 March 2007. A 3-day first-ever SAARC Conference, jointly organized by Ministry of Agriculture, ICAR and IFFCO Foundation, was held at NASC Complex. Shri Sharad Pawar, Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister, called for sharing farm technology and



experience among SAARC countries to reduce poverty in the region. Given agro-climatic advantages and availability of manpower in the SAARC region, there is potential to turn its agriculture into a dynamic sector with rapid technological accelerating growth and reducing poverty. He also called for better synergy in research and development efforts and said that India is ready to extend co-operation through her excellent network of research institutions. The Union Agriculture Minister stressed that investments and regional co-operation in research and development must be at the top of policy agenda of SAARC countries. He said, with agriculture becoming complex today, we need science and technology interventions at a larger scale on all stages of agricultural chain.

Dr Mangala Rai (Secretary, DARE and Director-General, ICAR) said that availability of natural resources like water and land is declining, and better environment-friendly technologies for soil, water and livestock management and more sustainable and resilient agricultural systems are needed. He emphasized that there is lot of scope of

joint efforts on the front of food security and poverty alleviation among the SAARC countries.

Prof. M S Swaminathan, (an MP and an eminent agriculture scientist) said, "we need science and technology interventions at a larger-scale at all stages of agricultural chain". He emphasized that investments in research, and technology development and regional co-operation in research and developments must, be at the top of the policy agenda of the SAARC countries, to turn for better synergy in the efforts being made by various countries and organizations in research and development to optimize gains. Conference had 2 technical sessions—cutting-edge technologies and climatic change.



To bring about a transformation of Agriculture in the SAARC region and to pave way for second Green Revolution convergence of cutting-edge technologies, viz. Biotechnology, Nanotechnology and Space technology, were emphasized during the sessions.

Dr P L Gautam, DDG (Crop Science, ICAR) identified 9 areas for co-operation, which include exchange of germplasm/planting material in various crops, fishes, animals, gene banks etc.

Stressing the need of immediate technology interventions to face emerging challenges due to climate change in SAARC region, agricultural scientists suggested evolution of year-round dual crop technology, new harvesting machinery through modification in existing one, technology



to mitigate impacts of frost and to maintain the optimum level of humidity and temperature. The expert said that delayed rains, unexpected temperature surges and frost due to climate change are taking toll on crops by changing crop calendar.

Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Afghanistan, Mr Obaidullah Ramin, urged for assistance and cooperation for rebuilding his country's agriculture. Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of Bhutan, Mr Sherub Gyaltsen, expressed concern over the fast melting of Himalayan glaciers, which in the near future may adversely impact the countrys' agriculture, particularly the most treasured medicinal and aromatic plants. He also said the Happiness Index formulated by His Majesty' Government should be used to judge the overall development perspectives. Sri Lankan Agriculture Minister, Mr Malthripala Sirisena said that his country would deploy modern biotechnology including the transgenic for ensuring food production. Shri Pervaiz Amir, Asianics Agro-Dev International, Pakistan, said that the desert located in central and southern Punjab of the region poses great challenge for environment with high level poverty and risky agriculture practices. Though farm communities are adapting to climate change, overall change is creating negative impact in rural economy. He said that in the absence of technology innovation, dryland farming is becoming non-lucrative and pressure is increasing on irrigated land. With high cost of production it is



becoming very difficult to keep the rural youth in agriculture. Salt-prone water-logged soils should be modified for agriculture and specialized crops; and poultry and medicinal plants should be developed which are suitable for dryland and rising temperature.

### Recommendations

The SAARC commitments are in the nature of equitable interventions for all the nations comprising this noble and laudable institutional development for the common requirements of the South Asian Countries it was, therefore, resolved that:

- A common and permanent cell will be established in the first instance that shall comprise such members as the current conference determines.
- The conference recognized that while poverty and hunger are essentially a rural phenomenon, the concentration of the deprived people is higher in rainfed and other non-congenial areas and recommended enhanced investment in such areas.
- Strategic linkage by strengthening value change to increase the advantages of the producers and the consumers needs to be assured.
- Recognizing that the on-going climate change has resulted in decline in productivity and increased uncertainty of production besides causing serious degradation of natural resources, needs to be featured in our development strategy to increase the balance input-risk-return.
- To increase knowledge synergy and

avoid duplication of efforts, measures for sharing of information and proven technological and policy interventions.

The conference recognized that under the SAARC system several programmes on agriculture and other related sectors are operational and are in process of being designed and developed. It also recognized that several, of these programmes require supplemental and complementary support, which should be provided to address these issues.

The conference recognized the need for an institutional arrangement at the country and regional level to facilitate and enhance support in achieving the set goals. National fora and regional forum for SAARC which should include all stakeholders, namely, farmers, private, public sectors, civil society, professional organizations and academic etc., should be allowed to make their own arrangements for financial viability.

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### SAARC Meeting: IV Technical Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

New Delhi, 9 January 2008. Dr Mangala Rai (Secretary, DARE and Director-General, ICAR) inaugurated a 2-day IV Technical Committee meeting on Agriculture and Rural Development on 8 January 2008 at NASC Complex and emphasized for greater collaboration among SAARC countries in agricultural research and education and highlighted the emerging challenges in agriculture including dwindling resources and rising cost of production. He emphasized for raising water use efficiency, combating impact of climate change on agriculture. He advocated for greater co-operation on

quarantine issues and regulatory aspects on seed quality. It was attended by the delegations from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Dr P L Gautam, Deputy Director-General (Crop Sciences) led the Indian delegation and chaired the meeting. The meeting reviewed the programmes initiated in the past and identified new programmes. Among important programmes reviewed were — perspective vision for SAARC countries, milk grid among SAARC countries, inter-boundary disease control, seed production and capacity strengthening in entrepreneur development and beekeeping. The meeting reviewed the programmes of the SAARC Agriculture Centre located at Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was decided that a special session of TCARD would be organized to discuss the perspective vision of SAARC countries and a workshop would be organized with private sector for developing the modalities of milk grid.

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### Nigerian delegation at PAU

Ludhiana, 24 March 2008. A team of 5 members of inter-disciplinary professions from Nigeria comprising Edemekong Edemel (Judge of High Court), Daniel Etyudoh (Computer Engineer), Adekance Adebolarin (Legal Practitioner Lecturer), Sister Mary Rose-Claret Ogobuehi (College Director) and Ozougwu Barbara (Laboratory Sciences) had an interaction meeting with Dr Manjit Singh Kang, Vice-Chancellor, PAU. Dr Kang said that PAU has signed MoUs with a number of international organizations in the area of research and development in agriculture. He said that there have been many visits of scientists from Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda and other African countries to PAU in the past.

Welcoming the delegates he said that Agriculture in Punjab is facing constraints of depleting groundwater, impaired soil-health and shranked land holdings. He further stated that the problems of the smaller holdings in Punjab and in Nigeria can be understood and addressed through joint efforts.

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### Oilseed *Brassica* improvement

NRC on Rapeseed-Mustard, 28 January 2008. To discuss the progress of Project 'Oilseed *Brassica* Improvement in China, India and Australia' and prepare for the future, meeting of project personnel was held in New Delhi in which 30 scientists including 15 scientists from China and Australia participated. Under the project about 110 germplasm were received from China and Australia and after evaluation, these are being utilized for development of different varieties of wide genetic diversity which can yield better in adverse conditions. In India the *Sclerotinia* rot has become major problem for rapeseed-mustard production, and the efforts are being made for development of resistant varieties through utilizing exotic germplasm. The programmes for developing the drought tolerance and high quality varieties of rapeseed-mustard are being carried out. Under the project, the scientists from China and Australia are also contributing. An interaction meeting was held with the Punjab Agricultural University, scientists and they appreciated the research work being carried out at the centre. The scientists also visited the farmers' field in Midakur village of Agra district to get acquainted with the mustard production and protection technology adopted by the Indian farmers.

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### IARI Golden Jubilee Year Convocation, 2008

IARI, New Delhi, 8 February 2008. The IARI Golden Jubilee Year Convocation, 2008 of the Post-Graduate School was held in which Dr S Banerjee (Director, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai) was Chief Guest. The Chief Guest emphasized that education can transform our youth into a huge 'human capital' and make India one of the most powerful nations of the world. Dr Banerjee highlighted innovations and gave several examples of energy and resource-saving techniques suitable for Indian agriculture and households.

At this convocation, 75 M.Sc. and 84 Ph.D. students were awarded degrees. During the Golden Jubilee Year, the Institute had the proud privilege of awarding degree of Doctor of Science (*honoris causa*) to 3 distinguished scientists in Agricultural Sciences, Dr M V Rao (former Special Director-General, ICAR), Dr R S Paroda (former Director-General, ICAR) and Dr Mangala Rai (Director-General, ICAR).

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### Golden Jubilee Celebrations

CIFT, Cochin, 4 January 2008. Hon'ble Shri Sharad Pawar (Union Minister of Agriculture) was the Chief Guest at Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Cochin. He said that CIFT owned extensive training facilities in fishing and fish processing and stressed on concerted efforts for research and development in biotechnology. Highlighting the academic achievements by scientists affiliated to CIFT, the Hon'ble Minister said they had won the first International Smart Gear Award

instituted by the World Wildlife Fund for the category by catch devices.

Shri Sharad Pawar released the First Day Postal cover brought out by the Postal Department in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Institute. Dr Mangala Rai (Secretary, DARE and Director-General, ICAR, New Delhi) presided over the meeting. He pointed out that value-addition in the entire agricultural produce in the country was only 7% earlier compared to the higher growth rate achieved by China. He said that CIFT had come up with designs of mechanized fishing boats for the Indian exclusive economic zones. It had developed value-added products, viz. soup-powder, fish wafers, fish cutlets, fish balls and fish pickle.

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### CMFRI Diamond Jubilee celebrations

CMFRI, Kochi, January 2008. Shri Sharad Pawar (Union Minister for Agriculture) on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute said that emerging economic and ecological challenges, posed by climate change on marine food security needs integrated approach by fostering multiple linkages within the fisheries sector. He also released a special postal cover commemorating Diamond Jubilee and 10 Diamond Jubilee special publications of CMFRI.



## GOLDEN/DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



### CMFRI celebrated 62<sup>nd</sup> Foundation Day

CMFRI, Kochi, 4 February 2008. The year-long 62<sup>nd</sup> Foundation Day celebrations were started in February 2007, in which several activities including national seminars, awareness programmes, farmers' meets, talks by eminent personalities in the field, outreach activities were held at different fishing villages and release of special publications.

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### Golden Jubilee celebrations at CPCRI Research Centre

CPCRI, Research Centre, Mohitnagar, 14 March 2008. Dr H P Singh (DDG, Hort, ICAR) chaired the valedictory function at Golden Jubilee function of CPCRI Research Centre and focused on the challenges faced by farm sector in the competitive agricultural scenario and the strategies to make the farming more productive and remunerative at this Research Centre. A *Kisan Mela* was organised to commemorate the occasion. The programme included farmer-scientist interface, exhibition, field visit honouring of best arecanut farmers and scientists who served this centre

at different periods and release of publications. Smt Minati Sen, an MP and chief guest for the function, stressed the need to expand the coconut cultivation to more areas including neglected tea gardens. Mr Nagen Barman, the best farmer practising arecanut based cropping system and Mr Binoy Kumar Saha the best arecanut farmer practising scientific management practices were honoured during the function. Publications on *Arecanut based Intercropping System* were released to mark the occasion. About 400 farmers participated in the *Kisan Mela*.

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### Golden Jubilee celebrations of RJSRS

Kolhapur. Hon'ble Shri Harshavardhan Patil (Minister of Marketing and EGS) was the Chief Guest for the farmers rally and exhibition that was organized at concluding programme of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Regional Jaggery and Sugarcane Research Station. Shri Patil in his address asserted that a decision on jaggery export zone for Kolhapur and Sangli districts would be taken by the Government at an earliest. Dr R B Deshmukh stressed the need for jaggery export zone since sugarcane is a major cash crop of this region.

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He also launched web site of the institute.

Shri S Sarma, Kerala Fisheries Minister, was the guest of honour. The function was presided over by Dr Mangala Rai (Secretary, DARE and Director-General, ICAR), and Dr S Ayyappan (DDG, Fisheries) welcomed the gathering.

Dr K S Radhakrishnan (Vice-Chancellor), Shri Sankara Sanskrit University, Kalady) inaugurated the valedictory function of the Diamond Jubilee. Dr N G K Pillai (Director CMFRI) presided over the function.

### Dr Mangala Rai elected as New President of NAAS

New Delhi, 1 January 2008. Dr Mangala Rai (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) has been elected as President of the prestigious National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, a premier body of over 460 eminent agricultural scientists in India and abroad which includes 5 World Food Laureates, for 3 years. Dr Mangala Rai has taken over the charge on 1 January 2008 from the outgoing President

Professor M S Swaminathan.

The Academy's major objective is to promote ecologically sustainable agriculture, recognize and promote excellence in the field of agricultural sciences in India. Of late, the Academy has been recognized as credible think tank in the agricultural science and its main output Policy Papers in the areas of Agricultural Research, Education and Extension are

very well received by the decision-makers in the country.

Dr Mangala Rai developed about a dozen linseed and salt-tolerant rice varieties and has launched path-breaking research initiatives in the areas of critical importance and introduced bold organization and management reforms to improve efficiency in the system.

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### Pusa Kishi Vigyan Mela

IARI, New Delhi, 23 February 2008. A 3-day *Krishi Vigyan Mela* on the theme 'IARI-marches towards higher productivity and commercialisation' was inaugurated by Dr Mangala Rai (Secretary DARE and Director-General, ICAR) on 21 February 2008. Dr S A Patil (Director, IARI), presided over the function and gave the welcome address. On this occasion, Dr Mangala Rai released five publications including thematic souvenir of the Mela, *Prasar Doot (Mela Visheshak)*, *Phal phul avem Sabji Utpadan Takniki*, *Krishi aur ap*, *Gramin Vikas Yojnae avem Suvidhaye*, and nineteen extension bulletins on different topics of farmers interests.

Technologies, developed by IARI for higher agricultural productivity and commercialisation, were displayed in a huge thematic *pandal*, where some progressive farmers also shared their experiences of IARI technologies with the other visiting farmers. Different Project Directorates, Divisions, Centres and Units of the Institute demonstrated their technologies through displays in their respective stalls. Besides, IARI, 7 State Agricultural Universities, 25 ICAR Institutes including some livestock- based research institutes also participated in the *Mela*. Private Companies (35), Public Sector Undertakings (14) and NGOs/Societies (21) also participated and demonstrated their technologies/products for display or sale. Progressive farmers from Extension Operational Areas of the Institute also put-up their stalls to display and sale of their farm produce.



About 70,000 visitors from different parts of the country including farmers, farm-women, students, extension workers, entrepreneurs and others visited the *Mela*. In all, farmers from 21 states visited the *Mela*. Organised visits of farmers to different live crop demonstrations, experimental plots of different divisions on IARI farm and Centre for Protected Cultivation Technologies were conducted during the *Mela*.

In the first Technical session, progressive farmers from different States shared their useful agricultural experiences for increased agricultural productivity. Shri A.K. Upadhyay (Additional Secretary, DARE and Secretary ICAR) was the Chief Guest of session, which was presided over by Dr K. Chugh (Chairperson, ASSOCHAM) and Sh. Brahm Yadav (Chairman, DAMB).

The Women Empowerment Workshop of the *Krishi Vigyan Mela* was inaugurated by Mrs Krishna Tirath, an MP, on 22 February 2008. More than 5,000 farm-women and farmers from different parts of the country participated in the workshop. Latest issues/schemes of the Government for empowerment of women and other farm-women friendly technologies were discussed in the workshop with active interaction of the scientists.

The second Technical Session of the *Pusa Kishi Vigyan Mela* was on "Public Private Partnership-organizational support and schemes". The third Technical Session was on "Agro-biodiversity, Resource Conservation and Farmers' Rights".



*Kisan Advisory Cell* was functioning throughout the *Mela* period where farmers discussed their agricultural related problems face-to-face with the subject matter specialists of IARI/SAUs/ other ICAR Institutes. High-yielding seeds of different crops worth Rs 2 million were sold through *Pusa Seed Sale Counter* in the *Mela*. Many farmers from extension operational areas of the Institute putting their stalls in the *Mela* also sold seeds of high-yielding varieties produced on their fields through *Farmer Participatory Seed Production* programme of IARI.

Progressive farmers/farm-women from different states of the country were also honoured.

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### Grameen Dairy Mela

NDRI, Karnal, 13 February 2008. With a view to establishing close linkages between scientific community and dairy farmers, a *Grameen Dairy Mela* was organized by the Dairy Extension Division, National Dairy

The Best Animal of the show in the *Grameen Dairy Mela 2008*. This animal possess market value of Rs 6.50 lakh and per service Rs1000/- is charged



## FARMERS' FAIR



The prize winner in the Jersey Category

Research Institute at Shahpur Village, Karnal. Ch. Ved Pal (Member RAC, NDRI; Haryana State Consultative Committee FCI and Haryana State Agriculture Marketing Board) inaugurated the function. The event included cattle show competitions; competitions for preparation of value added milk products by rural women; *Kisan Sangoshti*-cum-Question-Answer session with experts from NDRI. An exhibition was also organized in which NDRI, various ICAR Institutes situated at Karnal, officials from ICDP, nationalized banks and veterinary pharmaceuticals participated to showcase recent technological options in the field of dairying. *Mela* has given an opportunity to the farmers as well as rural women to interact with the experts and gain knowledge about scientific dairy farming practices.

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### Farmers' Rally

KVK, Digholamba, Beed, 15 February 2008. Dr C L L Gowda, Global Theme Leader ICRISAT, Hyderabad, inaugurated a farmers' rally to create awareness in the farmers on bio-fuel and organic farming system approach at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Digholamba), Ambajogai (Maharashtra). He appreciated the work done by KVK under CFC/FAO/ICRISAT Project on 'Sorghum and Pearl Millet'. Large number of farmers (1,468) enrolled from the district and

630 female farmers were benefited. One of the self-help group (SHG) members Miss Sukeshini Laximan Dugam (from Hoal, Taluke Kaij) was felicitated by Dr S D More (Director of Extension, Parbhani) for excellent work on embroidery on saree. She is getting income between Rs 20,000 and 22,000 per annum. Mr Abhay Mahajan (Organizing Secretary, Deendayal Research Institute) in his presidential remarks, said that farmers have basket of technology to choose from and self-sustain his life.

Dr S D More explained the importance of low-cost technologies to improve the productivity of the agriculture.

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### XIV Sarson Vigyan Mela

NRC on Rapeseed Mustard, Bharatpur 2008. Professor M. L. Madan (Vice-Chancellor, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Animal Veterinary Science University and Cow Research Institute, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh) was Chief Guest in the XIV *Sarson Vigyan Mela*, organized at NRC on Rapeseed-Mustard, Bharatpur, in which over 700 farmers, farm-women, extension personnel and media personnel participated. He appealed the farmers to adopt new technologies to increase their farm produce and reduce the production cost by taking the advantage of scientific technologies; about women empowerment and their participation in decision-making



process of farming; to take farming as business taking consideration of all available recourses to them; and to adopt integrated management of farming which is necessary to fetch more profit from agriculture.

Dr Arvind Kumar (Director NRC on Rapeseed Mustard) said that the main objective of the *Mela* was to ensure the dissemination of technologies developed so far. And if there is any constraint, the concerned scientist will get the feedback and further refine the technology to suit the requirements of the rapeseed-mustard growers at the national level.

The farmers actively participated in the mustard crop competition, exhibition, *gosthi* and farm visit.

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### Krishi Gyan Mela aivum Pashu Vigyan Pradarshini

KVK, IVRI, Izatnagar, 5 February 2008. Krishi Gyan Mela aivum Pashu Vigyan Pradarshini was organised at Village Ahaladpur under the dynamic leadership of Dr S P S Ahlawat, Director, IVRI. More than 300 farmers, farm-women and rural youths from the four adjacent villages were benefited. The main events consisted of *gosthi* exhibition, animal health camp and animal competitions. The mela was inaugurated by Dr M C Sharma (Joint Director/Extension). Four Animal competitions were held to select the best desi cattle, buffalo, heifer and other animals for which prizes were also distributed. A total no of 226 animals were examined by the participating scientist of Medicine, Surgery, CADRAD, Animal Reproduction Divisions of IVRI. Participating animals were treated free of cost and medicines and mineral mixtures were also distributed to the owners.

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### Development of Molecular tools for exploitation of heterosis yield and oil quality in sesame

NBPGR, New Delhi. The National Agricultural Innovation Project, ICAR, has sanctioned a project on 'Development of molecular tools for exploitation of heterosis, yield and oil quality in sesame' with National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi, as one of the partners. The NBPGR component of the consortium aims at (a) development of high density integrated molecular linkage map using ISSR, AFLP, SSR and SNP markers; (b) mapping of genes for capsules per plant, seeds per capsule and earliness in sesame, and (c) identification of genes and engineering for high linolenic acid and lignans through auto-transgenic approach for enhancement of nutritional quality of seed oil. The project proposes to use the linkage disequilibrium mapping approach for identification and tagging of novel genes contributing towards higher capsule number to facilitate their exploitation in crop improvement programmes. The other partners have the responsibility to develop an effective male sterility system in sesame that can be commercialized for exploitation of heterosis.

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### Responsible harvesting and utilization of selected small pelagics and freshwater fishes

CIFT, Cochin, 4 February 2008. Prof P K Abdul Azis (Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University) launched the NAIP sub-project on 'Responsible harvesting and utilization of selected small pelagics and freshwater fishes'

having an outlay of Rs 97.1 million. Dr K Devadasan (Director, CIFT) presided over the meeting. Dr J P Mittal (National Co-ordinator, NAIP, ICAR) gave an overview of the objectives and implementation of NAIP project.

Shri M Nasser (Principal Scientist, CIFT and Consortium Principal Investigator) informed that project will be carried out in consortium mode with co-operative societies, public sector undertaking and private entrepreneurs as partners. Governmental Fisheries Departments, NGOs and private entrepreneurs also picture in the value chain proposed in this project. It envisages a multi-fold improvement in profitability and employment generation through product diversification, waste minimization and utilization, value-addition on intensive scale and effective marketing of products, based on market surveys and demand analysis and technological interventions. The project proposes to intervene in improving and optimizing the capture systems in the ring seine sector of the south-west coast of India; Dol net sector in the North-West coast; and the Gill net sector of selected reservoirs. Project also envisages development of value-added products from existing pelagic

resources like sardine, mackerel, anchovies and Bombay duck for commercial exploitation.

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### Launching of NAIP Project

Almora, 30 January 2008. Padmabhusan Sri Chandi Prasad Bhatt, Chairman of the Consortia Advisory Committee, emphasized on the need to identify the grass-root level problems and suggested solutions at the 2-day Launching Workshop on "Enhancement of livelihood security through sustainable farming systems and related farm enterprises in north-west Himalayas" under NAIP project at VPKAS, Almora on 29 January 2008. Scientists from all the partner institutions (SKUAST-K, SKUAST-J), CSKHPKV, GBPUAT, CSWCRTI, GBPIHED, IIT-D, BAIF, VPKAS) participated in the workshop. The Director of the institute and Consortia Leader Dr Hari Shanker Gupta gave brief introduction about the five selected districts viz., Kupwada and Doda (J&K), Chamba (Himachal Pradesh) and Tehri Garhwal & Champawat (Uttarakhand). Dr A P Srivastava focussed on the concept on which this project was drawn.

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### Awards

- The 12<sup>th</sup> Dr B P Pal Memorial Award for 2007 was awarded to Dr A K Singh (Senior Scientist, Division of Genetics, Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi) for his outstanding research contribution on 'Development of Basmati Rice through marker-aided selection'.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Hari Krishna Shastri Memorial Award for 2007 was awarded to Dr Mathura Rai (Director, Institute of Vegetables Research, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh)

for his outstanding research contribution on 'Plant Breeding with special reference to Vegetable Breeding'.

- Dr W S Lakra (Director, NBFGR, Lucknow) has been bestowed with Dr M S Swaminathan Best Indian Fisheries Scientist award, 2007 by PFGF. The award has been conferred in recognition of his outstanding contributions towards research and publications in fish genetics and biotechnology.

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### Niche areas of excellence programme supports agricultural universities

New Delhi. The Niche areas of Excellence programme started by ICAR with the objective of building excellence in specific strategic areas in education and research, provides support to agricultural universities for sustaining the regional, national and global advantage attained by them in one or at the maximum two niche areas of excellence. There are 28 niche areas excellence programme functioning at present in the country. Out of these, 14 programmes were added during 2007–08. Significant achievements made so far include arsenic toxicity management, resource conservation technologies, management of acidic soils, organic agriculture, integrated pest management, biofuel production and improvement quality fish production, hi-tech horticulture, genetic engineering for drought resistance, production of medicinal and aromatic plants/products, immuno-diagnostics, buffalo genomics, protected floriculture, nutraceuticals, functional fermented dairy products including biotics, improving water productivity, production of bioagents etc. This programme encourages building of excellence in a specific strategic area in education and research. The elements of niche areas of excellence include improving quality of human resource; developing adequate infrastructure, creating facilities to access to information; addressing attitude and commitment of faculty, staff, students; recognition and interaction with best of peer groups in India and abroad; shared vision and well developed educational technology system. Accordingly, the strategy for excellence building includes niche area identification i.e.

brand equity; management of facilities and faculty, limiting inbreeding; input generation both public and self; and establishing linkages, interfacing and collaboration.

### Experiential learning units for agriculture

Experiential Learning Units have been established for the first time in all the Agricultural Universities for providing experience-based and skill-oriented hands-on training to the agricultural graduates. The agricultural education now gets linked-up with building professionalism among graduates by transcending limited practical training in laboratories into comprehensive practice sessions involving every aspect of an agricultural enterprise from cultivation to consumption through these units. The ICAR so far has sanctioned total 183 Experiential Learning units for hands-on-training in 43 agricultural universities with an allocation of Rs 70.36 crores. The IV Deans Committee has also made a strong recommendation for inclusion of hands-on-training to under-graduate students. The programme has been well taken by the students, teachers and also by the entrepreneurs.

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### Training on rejuvenation of declining citrus orchards

NRC on Citrus, Shillong, 8 February 2008. Shri S Rahman (Director, Horticulture, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong) inaugurated a 3-day off-campus training programme on 'Rejuvenation of Declining Citrus Orchards', on 6 February 2008 at the Directorate of Horticulture, Government of Meghalaya under Technology Mission (MM-1) project of

Government of India, for the officers. It was organised by the National Research Centre for Citrus, Amravati Road, Nagpur, Maharashtra. Officers (20) from Horticulture Department representing different districts of Meghalaya participated in the programme.

Dr C O Rangad (Joint Director, Horticulture) said that we must take pride that first Citrus Gene Sanctuary of its kind in the world is located in Garo Hills of Meghalaya; many primitive forms of citrus species have originated in Meghalaya. But our orchards are still ailing due to one or other problems.

The highlights of the programme were: (i) Citrus decline and rejuvenation of declining orchards; (ii) Nursery management and production of disease-free planting material of citrus; (iii) Rejuvenation of citrus decline through nutrient management in north-east India; (iv) Insect pests of citrus in north-eastern region and their management; (v) Citrus disease management in NEH region; (vi) Viral disease management in NEH region; and (vii) Orchards establishment to avoid citrus decline. Resource persons were from NRC for Citrus, Nagpur (Maharashtra) and ICAR Research Complex for NEH, Umiam, Meghalaya. For practical demonstration, trainees were taken to east Khasi Hills areas, where young orchards and a few old orchards were selected for demonstrations.

The NRCC publications (10), extension bulletins (6) and technology calendars (4) were distributed to the officers.

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### Training of Para Extension Workers

NRCWA, Bhubaneswar. To increase the gender sensitivity of extension and improve the access of

the clientele to extension services a project— 'Designing gender sensitive extension model and testing its efficacy', was implemented at the National Research Centre for Women in Agriculture. The project incorporates ideal evaluation parameters like cost effectiveness, doorstep extension services, women empowerment, location-specific needs and susceptibility among the beneficiaries. The concept of women and men Para Extension Worker was developed and used in the above model. Eight Para Extension Workers selected from 4 villages representing irrigated and rainfed situations, participated in the study. The seasonal training for *kharif* and *rabi* was imparted to the Para Extension Worker to enhance their knowledge and upgrade their skills for meeting the gender needs under specific farming situations, monitoring and evaluation.

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### Model Training Course

NRC on Rapeseed Mustard, Bharatpur, 11 March 2008. An 8-day Model Training Course on 'Rapeseed-Mustard and other *rabi* oilseeds (Safflower and Linseed) Production Technology' was started on 4 March 2008 to realize the productivity potential of the country. The objective was to refresh and upgrade the knowledge and skill of extension personnel of the State Department of Agriculture. It was sponsored by the Directorate of Extension, Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi. Lectures-cum discussion sessions covered various aspects of recent and improved production, protection, seed production and post-harvest technologies. The practical sessions on the important aspects of *rabi* oilseeds production technology,

screening of video films and interaction with the farmers in the nearby villages helped the participants in enhancing their skill and knowledge. The participants were also provided with all relevant publications related to *rabi* oilseeds production technology.

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### Training on Instructional Technology

PDKV, Akola, 15 March 2008. Dr V.M. Mayande (Vice-Chancellor, Dr PDKV, Akola) inaugurated a 5-day training programme, organized by Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola, in collaboration with ICAR, New Delhi, on Instructional Technology on 11 March 2008.

Dr Mayande stressed upon the importance of instructional



technology, information and presentation skills in effective teaching. He also expressed upon command over language which is teaching media in agricultural universities. He further expected that a teacher should be well equipped with latest knowledge and information available on various web pages.

Dr D L Sale (Dean, Faculty of Agriculture) on this occasion expressed thanks to ICAR for its financial support and stressed that such trainings need to be organized from time to time.

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### Administrative and Accounts Training Programme

PDKV, Akola, 9 March 2008. Dr V M Mayande, (Vice Chancellor) inaugurated a 2-day Administrative and Accounts Training Programme at Dr K R Thakare Auditorium of PDKV, Akola, on 8 March 2008 under HRD for Technical Para-professionals and Administrative Staff which is a part of ICAR scheme 'Strengthening and Development of Agricultural Universities'. The training programme was especially organized for all Drawing and Disbursing Officers and ministerial staff members viz. Section Officers, Assistants, Senior Clerks and Section Assistants to bring awareness about various components of Maharashtra Civil Service Rules, Accounts Code, Delegation of Financial Powers, Right to Information, GPG/T.A Rules, Office Procedures, General Conditions of Services, Maharashtra Agricultural Universities Statute, Pay Fixation, Budget, Pension, Purchase and Store Procedure, Discipline and Conduct Rules etc. In all 282 participants attended the programme from various offices, schemes, departments, research stations, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, colleges and agriculture schools functioning under the jurisdiction of university.

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### International Training on Semen and Embryo Transfer in Goats

Makhdoom, 25 January 2008. A Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India sponsored 2-month International Training Programme on 'Semen and embryo transfer in goats.' It was organized for

3 Mongolian scientists at the Central Institute for Research on Goats, Makhdoom, under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme of the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. Various aspects of goat production in India were covered in the programme. The training programme covered management, housing, nutrition, health and reproductive biotechnologies with special reference to cryopreservation of semen and embryo, embryo transfer technologies, ultrasonographic technique for pregnancy diagnosis and modern biotechnologies including IVM, IVF, micromanipulation of embryos and other recent molecular techniques.

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### IPR Training

PDKV, Akola, 13 January 2008. Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyaapeeth, Akola has established Intellectual Property Commercialization and Consultancy Cell to boost up the IPR related activities for commercializing the various technologies, implements evolved by the Scientists'/ Researcher's of the University.

A 2-day IPR training for the faculty of the University was started at the main campus, Akola on 12 January 2008 with the funding from ICAR Central Assistance. This programme was organized separately for the 2 groups consisting of Director's and all the academic staff up to level of Assistant Professor, and all the technical staff including junior/senior research associates.

The participants were given the basic knowledge regarding IPR including patents, GI and designs by Dr V M Mayande, while Dr B Venkateshwarly, narrated the relevance of IPR in Biotechnology. Dr Dhumane presented the review of

patent system in India. The training programme was attended by 650 faculty members.

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### IPR issues in Horticulture: challenges and prospects

IIHR, Hessarraghatta, 8 March 2008. A 10-day course in IP issues related to horticulture was started at IIHR on 28 February 2008. Dr S Mauria (ADG, IP & Policy) inaugurated the course. The need to change in the post-WTO regime, amendments to the IPR laws made to harmonize with the trade related aspects of intellectual property, and the changes in ICAR and the IP framework, which was drawn up to rewarded innovators were highlighted.

The course consisted of 15 lectures covering Fundamentals of IPR, IPR in agriculture, horticulture, and plant breeding, the seed bill, plant-protection in horticulture, IPR and biodiversity, bioprospecting, TBGRI model of benefit sharing, case studies by IIHR, IPR in biotechnology, commercialization of innovations, prior art search, experiences of DUS, patent drafting, filing, infringement and defense, international agreements related to IPRs and knowledge society.

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### 42nd Annual Convention of ISAE

CIAE, Bhopal, 3 February 2008. Dr Mangala Rai (Secretary, DARE and Director-General, ICAR) inaugurated the 42nd Annual Convention of the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE) and National Symposium on 1 February 2008 at Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal.

He focused on the use of large quantities of available biomass being rejected and how those can be



Dr Managala Rai (DG, ICAR) interacting with Shri Sompal, Vice-Chairman, MP State Planning Commission.

converted into useful products by adding value to the agricultural produce in a holistic manner and generate wealth from the so called "Agricultural wastes".

Dr Mangala Rai also inaugurated a national exhibition and focused on mechanization of Indian agriculture wherein many equipment and instrument manufacturers displayed their products.

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### Training under National Horticulture Mission

IVRI, Izatnagar, 10 March 2008. A 6 days training programme on "Mushroom Production", sponsored by District Horticulture Office Under the National Horticulture Mission, was organized at KVK, on 5 March 2008.

A total of 50 youths comprising 22 rural women/girls participated. The organizer emphasized that mushroom production is emerging in India as a promising agro enterprise and getting very popular among the unemployed youths, farmers, rural laborers, housewives and small scale entrepreneurs as it is an ideal vocation and brings a return of 150% in just 45 days. Theory and practical demonstrations were organized on the different production technologies.

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### Electricity generation through camel draught

NRC on Camel, Bikaner, 23 February 2008. Dr Mangala Rai (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) inaugurated electricity generation and



agro-processing project through camel draught at the NRC on Camel, Bikaner. After seeing successful demonstration of the generation of electricity and operation of various domestic agro-processors, flour-mill and chaff cutter, Dr Mangala Rai appreciated collaborative efforts of the scientists of NRC on Camel, and Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur. He also said that in changing agricultural scenario inter-institutional linkages for promoting affordable eco-friendly techniques would greatly help in achieving targets of food security mission.

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### Foundation stone laid for KVK

KVK, Jammu, 14 February 2008. Hon'ble Chief Minister (Jammu and Kashmir), Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Pro-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, laid foundation stone of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) at village Tanda, Reasi. Presently KVK is in a rented building.

KVK building would be constructed in 6 months at an estimated cost of Rs 14.1 million with total plinth area of

1,290 m<sup>2</sup>. The proposed infrastructure would be having administrative building, farmers' hostel for 12 farmers, 6 set residential quarters for staff, and animal demonstration shed. The Government land was transferred to Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu, for the establishment of Krishi Vigyan Kendra at village Tanda, Reasi.  
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### Annual Cashew Day

NRC on Cashew, Puttur, 12 February 2008. The Annual Day of NRC for Cashew was held at Kemminje Campus of the Research centre. The programme was attended by about 350 farmers and other dignitaries. The farmers were taken to Demonstration of Technology Developed (DTD) plot, Soil and Water Conservation plot, Rejuvenation plot, Nursery, Museum (Exhibition) and Engineering Workshop to explain the different activities of the Research Centre.

Dr M G Bhat (Director of NRC on Cashew) presided over the meeting on "Technologies for Organic Production of Cashew" and said that the incidence of Tea Mosquito Bug (TMB) was low in organic cashew plot. He explained about recycling of cashew biomass for compost production. Dr Bhat requested the farmers to make best use of the technologies developed by NRC on Cashew.

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### Molecular biology laboratory inaugurated

CIFE, Kakinada, 18 February 2008. Dr S Ayyappan, (DDG, Fisheries, ICAR) inaugurated the Molecular Biology Laboratory of the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Kakinada Centre. He emphasized that the domestic market is as important

as the export market for the fisheries sector and, therefore, attention should be paid to its equal development. He also highlighted the need to focus on the metros and other cities in promoting fisheries and appreciated the efforts of the scientists of the Centre and suggested that the services to be extended to the farmers in early diagnosis of the diseases through this Molecular Biology Laboratory. Dr S Ayyappan also visited the Freshwater Fish Farm of the Centre at Balabhadrapuram, East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh. Dr Dilip Kumar (Director, CIFE, Mumbai) said that the Centre is conducting training programme for 1,000 farmers from Bihar, and soon a new batch of 400 farmers would also be undergoing the training at the Centre.

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### New shrimp seed multiplication centre

New Delhi, 20 March 2008. Indian shrimp farming is mainly based on black tiger shrimp, *Penaeus monodon*. While the pre-annual production through culture is of the order of 1.2 lakh tonnes, the main problem has been availability of quality seed. White spot syndrome virus disease has been a major problem. The bio-seed multiplication centre seed will produce seed free from this pathogen. A multi-billion shrimp seed multiplication centre is being established to produce pathogen-free seed shrimp. The Multiplication Centre will be established in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. It would bring genetically improved shrimp, SPF-shrimp, and production of about 3 million post-larvae at full capacity in about 3 years. This is expected to bring in an approach for quality seed management, enhanced productivity and profitability in Indian aquaculture.

## LAUNCHING PROJECTS/FACILITIES

An agreement for the above project was signed between the National Fisheries Development Board and Moana Technologies, Hong Kong at New Delhi in the presence of Hon'ble Shri Sharad Pawar (Union Minister for Agriculture, and Chairman of Governing Body of National Fisheries Development Board). He lauded the pioneering effort and said that this would greatly help the shrimp farmers in the years to come.

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### Food Processing Unit inaugurated

SVBPUA&T, Meerut, 2 February 2008. The Chief Guest, Dr S P Tewari (DDG, Education) inaugurated Food Processing Unit at the Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Meerut. On this occasion, Professor M P Yadav (Vice-Chancellor) chaired the inaugural function. He presented the progress report of the project and informed that the Food Processing Unit has been established with the total budget of Rs 5 million, sanctioned under the



Dr S.P. Tiwari (DDG, Education) addressing at the inauguration of Food Processing Unit.

project 'Model Agro-Processing System for Horticultural Produce'. He said that Food Processing Unit will be beneficial to students, scientists, entrepreneurs, and farmers for imparting practical training in processing of horticultural produce.

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### Class room-cum-examination hall complex inaugurated

SKUAST, Jammu, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Sh B R Kundal, Chief Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir State, inaugurated class room-cum-examination hall complex at Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, SKUAST, Jammu in the presence of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nagendra Sharma of this university.



The faculty members, staff and students felicitated the Chief Secretary. While addressing the gathering Mr Kundal described agriculture sector as the lifeline of this State and stressed on promoting livestock and agriculture sector which was main stay of State's economy as majority of State population was dependent directly or indirectly on agriculture sector. The Chief Secretary dedicated one sick animal carrier to the farmers, which would carry sick animals from their door step to Veterinary Referral Hospital of SKUAST-Jammu for their treatment on demand by doctors of this university.

Prof. Nagendra Sharma in his address enunciated that SKUAST-J was in the process of developing a mechanism by which the refinement of technologies would be done keeping in view special local needs. Class room-cum-examination hall complex building which was inaugurated today was constructed at a cost of Rs 2.39 crore.

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### Matsyakumari-II launched

Cochin, 4 January, 2008. Hon'ble Shri S S Sharma, Minister for Fisheries and Registration, Government of Kerala, presided over a function in which a new fisheries vessel, Matsyakumari-II, was launched by Smt Pratibha Pawar at the boat building yard of Kerala shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation Ltd., Cochin. The Chief Guest, Hon'ble Shri Sharad Pawar (Union Minister for Agriculture), and the Guest of honour, Dr Mangala Rai (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) also shared their vast experience on this occasion.

Dr K Devadasan, Director of the Institute, informed that this vessel was prepared by Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation Ltd., Cochin, and informed the gathering about the features of the vessel.

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### Memorandum of Understanding



Rajahmundry, 18 February 2008. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Registrars of two universities, viz. Central Institute of Fisheries Education and Adhikavi Nannaya University, Rajahmundry, at the CIFE, Mumbai in fisheries education, research and training. Dr S Ayyappan, DDG (Fisheries), ICAR, and CEO, National Fisheries Development Board, inaugurated the session and delivered a key note address.

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## TRAINING CALANDER

### ICAR-National Training Programme 2008 April-June 2008

Institutes/Date	Training Programmes	Eligibility
CIPHET, Ludhiana, 05-11 April, 2008	Processing of <i>Ber</i> for manufacturing Value Added Products	Students, rural youth, farm-women, technicians, extension workers, scientists, teachers of Universities, KVKs, NGOs, food processing industries and other organizations
CIAE, Bhopal, 07-11 April, 2008	Improved Agricultural tools, implements and equipments for increasing productivity and entrepreneurship development	Extension officers and Entrepreneurs
CIFT, Cochin 07-19 April, 2008	Training course on Modren CIFT, Cochin Analytical Techniques in Biochemistry	Fisheries Department officials, entrepreneurs and students
DOR, Hyderabad 12-14 April, 2008	43 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Rice Research Group Meeting, 2008	AICRP co-operators and Rice Researchers
IGKVV, Raipur 13-15 April, 2008	National Group Meet AICRP on Forage Crops, <i>Khariif</i> , 2008	Forage research scientists working in SAU's and other Institutes as network partner and personals engaged in forage and dairy research and development in government and other organizations
MPKV, Rahuri 14-30 April, 2008	Training course on Laboratory techniques for Microbiological Examination of Seafoods	Technologists
CIFT, Cochin 18-19 April, 2008	Group Meeting of Small Millets Scientists	Scientists of AICSMIP Centres
Agricultural College, Kolhapur 1-30 May, 2008	On the job training for trainee engineers	Trainee engineers
CIAE, Bhopal 15-21 May, 2008	Ginger, Garlic and Onion Powder Making Technology	Students, rural youth, farm-women, technicians, extension workers, scientists teachers of Universities, KVKs, NGO, food processing industries and other
CIPHET, Ludhiana 1st week May, 2008	Group Meet on AICRP on ICAR, New Delhi Underutilized Crops	Research workers on Underutilized Crops of Government NGOs.
College of Forestry & Hill Agriculture, GBPUAT Ranichauri 27-29 May, 2008	X All India Coordinated Research Project on Agrometeorology Workshop	Agrometeorologists, Agronomists, Climatologists
BCKV, Mohanpur 3rd week May, 2008	Annual Group Meeting of Sunflower and Castor	Personnel involved in research, development and extension on these crops from public and private sectors and NGOs.
PAU, Ludhiana 5-17 May, 2008	Training course on Fish Processing Innovations and Extension Methods	Fisheries department officials
CIFT, Cochin 02-30 June, 2008	On the job training for trainee engineers	Trainee engineers
CIAE, Bhopal 09-12 June, 2008	Training course on HACCP concepts	Fisheries department officials, entrepreneurs and students
CIFT, Cochin 11-17 June, 2008	Processing of Sunflower seeds and its By-Products Utilization	Students, rural youth, farm-women, technicians, extension workers, scientists, teachers of universities, KVKs, NGOs, food industries and other organizations
CIPHET, Ludhiana 16-21 June, 2008	Crab Breeding and Culture	Scientists, Researchers and Aquaculturists
CIBA, Chennai 25-30 June, 2008	Competency developemnt of Fishery Officers on new Policies for Sustainable Coastal Aquaculture Development	Scientists, Researchers and Aquaculturists
CIBA, Chennai June, 2008	Workshop on 'Agro-biodiversity of Jute and Allied Fibres'	Scientists Industrialists and any person related to Jute and Allied Fibres

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## TRAINING CALANDER

### ICAR-International Training Programme 2008 (April-June 2008)

Institutes	Date	Training Programme and Contact e mail address	Eligibility	Course fee
IARI, New Delhi	9 to 28 April 2008	Post-harvest supply chain and quality management of horticulture and arable crops e mail: director@iari.res.in	Graduate in Agriculture/ Engineering/Food Science/ Food Technology Science or any other degree with relevant field experience	US \$ 1, 250 per trainee
IVRI, Izatnagar	3 April to 30 May 2008	Anesthesia and Pain Management in Animals e mail: ivri@nicnt.nic.in	Bachelor's degree in veterinary science or equivalent qualification with at least 2 years experience in veterinary surgery/veterinary anesthesia	US \$ 2000 per trainee
NDRI, Karnal	2 weeks in June 2008	Technology of Milk and Milk Products e mail: sushil_5k@rediffmail.com	Dairy/Food Technology graduates, R&D personnel and Dairy/Food entrepreneurs with knowledge of written and spoken english	US \$ 2500 per trainee
NIANP, Bangalore	10 May to 30 June 2008	Recent techniques of field analysis and evaluation e mail: nianp@sancharnet.in	Post-graduate in Veterinary and Animal Sciences with 2 years of field or research experience	US \$ 3500 per trainee
NRC on Camel, Bikaner	3 weeks April 2008	Camel bio-energy and its utilization in arid eco-system e mail: nrccamel@hub.nic.in	Scientists and Technical Officers working on the relevant field	US \$ 1250 per trainee
CIFT, Cochin	23 to 28 April 2008	Energy efficient and eco-fruit fish drying	B.Sc in Chemistry/Zoology/ Biology/Fisheries/Aquaculture or equivalent	US \$ 500 per trainee excluding boarding and lodging
IASRI, New Delhi	5 to 24 June 2008	Early warning system for food security e mail: director@iasri.res.in	Graduate with adequate knowledge of computers	US \$ 1250 per trainee
PD on FMD, Mukteswar	1 to 15 April 2008	FMD diagnosis and serotyping using serological and molecular techniques e mail: pdfmd 111@gmail.com	Any personnel in government and private sectors involved in FMD research in SAARC	US \$ 4000 per trainee
MPUAT, Udaipur	6 weeks May-June 2008	Indian Ethnic Design for Apparels and Textile made ups in global perspective e mail: vc_mpuat@yahoo.co.in	Bachelors and Masters Degree	US \$ 4000 per trainee
GBPUA&T, Pantnagar	18 to 23 June 2008	Vegetable seed production processing and marketing e mail: karnal_p_singh@rediffmail.com	Assistant/Associate Professor/ Research Scientists engaged in Research/Teaching/Extension activity	US \$ 1250 per trainee (exclusive of travel cost boarding and lodging)
GBPUA&T, Pantnagar	18 to 23 June 2008	Cultivation and utilization of medicinal and Aromatic plants e mail: karnal_p_singh@rediffmail.com	Assistant/Associate Professor/ Research Scientists engaged in Research/Teaching/Extension activity	US \$ 1250 per trainee

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**Editing: Dr Sudhir Pradhan Production: V.K. Bharti and K B Gupta Art: Narendra Bahadur**

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Convocation at Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Vidyapeeth

PDKV, Akola, 5 February 2008. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Convocation of Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola was presided over by Dr V M Mayande (Vice Chancellor) and the Chief Guest was Dr Satya Prakash Tiwari (Deputy Director-General, Education, ICAR).



In his convocation address Dr S P Tiwari said that ICAR supports the agriculture universities in achieving of the set targets which ICAR has incorporated with new Niche Areas of Excellence programme and provided necessary funds to realise them.

In this convocation the degrees were conferred upon 900 grandaunts in different categories. Total Medals and Prizes awarded during the convocation were 55 in all faculties amongst which 21 were Gold Medals, 13 Silver Medals, 18 Cash Prizes and 3 Prizes in Shape of Books were awarded to Granaunts and Staff.

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## Personnel

### Appointments

- Dr Dipak Sarkar has joined as Director, National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land-use Planning, Nagpur, on 8 January 2008.
- Dr Nazeer Ahmad, has joined as Director, Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar.

## Retirements

- Dr H S Sen, Director, Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore, retired on 31 January, 2008.
- Dr Om Prakash, Project Co-ordinator (Sub-tropical Fruits), Central Institute of Sub-tropical Horticulture, retired on 31 January, 2008.
- Dr A D Diwan, ADG (Marine Fisheries), ICAR (Hq), retired on 31 January, 2008.
- Dr R C Upadhyya, Principal Scientist ICAR (Hq), retired on 31 January 2008.
- Dr C R Hazra, Vice-Chancellor, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Raipur, retired on 31 January 2008.
- Dr Sushil Kumar, Director (NDRI), Karnal, retired on 31 March 2008. He has also worked as an ADG at ICAR (Hq.).

## Protocol Activities

### VIP delegations

- His Excellency Mr Salom Simhon, Agriculture Minister of Israel, visited Regional Research Station, Jaisalmer, Central Arid Zone Research Institute along with a delegation of 24 members. He also visited NDRI, Karnal on 20 January 2008 and IARI, New Delhi on 21 January 2008 along with delegates.
- His Excellency Mr Nun Dun, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, People's Republic of China, visited IARI, New Delhi on 29 February, 2008 along with a delegation.

### Delegations abroad

- Dr Sanjeev Moothandassery Sankarakutty (CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram) visited Tuskegee Institute, USA, from 28 January to 10 March 2008, for training in 'Extrusion Technology for Producing Novel Foods and Industrial Products from Tuber Starches' for the Norman E. Borlaug Fellowship under Indo-US

Agricultural Knowledge Initiative.

- Dr S Rajan (Principal Scientist, CISH, Lucknow) visited Muscat, Oman on 29 January, 2008, to participate in the Workshop as an expert on mango.
- Dr Gurbachan Singh (Director, CSSRI, Karnal) visited Iowa University, USA for participating in workshop on 'Water harvesting for groundwater recharge and bio-drainage for salinity control' from 20 to 29 February, 2008.

### Delegations hosted

- Dr Suzan Sanad and Dr Abeer Samir Arafah from Agricultural Research Centre, Egypt visited the CIRCOT, Mumbai, and the CICR, Nagpur, from 1 to 14 February 2008, in "Cotton quality assessment and cotton processing".
- Dr Hussan El Adly and Dr Fikry Sayed Hamed from Agricultural Research Centre, Egypt visited CIRCOT, Mumbai and CICR, Nagpur from 1 to 14 February 2008, in the field of "Cotton improvement and cotton production".

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