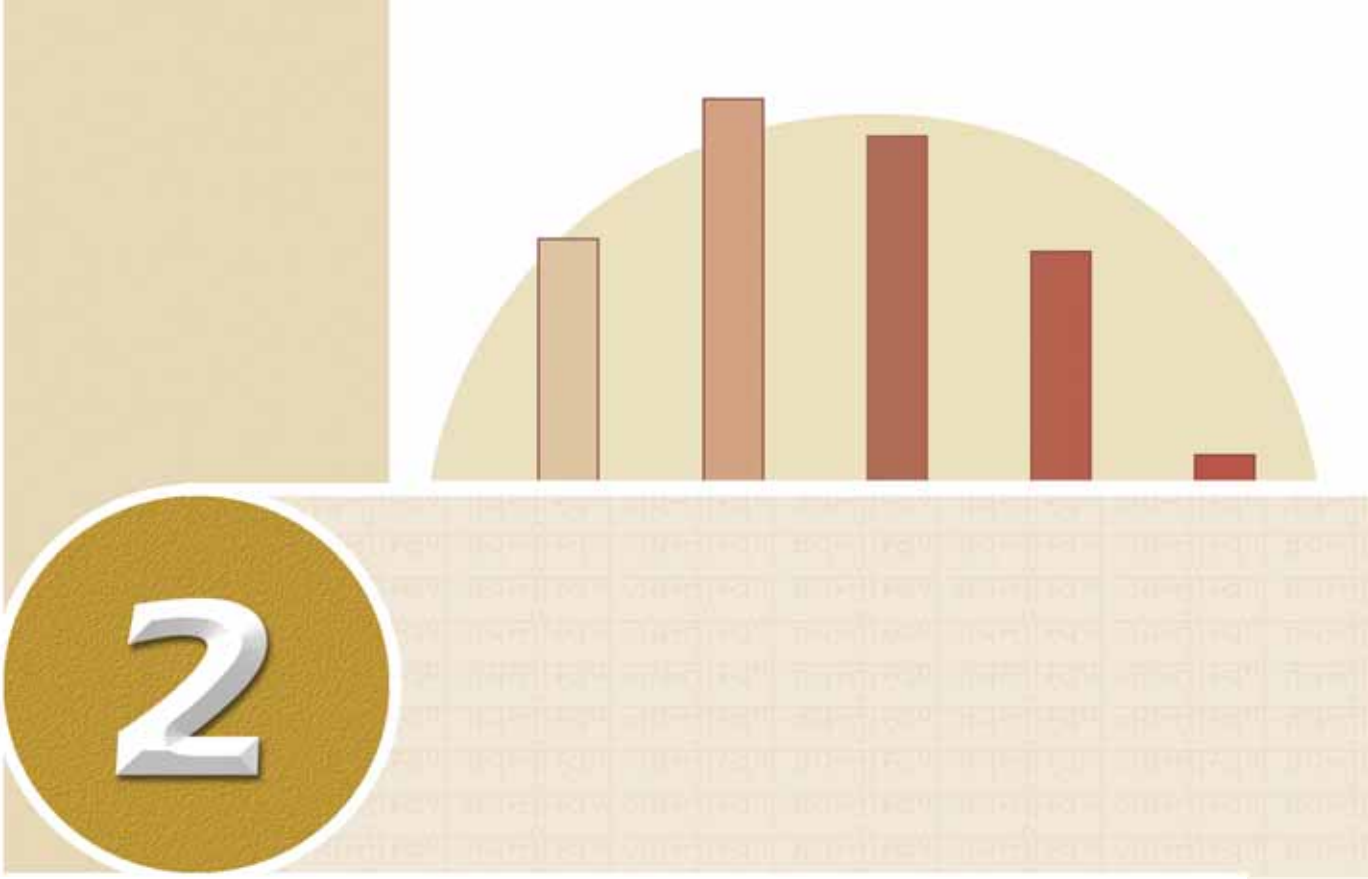


2

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 staff 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 landmark 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 has 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 infrastructure facilities 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), softwares like ER Mapper, PC ARC/INFO, Microstation 95, Geomedia Professional, ARC/INFO Workstation and 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.

An Agricultural Bioinformatics Lab (ABL) fully equipped with software and hardware has been created to study crop and animal biology with the latest statistical and computation tools.

The LAN at IASRI has steadily been strengthened and the Computer Centre, Sample Survey Block, Training and Administration Block and Panse Guest House of IASRI have been connected using fiber optical cable as backbone and connectivity has been established for 413 nodes. The LAN is being managed using manageable Switches. Currently the internet services are being provided through Firewall and secure servers with multiple CPU capabilities on a 4 Mbps bandwidth. Primary and Secondary DNS, Domain: iasri.res.in, Website (http://www.iasri.res.in) and E-mail services are being maintained in house. Live E-mail and Internet facilities are being provided to the scientists/technical/ administrative staff of IASRI.

There are various labs at the Institute for dedicated services like ARIS lab for Training, Stat lab for Statistical analysis and Centre for Advance Study Lab.

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 and versions. The computing environment in the Institute has latest rack mount servers, PCs, notebook computers, laser mono & colour printers, inkjet printers, scanners, DVD duplicator, visualiser and

video projectors. All the divisions, administrative and accounts sections of the Institute have been provided with PCs, printers and peripherals. Software packages that are needed for application development, statistical data analysis, network securities and office automation 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, Data warehouse software – Cognos, SPSS clementine, MS Office 2007, MS Visual Studio dot net, Macro-Media, MS Project, E-views, Trend Micro Antivirus, NEURAL NETWORKS(STATISTICA), Gauss Software, Minitab 14, Maple 9.5, Matlab, Sigma Plot Web Statistica and Lingo Super.

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.

Another Centre of Advanced Studies (CAS) programme in Agricultural Statistics and Computer Application was established during the VIII Five Year Plan in 1995. So far 43 training programmes have been organised under the aegis of centre of Advanced Studies. In all a total of 767 participants have been benefited.

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. (Computer Application) from the session 1993–94. The Institute has so far produced 173 Ph.D. and 287 M.Sc. students in the discipline of Agricultural Statistics and 81 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, SCC and Post Graduate Diploma courses were of one year duration while JCC was of six months duration. In Post Graduate Diploma Course, 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. Later on, 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 in Agricultural Statistics with adequate exposure of 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 had approved the XI Plan budget of the Institute. The total outlay of Rs. 1200 lakhs was sanctioned under the XI Plan budget of the Institute.

Organisational Set-up

The Institute has following six Divisions, two Units and three Cells to undertake research, training, consultancy, documentation and dissemination of scientific output.

Divisions

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

Units

- Research Co-ordination and Management Unit (RCMU)
- Institute Technology Management Unit (ITMU)

Cells

- Training Administration Cell (TAC)
- Consultancy Processing Cell (CPC)
- Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Cell (PMEC)

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:

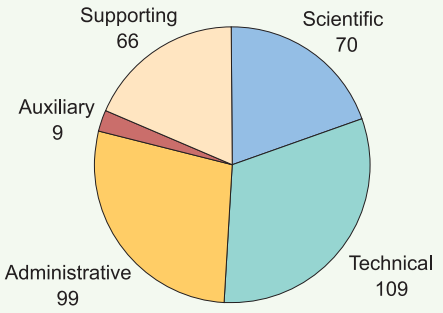
Budget Allocation vis-à-vis Utilization (2008–09)

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Head of Account	Allocation		Expenditure	
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
Pay & Allowances	0.00	1730.00	0.00	1638.89
TA	6.00	4.00	6.00	4.00
OTA	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.50
HRD/Fellowship	6.00	20.00	2.42	18.76
Contingencies	60.00	145.00	60.00	123.98
Equipments	63.00	0.00	62.98	21.00
Works	55.00	36.00	54.94	35.96
Library	30.00	0.00	29.90	0.00
Total	**220.00**	**1935.50**	**216.24**	**1843.09**

Staff Position (as on 31 March 2009)

Manpower	No. of posts sanctioned	No. of posts filled
Director	1	1
Scientific	130	69
Technical	232	109
Administrative	109	99
Auxiliary	14	9
Supporting	85	66
Total	**571**	**353**



Staff Strength in Position as on 31 March 2009