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सचिव एवं महानिदेशक

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Dear Colleagues,

Greetings and Hearty Congratulations to all of you on the eve of 92nd Foundation day of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the leading and premier organization of agricultural research, education and extension in India. We are proud that ICAR has completed its glorious nine decades of establishment and entered into centenary decade. The role of ICAR in enabling green revolution is recognized. Further, in order to sustain production and productivity, and enable 'Right to Food' for all citizens of the country, ICAR strives to gear up its real-time R&D process and value chain development, while providing solutions to farmers' problems.

I am delighted to share that during last one year, ICAR has taken several new initiatives and undertaken reforms (administrative, financial and scientific) to make the organization more transparent and responsible. Our research institutes have worked exceptionally hard to develop landmark varieties and several new technologies for the benefit of farmers. Our focus has been not just to increase production; we also made several efforts to contribute to ensuring nutritional security of our people. For instance, during the last one year, we developed 144 crop varieties including 97 climate-resilient and 12 biofortified varieties. For the first time, we gazette-notified 197 indigenous animal breeds providing a focus on their conservation and improvement. Another milestone has been producing 7 copies of M29 buffalo bull through cloning. Under the National Animal Disease Control Programme, we did develop a set of vaccines including that of Brucellosis, and our efforts continue towards FMD Mukta Bharat. In our efforts towards blue revolution, we developed breeding and broodstock technology for 5 food fishes and 13 ornamental fishes. As a research organization, it is a matter of pride that NABIM (Mau) Culture Collection has been recognized as the International Repository Authority under the Budapest Treaty. Implementation of NAHEP benefitted agricultural students as well as faculty, and intensified our efforts in skilling students for entrepreneurship through Student READY program.

Our KVKs have been transformed into a single-window system for various specialty services including digital advisories, quality seeds and planting materials, soil testing, vaccination and diagnostic services to manage animal diseases, and also assessing fish quality. To strengthen the services, all the KVKs have been linked to 3.3. Lakh Common Service Centres to reach out to as many farmers as possible. We also participated in the national programmes such as Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan, Jal Shakti

Abhiyan, Tree Plantation Campaign, etc and benefitted lakhs of famers. To run-through digital agriculture, we developed Seed Portals, Digital Database on Weeds, Integrated Mobile App, etc.

ICAR earlier joined hands with other science departments such as DBT, CSIR, ICMR and ICFRE to work on national priorities and high science. To magnify our translational efforts, we did sign MoUs with NABARD, MANAGE, NCDC, IFFCO, ASCI and ICICI Foundation. Beyond borders, we signed MoUs with WorldVeg (AVRDC), Heinrich Keim University (Germany) and Donald Danforth Plant Science Centre (USA) for advanced research and development in genetic enhancement of crops.

ICAR organized two mega international events during last year. We were fortunate to have Hon'ble Prime Minister as the Chief Guest in the Global Potato Conclave held at Gandhinagar. Field day organized as part of this Conclave was a novelty and well received by industry and farmers. Another one was the 8th International Conference on Agricultural Statistics in November 2019; Mr. Bill Gates addressed the global academia and practitioners of agricultural statistics in this Conference held at New Delhi.

As a responsible organization, the ICAR stood by the farmers and the country during the COVID-19 pandemic. We issued advisories and innovative solutions for the farmers, fishermen, animal herd managers and also industry both during lockdown and post-lockdown periods. FAO appreciated and included our advisories in their advisory protocol during pandemic, particularly that of the fisheries sector. Four of our ICAR Institutes were involved in COVID testing; till date, we have tested over 66000 samples. I specially thank all those who were involved in the process of managing this pandemic at our Institutions, KVKs and ICAR HQ.

Colleagues, we are progressing steadily by involving each individual working in the Council. Our achievements during the last five years was recently presented before the Hon'ble Prime Minister, which was appreciated. However, there are several formidable challenges before us. We need to gear up our pace for building ICAR to be a global organization while also continue to contribute to the expectations of the country in building the Atmanirbhar Bharat. In doing so, it is our earnest duty to equip the farmers with adequate information and technology to take our mission forward i.e. science-led agriculture for development.

I once again convey my best wishes to you and your family members for standing by the organization's commitment for the benefit of the farmers and the Nation.

Stay Safe.

Jai Hind.

Sincerely yours,



(T Mohapatra)