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Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration goes to NCIPM Project

New Delhi, 21 April 2015. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, conferred the 'Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration' (2012-13) to Crop Pest Surveillance and Advisory Project (CROPSAP) for pest management in major crops in Maharashtra. A collaborative initiative



project, CROPSAP, was undertaken by the National Centre for Integrated Pest Management (NCIPM) and Commissionerate of Agriculture, Pune in the backdrop of severe pest outbreak on soybean crop during 2008-09 in Maharashtra that resulted into crop losses over an area of 9 lakh ha. Since regular and wide area pest monitoring is the cornerstone for pest management so to automate and speed up the process of pest monitoring, NCIPM designed and developed a three tier architecture-based system of pest monitoring called 'e-Pest surveillance and advisory system'. System also has the provision for submission of pest management advisory to be disseminated to farmers through SMSs. The system was implemented in Maharashtra covering area of 112.19 lakh ha under rice, soybean, cotton, pigeonpea and chickpea crops. Use of ICT in pest monitoring helped in providing prompt and reliable pest reports to the concerned agencies on real time basis so as to provide timely and correct advisory to the farmers and thus confirmed the operation of effective monitoring. Since inception of the project there has been no outbreak of any major pest in the mandated crops. Number of farmers enrolled for SMS service doubled, advisories issued increased by 4.63-fold number of SMSs increased by 11.30-fold and shift towards use of bio-pesticides increased by 1.57-fold.

On behalf on the Project Sri Prabhakar Deshmukh, the then Commissioner of Agriculture, Maharashtra received the award on Ninth Civil Services Day held on 21 April 2015 organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances.

Union Minister for Agriculture inaugurates 'Insect Gallery and Exhibition Centre' at NBAIR



Bengaluru, 2 April 2015. The Union Agriculture Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated 'Insect Gallery and Exhibition Centre' and visited 'Insectarium', which is opened for

farmers to know about destructive and useful insects, besides 'Insect Museum', in which houses insects collected in last 50 years. He also released a folder on *Tuta absoluta*, a new invasive pest to tomato and many other crops in India. He stressed that

each of the ICAR's State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras should adopt one village, which should be supported by a group of scientists to uplift farming community and learn from farmers about problem prevailing in their farms. He also urged Vice-Chancellors of Universities of Agricultural, Horticultural and Veterinary and Fisheries Sciences to introduce a short-term course where students adopt a farmers and this should become important part of their curriculum. He also urged that 'Traditional Farming' and 'Jaivik Kheti' may be implemented in phased manner, to start with 50 acres and 50 farmers at district level.

Dr Abraham Verghese (Director, NBAIR) briefed about the recent achievements of the Institute.

XXX Annual Group Meeting of AICRP – National Seed Project (Crops)

Mau, 3 April 2015. Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) inaugurated XXX Annual Group Meeting of AICRP – National Seed Project (Crops) at Directorate of Seed Research. Dr Ayyappan emphasized contribution of All India Coordinated Research Project on Seeds Research Programme – NSP (Crops) in accelerating varietal replacement rate (VRR) and seed replacement rate (SRR) in varied field crops. The Directorate of Seed Research in collaboration with various SAUs/ ICAR Institutes should devise apt plan for export of quality seeds to SAARC, BRIC, BIMSTEC, ASEAN and African countries. Dr Ayyappan urged to develop climate resilient seed production technologies to mitigate adverse effect of climate change.

Dr S. Rajendra Prasad (Project Director, DSR, Mau) presented achievements in Breeder Seed Production and Seed Technological Research made under AICRP – National Seed Project (Crops) during 2014-15. The IARI Regional Station, Karnal was adjudged as the best Breeder Seed Production (BSP) centre, whereas, MPKV, Rahuri was awarded as the best Seed Technological Research centre.

Crop Residues Management Unit's building at IIVR

Varanasi, 2 April 2015. Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) inaugurated the Crop Residues Management Units building at the Indian Institute of Vegetable Research. Dr Ayyappan emphasized on the ill-effects of residue burning in the field and stressed on the adoption of organic

farming for vegetable cultivation. He urged for enhanced focus on 'Per Drop, More Crop', 'Farmers First', 'Mera Gaon, Mera Gaurav' and 'Attracting Rural Youth in Agriculture. A 'Krishi Paricharcha' on



'Crop Waste Management: Role of Women' was also organized on the occasion. Smt. Durgawati Devi, Gram Pradhan, Jayapur (village adopted by Hon'ble Prime Minister) Varanasi presided over the function.

Dr B. Singh (Director, IIVR) informed the farmers about the importance of residue management in sustainable agricultural production. Vegetable seedlings of bottle-gourd, pumpkin, cucumber and sponge-gourd along with *Trichoderma* powder for kitchen garden were also distributed to the farm households. On this occasion, 35 extension folders, a technical bulletin on *sabjiyon me keetna shakon ke prayog ke evivaranika* and maiden issue of 'Vegetable e-Newsletter' were also released.

Meat Processing Unit's building at NRC on Meat



Hyderabad, 5 April 2015. Dr S. Ayyappan (Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR) inaugurated the newly constructed building of Meat Processing Unit at National Research Centre on Meat. He

lauded the research efforts of the Centre in the area of meat species identification, traceability, identification of peptide biomarkers, residue analysis which are of great importance to ensure the safety and quality of meat. He stressed the need for adding value to meat, greening of meat sector and the importance of protein requirement in consumer diets.

Stakeholders Interface Meeting at National Research Centre on Orchids



Pakyong, 4 April 2015. The IIIrd Interface Meeting with Stakeholders of National Research Centre on Orchids was organized. Shri A. K. Srivastava expressed his concern about loss of biodiversity and climate changes and stressed upon judicious utilization of our natural resources keeping in view of future generations. Dr Avasthe (Joint Director) said that upcoming orchid industry in Sikkim and other north-eastern India can be helpful in creating livelihood and employment opportunities in rural areas. Prof. Srivastava stressed the need for mechanization of hill agriculture including post-harvest handling and value addition through packaging and flower drying.

Dr D. R. Singh (Director, NRC on Orchids) highlighted the technologies, varieties and products developed by centre and also put forward his vision for commercialization of orchid in the state. He also urged other organizations with similar goals to join the hands for protection of precious orchid wealth. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss various issues related to orchid conservation and commercialization in north-eastern states including Sikkim. Sixty-five participants from central and state government organizations, progressive orchid growers from Sikkim and Darjeeling District, West Bengal attended the meeting.

Union Minister of State for Micro-, Small- and Medium-Enterprises visits CIRG

Makhdoom, 16 April 2015. The Union Minister of State, Micro-, Small- and Medium- Enterprises (MSME), Shri Giriraj Singh, visited various livestock units, laboratories, agriculture farm area of the Institute. He planted *Amla* tree near the laboratory building complex of the institute. The Union Minister of State (MSME) emphasized on goat husbandry for the nutritional security, rural employment and prosperity to the millions of farmers in the country. The Union Minister of State (MSME) addressed the gathering of scientists and other guests present during the meeting and said that there is a shortage of green fodder to the tune of 40-50% which needs to be addressed through a fodder revolution in the country. The work on *Moringa oleifera* biomass based complete feed technology is an initiative in this direction to fulfill the gap in the availability of green fodder to the livestock in the country. The Minister appreciated the progress and maintenance of the institute under the leadership of Director and support of ICAR.



Dr S. Ayyappan (DG, ICAR) called upon the scientists and policy planners to ensure PPP i.e. protein, *paisa* and prestige to the farmers in the country. Dr K.M.L. Pathak (DDG, Animal Science) congratulated staff of CIRG for overall progress of the Institute and said that technology generated by the scientists in the institute will soon be reaching to the farmers through various ICAR institutions by encouraging plantation of *Moringa oleifera* and promoting use of its leaves as source of green fodder/ nutrition to the livestock.

Soil and Water Conservation and Watershed Management Certificate Course

Dehra Dun, 22 April 2015. The Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation started 112th batch of 4-month regular training programme 'Certificate Course on Soil and Water Conservation, and Watershed Management' for 22 officers belonging to Asom, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Uttarakhand at Dehra Dun. Dr P.K. Mishra (Director, IISWC) guided them to maintain high image of soil and water conservation research institute and also to continue the tradition of transfer of learning from research organization to ultimate users. He was keen to make an ideal group of trainees not more than 25. Focus will be on participatory integrated watershed management. In addition, Remote Sensing, GPS, GIS and other latest techniques will be advocated to train the officers. Local watershed project exercise will be conducted under the guidance of well experienced scientists of the institute. Interactive lectures, experiential learning, participatory approaches will be followed by the resource persons. Special lectures from outside research organisations shall be delivered. Successful watershed cases will be visited for getting exposure.

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