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Introduction

Brief History

The Institute made a modest beginning in 1930 as a small Statistical Section in the then Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to assist the State Departments of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in planning their experiments, analysis of experimental data, interpretation of results and also rendering advice on the formulation of the technical programmes and examining the progress reports of the schemes funded by the Council. The activities of the Section increased rapidly with the appointment of Dr. PV Sukhatme as Statistician to the Council in 1940 and researches were initiated for developing objective and reliable methods for collecting yield statistics of principal food crops. The efficiency and practicability of these methods was demonstrated in different States for estimating yield by crop cutting experiments. The result was such that, in the course of a few years, the method was extended practically to the entire country to cover all principal food and non-food crops.

Research in sampling theory and training of field and statistical staff were the activities initiated in this period resulting in the re-organization of the Statistical Section into a Statistical Branch in 1945 with appropriate expansion in its strength. The designation of Statistician was changed to Statistical Advisor. The Statistical Branch was renamed as Statistical Wing in 1949. The Statistical Wing soon acquired international recognition as a centre for research and training in the field of Agricultural Statistics. During 1952 on the recommendations of two FAO experts, Dr. Frank Yates and Dr. DJ Finney, who visited the Council on the invitation of the Government of India, activities of the Statistical Wing were further expanded and diversified. Subsequently, in recognition of its important role as a training and research institution, the Statistical Wing was re-designated as the Institute of Agricultural Research Statistics (IARS) on 02 July, 1959. An important landmark in the development of the Institute was the installation of an IBM 1620 Model-II Electronic

Computer in 1964. Another major land mark for the Institute was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi in 1964, consequent to which new courses leading to M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Agricultural Statistics were started in collaboration with IARI in October, 1964. In April 1970, the Institute was declared as a full-fledged Institute in the ICAR system and is since then headed by a Director. On 01 January, 1978 the name of the Institute was changed to Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) emphasizing the role of 'Agricultural Statistics' as a full fledged discipline by itself.

The main thrust of the Institute is to conduct basic, applied and adaptive research in Agricultural Statistics and Computer Application, to develop trained manpower and to disseminate knowledge and information produced so as to meet the methodological challenges of agricultural research and also to improve the quality of agricultural research in the country. Through the untiring and concerted efforts of the scientists, the Institute has made its presence felt in the National Agricultural Research System (NARS). The Institute is also becoming progressively a repository of information on agricultural research data and has taken a lead in the country in developing a data warehouse on agricultural research data. The Institute also occupies a place of pride in the National Agricultural Statistics System and has made several important contributions in the strengthening of the National Agricultural Statistics System, which have a direct impact on the national policies. The methodology for agricultural crop insurance based on small area statistics is one of the recent important contributions of the Institute.

As the activities of the Institute started expanding in all directions, the paraphernalia also started expanding. Two more buildings "Computer Centre" and "Training-cum-Administrative Block" were constructed in the campus of the Institute in the years 1976 and 1991, respectively. A third generation computer Burroughs B-4700 system was installed in March, 1977. A large number of computer programs for specific problems as also general purpose application softwares were developed. The Burroughs B-4700 system was replaced in 1991 by a Super Mini COSMOS-486 LAN Server with more than hundred nodes consisting of PC/AT's, PC/XT's and dumb terminals all in a LAN environment. Later, COSMOS-486 LAN Server was

replaced by a PENTIUM-90 LAN Server having state-of-art technology with UNIX operating system. Computer laboratories equipped with PCs, terminals and printers, etc. had been set up in each of the six Scientific Divisions as well as in the Administrative Wings of the Institute.

For undertaking research in the newer emerging areas, a laboratory on Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) was created in the Institute. The laboratory was equipped with latest state-of-art technologies like computer hardware and peripherals, Global Positioning System (GPS), software like ER Mapper, PC ARC/INFO, Microstation 95, Geo-media Professional, ARC/INFO Workstation, ERDAS Imagine with the funds received through two AP Cess Fund projects. This computing facility has further been strengthened with the procurement of ARC-GIS software under NATP programme.

The LAN at IASRI has steadily been strengthened and the three buildings of IASRI have been connected using fiber optics cable as backbone and connectivity has been established for 265 nodes, of which 208 are active nodes, the LAN being switch manageable. LAN has been extended to National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP), an ICAR Institute located in the IASRI Campus. E-mail and Internet facilities are being provided to the scientists/technical/administrative staff of IASRI and NCAP. The Intranet services consisting of E-mail, notice board, details of the account holders, search facility, etc. are also available over the LAN to all the users. The notice board facility is being used for information dissemination among the users of the Institute.

Keeping pace with the emerging technologies in the area of Information Technology (IT), from the year 1998 onwards the computer hardware and software have been constantly upgraded/replaced with newer platforms, new software and upgrades. Currently the internet services are being provided through three secure servers, two of them being high-end servers with multiple CPU capabilities on a 2 Mbps leased line with 1.5 Mbps band width provided under the NATP projects. The computing environment in the Institute has latest PCs, note book computers, laser printers both colour and B/W, ink jet printers, scanners, CD-writers and video projectors. Software packages that are needed for application development, statistical data analysis, network securities, etc. are being made available to the scientists and staff of the Institute. Some

of the important softwares that are available in the Institute are SAS, SPSS, SYSTAT, GENSTAT, GLIM, Data warehouse software-Cognos, SPSS clementine, Irwin, MS Office, MS Office 2000, MS Visual Studio, Macro-Media, MS Project, STAR3, E-views, Gauntlet Active Firewall, Trend Micro Antivirus, etc. The latest versions of software package STATISTICA NEURAL NETWORKS, Gauss Software, Minitab 14, Maple 9.5, Eviews Std 5.0, Systat, Statistica, Sigma Plot and Lingo Super have been recently added to the library of software packages. All the administrative and accounts sections of the Institute have been provided with PCs, printers and UPS.

The Institute continued to provide selective information documentation services to scientists in the ICAR Institutes and Agricultural Universities on references to documents relating to areas of their specific interest. The bibliographic databases in Biotechnology and Animal Science Research are being maintained in the Bio-Informatics Laboratory providing Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) services on VETCD, BEASTCD and AGRICOLA databases of the Food and Agriculture Organisation under United Nations.

The Institute functioned as a Centre of Advanced Studies in Agricultural Statistics and Computer Application during October, 1983 to March, 1992 under the aegis of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This programme aimed at developing a Centre of Excellence with adequate infrastructure and facilities to undertake advanced training programmes and to carry out research on various aspects of Agricultural Statistics and Computer Application. Under this programme, a number of distinguished statisticians and computer experts from abroad visited the Institute with a view to interacting with the scientists of the Institute, giving seminars/lectures and suggesting improvements in the research programmes of the Institute.

A course leading to M.Sc. degree in Computer Application in Agriculture was initiated from the session 1985-86, which was subsequently changed to M.Sc. (CA) from the session 1993-94. The Institute has so far produced 156 Ph.D. and 268 M.Sc. students in the discipline of Agricultural Statistics and 67 M.Sc. students in the discipline of Computer Application.

For the benefit of statisticians and other workers for whom the knowledge of statistics is essential, the Institute had been organizing four professional courses

in statistics namely Professional Statisticians' Certificate Course (PSCC), Senior Certificate Course (SCC), Junior Certificate Course (JCC) and Post Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Statistics. The PSCC and SCC courses were of one year duration while JCC was of six months duration. The Post Graduate Diploma Course was of one year duration, in which the students were required to conduct research for one year. These courses were providing a linkage of the Institute with State Departments of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. Due to some reasons these courses were discontinued. In view of growing demand from various quarters, the Institute revived the Senior Certificate Course in 'Agricultural Statistics and Computing' in 1997 with appropriate changes in the course curriculum keeping in view the demand of trained manpower in Agricultural Statistics having adequate knowledge in Computer Application.

The Institute has achieved international recognition for its high quality research and teaching work in the field of Agricultural Statistics and Computer Application. A number of research workers from the Institute have served as consultants and advisors in Asian, African and Latin American countries. Also, a number of statisticians and students of the Institute are at present occupying high positions in universities and other academic and research institutions of USA, Canada and other countries.

The Standing Finance Committee has approved the X Plan budget of the Institute. The total outlay of Rs. 825 lakhs has been sanctioned under the X Plan budget of the Institute. The committee also approved the proposal of having a common RAC and QRT of IASRI and NCAP as both the Institutes being located at the same campus.

Organisational Set-up

The Institute has following six Divisions, one unit and a cell to undertake research, training, consultancy, documentation and dissemination of scientific output:

Divisions

- Sample Survey
- Design of Experiments
- Biometrics
- Forecasting Techniques
- Econometrics
- Computer Applications

Unit

- Research Co-ordination and Management

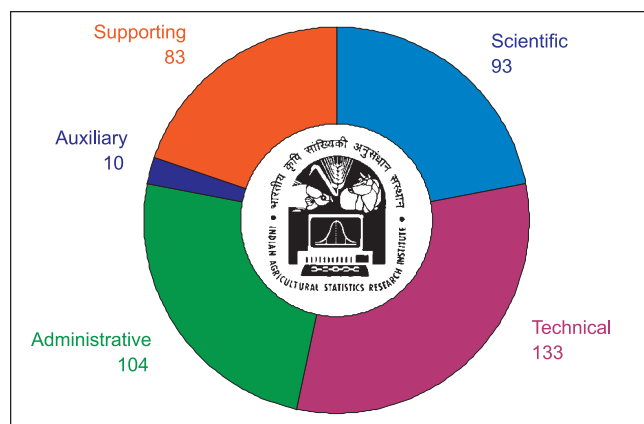
Cell

- Training Administration

Staff Position (as on 31.03.2005)

Sr. No.	Manpower	No. of posts sanctioned	No. of posts filled
1.	Director	1	1
2.	Joint Director	1	1
3.	Scientific	130	91
4.	Technical	248	133
5.	Administrative	110 (3*)	104
6.	Auxiliary	14	10
7.	Supporting	98	83
	Total	602 (3*)	423

*After reduction the cadre strength of three administrative posts (three Steno Grade-III) would be effective from the date of superannuation.



Staff Strength in Position as on 31 March 2005

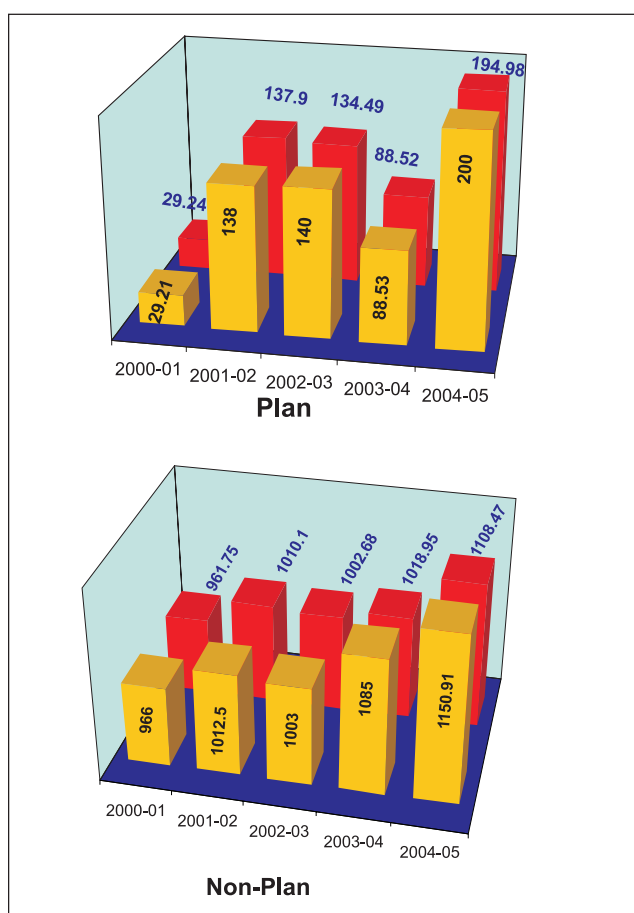
Financial Statement

Through regular monitoring, the Institute was able to ensure optimal utilization of funds available in the budget. The actual utilization of the budget both under the plan and non-plan is furnished below:

Budget Allocation vis-à-vis Utilization (2004-05)

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Head of Account	Allocation		Expenditure	
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
Establishment charges	-	989.30	-	963.63
Overtime allowance	-	0.90	-	0.90
Traveling expenses	5.25	3.75	5.24	3.73
Other charges	147.95	110.00	142.53	93.71
Works	45.00	21.90	45.41	21.87
Fellowships etc.	1.80	25.06	1.80	24.63
Grand Total	200.00	1150.91	194.98	1108.47



Budget for the years from 2000-2001 to 2004-2005 (Rupees in lakh)

