



सत्यमेव जयते

डॉ. हिमांशु पाठक

सचिव, एवं महानिदेशक

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कृषि अनुसंधान और शिक्षा विभाग एवं
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION (DARE)
AND

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Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

Heartiest greetings and best wishes to you and your family for a healthy, happy, active and prosperous New Year 2023.

The Year 2022 was satisfying for the National Agricultural Research, Education and Extension System (NAREES) including Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs). We recovered from the COVID-19 shocks and made significant achievements and reforms. Towards the nation's food and nutrition security, 467 varieties of field crops and 122 varieties of horticultural crops have been released by ICAR during this year, which include 23 varieties developed through marker-assisted selection and 18 biofortified varieties.

Our efforts for the conservation of indigenous breeds continued with 10 more indigenous livestock species registered in 2022 making the total registered breeds to 212. Animal health management especially those of new and emerging diseases has been our special focus. During the year, Ancovax vaccine for SARS-CoV2 infection in animals; Lumpi-ProVac^{Ind} vaccine for Lumpy Skin Disease, Inactivated Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H9N2) vaccine for chickens; and Thermostable serotype 'O' vaccine for FMD were developed along with highly sensitive diagnostic methods against several diseases.

In fisheries, we developed breeding and seed production technologies for 3 fish species; vaccines against Edwardsiellosis & Columnaris; novel formulation 'OoNIL' for Saprolegnia & Oomycetes control; and a novel seaweed-based nutraceutical CadalminTM LivCure extract against non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

Advancing the digital applications, a web-GIS tool for location-specific riverine fisheries management, eHRMS, ICAR-DARPAN Dashboard, Land Record Management Information System, KISAN SARATHI, and NePPA were developed. Innovations in climate resilience, nature-friendly farming, diversified agriculture and integrated farming for augmenting productivity and farmers income have been our thrust areas. Our machineries are getting wider acceptance for various on-farm operations as well as post-harvest processing and value addition. Our mechanical interventions have brought down the incidence of rice residue burning significantly.

National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) has been implemented in 62 state agricultural universities to augment the quality of higher education and bring excellence in agriculture. Year 2022 also witnessed 650 partnership agreements for agribusiness activities with 442 public and private organizations and entrepreneurs including 80 agreements for consultancy/contract research and services.

The KVKs strength reached to 731 with 7 more KVKs added in 2022. The KVKs assessed 6,198 technological options at 14,155 locations including 371 farm women friendly technologies; trained 21.16 lakh farmers; disseminated improved technologies amongst 160.38 lakh farmers and provided 1.76 lakh quintal quality seeds of crops and 497.4 lakh quality planting materials to the farmers.

We conducted people intensive 18 national and over 150 sectoral campaigns with more than 14 lakh participants under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM). The book 'Indian Agriculture after Independence', documentation of success stories of 75,000 farmers on doubling farmers income and 75 lectures series on agriculture by eminent scientists and scholars were the key accomplishments of ICAR under AKAM.

Our endeavor towards convergence and linkages spread to CSIR, ICMR, DST, DBT, Ayush Ministry and other organizations. ICAR renewed its work plan with CIMMYT, CIP and ILRI during the year. The regional cooperation elevated with India hosting the 7th India-ASEAN and 2nd BIMSTEC Agriculture Ministerial Meeting organized by ICAR/DARE. ICAR actively participated in organizing 9th Governing Body of ITPGRFA and G-20 MACS-2022. As a key partner in International Year of Millets activities, ICAR actively contributed in a number of millet promotional activities during the year.

The year witnessed constitution of new Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB) that enabled an efficient selection of various positions. More than 70 research management positions (RMP) got filled and process for recruitment of non-RMP positions, new ARS, technical and administrative staff also started.

DARE/ICAR stands committed to provide technologies for a resilient agri-food system in the country. I am confident that our collective efforts to excel shall lead to generation of new technologies and innovations for nation building. On the eve of the New Year, let us resolve to work with dedication in the spirit of one ICAR to make it a vibrant, integrated and self-reliant organization of global repute through outcome-oriented, project-based and delivery-focused research, education and extension for better future of the people and the planet.

My best wishes for the New Year 2023.

(Himanshu Pathak)