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## Workshops, Conferences, Meetings, Seminars and Annual Day Organized

### CONFERENCES

- **XVI National Conference of Agricultural Research Statisticians** was organized during 23-24 December 2010. The conference was attended by participants from 10 different States. The Inaugural Address was delivered by Dr. CD Mayee, Chairman, ASRB; Keynote Address by Dr. VK Gupta, ICAR National Professor and Valedictory Address by Professor TCA Anant, Chief Statistician of India and Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. During the conference following technical sessions were organized:
  - Action Taken on the Recommendations made during the Last Conference (Chairman: Dr. NPS Sirohi, ADG (Engineering))
  - Priorities for Research in Agricultural Statistics: Current Status and Future Challenges (Chairman: Dr. Alope Dey, INSA Senior Scientist, ISI, Delhi; Conveners: Dr. UC Sud and Dr. A Dhandapani)
  - Priorities for ICT in Agriculture (Chairman: Dr. SK Raheja, Former Director, IASRI, New Delhi; Conveners: Dr. RC Goyal and Dr. RC Agrawal)
  - Priorities for Human Resource Development in Agricultural Statistics and Computer Applications (Chairman: Dr. Bal BPS Goel, Former Director, IASRI, New Delhi; Conveners: Dr. Krishan Lal and Dr. B Singh)



A view of XVI Plenary Session of National Conference of Agricultural Research Statisticians

- Presentation of Reports by Conveners of different Sessions and Summary of Recommendations

Dr. Rajender Parsad was the Organizing Secretary of the Conference.

### WORKSHOPS ORGANISED

#### Launch Workshop of NAIP Consortium on Strengthening Statistical Computing for NARS

Dr. S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR inaugurated the Launch Workshop of NAIP Consortium on Strengthening Statistical Computing for NARS on 08 June 2010 in presence of Dr. Bangali Baboo, National Director, NAIP, Dr. MM

Pandey, DDG (Engineering), Dr. AK Singh, DDG (Natural Resource Management), Dr. SK Datta, DDG (Crop Sciences), Dr. KD Kokate, DDG (Agricultural Extension), Dr. VK Gupta, ICAR National Professor, Dr. Mruthyunjaya, Former National Director, NAIP, Dr. Ramesh Chand, Director, National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, Dr. Sain Dass, Director, Directorate of Maize Research, Dr. HS Gaur, Dean and Joint Director Education, IARI, New Delhi, Dr. NT Yaduraju, National Co-ordinator, NAIP, Dr. VK Bhatia, Director, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and many other dignitaries. This project is a realization of the visualization of research managers, research facilitators, researchers and trainers to create a sound and healthy statistical computing environment for the benefit of scientists of NARS. The goal of the project is to provide research guidance in statistical computing and computational statistics so as to provide enabling statistical computing facilities to the researchers of NARS. The efforts would not merely be focused on an interface of statistics, computer science and numerical analysis, but it would also involve designing of intelligent algorithms for implementing statistical techniques particularly for analyzing massive data sets, simulation, bootstrap, etc.

The availability of healthy statistical computing environment would enable the researchers in NARS to undertake probing, in-depth, appropriate, intractable analysis of data generated from agricultural research including those in advanced research areas like biotechnology, genomics, forecasting, agricultural field experiments, surveys, microarrays, massive data sets such as climate change, biodiversity, market intelligence, etc. It would also facilitate data sharing over web and creation of analytics over the web useful



A view of Launch Workshop of NAIP Consortium on SSCNARS

for All India Co-ordinated Research Projects and other Network Projects of NARS.

Dr. Ayyappan emphasized the need to sensitize the researcher managers about the capabilities of this high end statistical computing environment in making the agricultural research globally competitive, visible and acceptable. To this end IASRI has to play a proactive role by describing success stories, capabilities and features of the statistical computing environment through presentations in Director's Conferences, SAU Vice-Chancellor Conferences, Dean's Meetings and other important fora.

The launch of this timely initiative to reinvigorate the agricultural research system with advanced computing facilities and development of computing skills would make 08 June 2010 as a red letter day for NARS. This would provide enhanced visibility to IASRI and agricultural statistics discipline in NARS. This project has brought all 151 NARS organizations in a closed network. The training component of the project is also very exhaustive and targets at training 1500 agricultural research scientists in the country in the usage of high-end statistical package. These would then become trainers and in turn train other agricultural research scientists. Such an effort would have a multiplier effect.

### Launch Workshop of National Agricultural Bioinformatics Grid (NABG)

Dr. S Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) and Director General (ICAR), inaugurated the Launch Workshop of National Agricultural Bioinformatics Grid (NABG) at Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI), New Delhi on 18 September 2010. This project is funded by NAIP ICAR under Component-1. Under this project supercomputing facilities for undertaking research in the field of Agricultural Bioinformatics is being developed at IASRI along with High Performance Computing infrastructural facilities at five National Bureaus related to crop science, animal science, fisheries, agriculturally important microbes and insects namely NBPGR, New Delhi; NBAGR, Karnal; NBFGR, Lucknow; NBAIM, Mau and NBAIL, Bangalore. This would be national facility which will provide computational framework to support biotechnological research in the country. The website of NABG (<http://www.iasri.res.in/nabg>) was also launched by Dr. S Ayyappan, Hon'ble Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR.



Inaugural Function of Launch Workshop of NABG

In order to keep pace with the research and developments in agricultural bioinformatics at global level, country needs expertise and exposure in this area of research. Therefore, establishing National Agricultural Bioinformatics Grid (NABG) will help in developing databases, data warehouse, software and tools, algorithms, genome browsers and high-end computational facilities through systematic and integrated approach in the field of agricultural bioinformatics. NABG is also aimed for capacity building for research and development in agricultural bioinformatics and in turn agricultural biotechnology. Further, it is also going to provide platform for inter-disciplinary research in cross-species genomics. It is expected that, in due course of time, information and knowledge generated through research on bioinformatics from the genomic knowledge base will start flowing downward and experimentations in different sectors of agriculture will be able to evolve internationally superior competitive varieties/breeds and commodities in agriculture. The objectives of NABG are to develop agricultural bioinformatics grid for the country, to create local databases and Bioinformatics Data Warehouse (BinDW) for genomic resources across species, Human resource development in agricultural bioinformatics and to create and promote inter-disciplinary research groups with focus on agricultural bioinformatics.

In order to sustain this activity Council established the Centre of Agricultural Bioinformatics (CABin) with the status of a Division in this Institute. The main responsibility of the CABin is to integrate a number of other institutions/organizations in order to provide

computational framework and support to carry out biotechnological research. This network of institutions is based on two-tier architecture and it will be able to bridge the gap between genomic information and knowledge, utilizing statistical and computational sciences. Also, this model will help in the development of partnerships at various levels among national and international organizations. Further, this will also establish functional linkages among researchers and scientists in the field of Bioinformatics and related fields.

### World Statistics Day

The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) decided during its 41<sup>st</sup> Session in February 2010 to celebrate 20 October 2010 as World Statistics Day under general theme 'Celebrating the Many Achievements of Statistics: Service, Professionalism and Integrity' and UN General Assembly has resolved to designate 20 October 2010 as World Statistics Day.



Celebration of World Statistics Day

Institute celebrated the first World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010. During these celebrations a Symposium on "Statistics in Agricultural Development" was organized. In this symposium two Guest Speakers Dr. RPS Malik, IWMI-India, New Delhi and Dr. Seema Bathla, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi delivered the invited talks on Irrigation Subsidies: Some Methodological Considerations and Understanding and Quantifying Linkages between Agriculture and the Macro Economy respectively. Dr. Rajender Parsad was the convener for this Symposium.

### Workshops Organised under Research Projects

#### Project Information & Management System of ICAR

An on-line system namely "Project Information &

Management System of ICAR” (PIMS-ICAR) has been designed and developed at IASRI, New Delhi to help in taking decisions to check duplication in research projects both at divisional as well as inter divisional level of ICAR. The system is being strengthened for modules on Data Management; Detection to Check Duplication in Research Projects; Projects On-line Monitoring; Reports & Queries; and User Management & Administration. The system has been hosted at <http://pimsicar.iasri.res.in> on the server of IASRI, New Delhi. The module for projects data management has user interfaces for on-line data entry, data updating, and modification with respect to ongoing projects data as per RPF-I as well as for the completed projects wherein facility has also been provided to upload RPF-III document in Doc/PDF/Scanned file format into the system. To take action on the decision taken in the meeting on “Integration of IT efforts in ICAR” held on 25 August 2010 at IASRI, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, 4 Zonal Workshops for Sensitization-cum-Training on PIMS-ICAR for the Nodal Officers of ICAR institutes were organized by IASRI, New Delhi at 4 locations in collaboration with NAARM, Hyderabad; DWM, Bhubaneswar; and CIAE, Bhopal during October – November 2010. The Nodal Officers from 77 ICAR institutes attended the zonal workshops organized by the team members of PIMS-ICAR at the above locations.



Participants during the Workshop on PIMS-ICAR

In the zonal workshops a brief introduction on PIMS-ICAR along with the objectives and the role and responsibilities of Nodal Officers at their respective

institutes were discussed. The procedural flows as well as the working of the system including access rights of the Nodal Officer were demonstrated. Live demonstration cum practical session on the data management module for Ongoing Projects Data Entry as per RPF-I and for Completed Projects Data Entry Process including the process for upload of digital copy (Scanned/PDF/Doc file) of RPF-III into PIMS-ICAR were presented. Reference guides for data management has been prepared and made accessible on PIMS-ICAR site for the Nodal Officers/ PIs of the projects. The problems faced by the Nodal Officers in initiating data entry task from their respective institutes and their suggestions for achieving the targets and improvement in the system were deliberated.

As an outcome of the zonal workshops, the Nodal Officers from 77 institutes have initiated project data entry process for more than 2400 ongoing and 800 completed projects into PIMS-ICAR from their respective institutes.

#### **Sensitization cum Training Workshops for Nodal Officers of NISAGENET**

The NISAGENET is accessible at <http://www.iasri.res.in/Nisagenet/> to provide Country/State/university/College level reporting on agricultural education in India. Under NISAGENET the information on Academic, Infrastructural facilities, Budget provision, Manpower and Research & Development activities of all the Agricultural Universities and Deemed universities of ICAR along with their constituent/affiliated colleges is being collected and compiled. Keeping in view the necessity and importance of NISAGENET, ICAR has approved it as a regular ongoing activity of the Council and made mandatory for all the Agricultural Universities and their constituent/affiliated colleges to participate and provide data as per requirements from time to time.

To provide realistic and up-to-date reporting and to expedite the data entry process, updating, validation of the existing data from all the Agricultural Universities along with their constituent/affiliated colleges a Sensitization-cum-Training Workshop for Nodal Officers of NISAGENET was organized at IASRI, New Delhi during 27-28 December 2010.

The nodal officers/representatives from 26 Universities participated in the workshop. Dr. Kusmakar Sharma, ADG(HRD), Education Division of ICAR, New Delhi inaugurated the workshop. Dr. RC Goyal with



A view of NISAGENET Workshop

NISAGENET team sensitized the participants through demonstration and practical hands on training. To emphasize the utility and importance a demonstration on the Online Query/Reporting System of NISAGENET was also given to the participants.

The Valedictory Programme was chaired by Dr. Arvind Kumar, Deputy Director General (Education), ICAR, New Delhi. He expressed the strong need of strengthening NISAGENET with up-to-date data. He assured to provide necessary support from the Council for providing quality and quantity data for NISAGENET.

In order to provide realistic and up-to-date reporting through NISAGENET, two more Sensitization-cum-Training Workshops for the Nodal Officers have been organized by the Education Division of ICAR and IASRI at Anand Agricultural University, Anand during 22-23 March 2011 and at IASRI, New Delhi during 28-29 March 2011. 15 and 21 Nodal Officers and their Associates from different agricultural universities participated in the workshops respectively.

In the workshops, the objectives and the role and responsibilities of Nodal Officers at their respective universities were discussed. The procedural flows as well as the working of the system including access rights of the nodal officers were demonstrated. Live demonstrations cum practical session on the data management module were presented. Reference guides for data management has been prepared and made accessible on NISAGENET site for the nodal officers.

### Travel Workshops Organised as Outreach Activity of the Institute

A Travel training Workshop on Resolvable Designs and Design Resources Server was organized by ICAR National Professor Research Unit in collaboration with Department of Statistics, College of Basic Sciences, CCS HAU, Hisar at Hisar on 16 April 2010. Dr. VK Gupta, National Professor, ICAR, Dr. Rajender Parsad, Head of Division, Design of Experiments and Dr. LM Bhar, Senior Scientist were the faculty members. Fifty participants attended the Workshop.

### INTERACTIVE MEET

- A one day Interactive Meet on **Role of IASRI in Improving R&D Efficacy of NARS** was organized on 21 August 2010 at the Institute. Hon'ble Dr. S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR chaired the meeting. During the meeting discussion on mandate, objectives and activities of IASRI and expectations from the Institute to improve R & D efficacy in NARS through application of statistics and use of IT and computational techniques were made.



Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR addressing the participants of Interactive Meet on Role of IASRI in Improving R&D Efficacy of NARS

- A meeting on **Integration of IT Efforts in the ICAR** was held on 25 August 2010 at NASC Complex, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Dr. S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR.
- An Interactive Meet on **Enhancing the Role of IASRI in R&D Efficacy of NRM Division of ICAR Institutions** was held on 22 September 2010 under the Chairmanship of Dr. AK Singh, DDG (NRM). In this meeting all Directors of ICAR Institutes under

NRM Division and all Project Co-ordinators of AICRPs of NRM Division participated. The meeting was also attended by Dr. MM Pandey, DDG (Engg.), Dr. VK Bhatia, Director, IASRI, Dr. VK Gupta, ICAR National Professor and scientists from IASRI, New Delhi.



DDG (NRM) addressing the participants of Interactive Meet on the Role of IASRI in R&D Efficacy of NRM Division of ICAR

- Interactive Meeting on the **Role of IASRI in Enhancing R&D Efficacy of NARS with Animal Science Division of ICAR** was held on 27 October 2010 at the Institute. The meeting was Chaired by Dr. MM Pandey, DDG (Engg.), ICAR, New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Dr. VK Bhatia, Director, IASRI, Dr. VK Gupta, ICAR National Professor, Dr. CS Prasad, ADG (AS), ICAR, Dr. RK Sethi, Director, CIRB, Hisar, Dr. Devendra Swaroop, Director, CIRG, Mathura, Dr. BK Joshi, Director, NBAGR, Karnal, Dr. KT Sampat, Director,



DDG (Engg.) addressing the participants of Interactive Meet on the Role of IASRI in Enhancing R&D Efficacy of NARS with Animal Science Division of ICAR

NIANP, Karnataka, Dr. Prabhu Das, Project Director, PDNDMS, Karnataka, Prof. AK Mishra, Project Director, PDC, UP and scientists from IVRI, Izatnagar, NDRI, Karnal and IASRI, New Delhi.

- Organized Interactive Meet on **Information and Communication Technology in ICAR** was held during 03-04 November 2010 at NASC Complex, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Dr. S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR, New Delhi. Dr. PK Malhotra made a presentation on Applications of IT/ICT technologies in agricultural research and development. Meeting was attended by all the Scientists of IASRI, Scientists of Computer Application discipline of different ICAR institutes and all the Incharge of ARIS Cells of ICAR institutes.



Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR addressing Select Group of Scientists and Information Management Specialists

- A Meeting of a select group of scientists and information management specialists was organized at NASC Complex, New Delhi on 29 November 2010 to find out the ways for providing greater impetus to research in ICT, Information Communication Management (ICM) for improving agricultural research and development in India and to draw a road map IT/ICT for ICAR. The meeting was chaired by Dr. S Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR and co-chaired by Dr. Ajit Maru, Senior Knowledge Officer, GFAR, FAO. The meeting was attended by 37 participants including Shri Rikin Gandhi, CEO, Digital Green, Dr. TV Prabhakar, Prof. (IIT), Kanpur, Dr. Pier Paolo Ficarrelli, ILRI, Dr. Sanjay Chaudhary, Prof. (DA-IICT), Gandhinagar, Dr. Krishna Alluri, British



Columbia, Canada, Dr. MM Pandey, DDG(Engg.), ICAR, Dr. AK Singh, DDG(NRM), ICAR, Dr. KML Pathak, DDG(Animal Science), ICAR, Dr. Arvind Kumar, DDG(Education), ICAR, Dr. HP Singh, DDG(Horticulture), Dr. RB Singh, Former Chairman, ASRB, Dr. Mruthyunjaya, Former National Director, NAIP, Dr. S Mauria, ADG (IP&TM), ICAR, Dr. V Venkatasubramanian, ADG (Ag. Extn.), ICAR, Dr. CS Prasad, ADG (Animal Science), Dr. TP Trivedi, Project Director, DIPA, ICAR, Dr. VK Gupta, ICAR National Professor, Dr. VK Bhatia, Director, IASRI and Head of Divisions and Scientists from IASRI, NBPGR and ICAR.

The some of the statistical researchable issues/recommendations emerged from interactive meets are as follows:

- IASRI should plan and organize meetings with different SMDs to identify need-based researchable issues
- There is a strong need to strengthen the human resource at IASRI to intensify research efforts
- Efforts should be made in developing framework of linking of AICRPs for online data submission, data analysis and generation of reports through SAS EBI Server. To begin with prototype may be developed for one AICRP.
- Mechanism may be developed for maintaining qualitative improvement and regular updates of databases created under Integrated Agricultural Resources Information System and information system on designed field experiments.
- The scientists engaged in the area of bioinformatics should work in network mode and in close collaboration with molecular biologists and biotechnologists. The work on system biology; development of tools and protocols for genome sequencing; determination of optimum number of molecular markers for selective breeding etc. may be taken up on priority.
- Development of model assisted survey sampling techniques for precise estimation of crop yield and other parameters of interest including micro level parameters in agricultural surveys may be taken up.
- Remote sensing technology and GIS tools for precise estimation of crop acreage/crop production may be explored. Development of spatial decision support systems using remote sensing and geographic information systems may be taken up in collaboration with other NARS Organizations.
- Development of models for forecasting of yields and forewarning of crop/animal diseases should be taken up on priority.
- Strengthening of Web resources on design of experiments should be continued. For strengthening this useful resource, efficient designs and analytical technique may be developed through basic research and innovative applications in agricultural sciences.
- Web resources may also be developed for other areas such as Sample Survey, Statistical Genetics etc.
- A mechanism may be developed for involvement of IASRI in the beginning of the experiment itself. The technical programme of all new experiments to be taken up under different AICRPs may be finalized in consultation with IASRI, so as to have the efficient design for experimentation and analysis of experimental data.
- The efforts on developing expertise on agro-meteorological modeling; bio-climatic zoning may be initiated.
- Research work on development of models for soil test based recommendations for crop sequences, development of forewarning models for crop protection, climate change needs to be developed, mapping of agro-forestry areas through spatial models, studying the effect of effluents in sewage water used for irrigation, estimation of climatic parameter at agro-climatic zone level, plot sampling in design field experiments etc. needs to be taken up at priority.
- Statistical tools need to be developed for judging the superiority of indigenous and exotic breeds of cattle.
- A committee was constituted to frame
  - A policy for data sharing, data management, strengthening and integration of databases.
  - Assess the ICT initiatives taken by ICAR
  - Suggest the roadmap of ICT in ICAR for next five years

## SPECIAL MEET

- संस्थान में हिन्दी की प्रगति का आकलन करने के लिए संसदीय राजभाषा समिति की दूसरी उप-समिति द्वारा 27 सितम्बर, 2010 को संस्थान के कार्य का निरीक्षण किया गया।

## Other Symposia/Workshops

Following invited paper session were organised during 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of ISAS on the theme **Statistics and Informatics for Massive Data Sets** held jointly by Department of Agricultural Statistics, BCKV, Kalyani and Department of Statistics, Kalyani University, Kalyani at FTC, Kalyani.

- Data Management and Statistical Analysis in Agriculture (Conveners: Rajender Parsad, BMK Raju and PK Sahu).
- Dimension Reduction and Classification Procedures (Conveners: A Dhandapani, Alka Arora and C Pal).
- Estimation Problems in Multidimensional Data Sets, Challenged Ahead (Conveners: UC Sud, J Jayashankar and D Mazumdar).

## ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

- The Annual Day of the Institute was celebrated on 02 July 2010. Dr. Madan Mohan Pandey, Deputy Director General (Engineering), ICAR was the Chief Guest of the function and Dr. Swapan Kumar Datta, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), ICAR delivered the Nehru Memorial Lecture entitled 'A Journey for Next Generation Seed'. Nehru Memorial Gold Medal for the year 2009 was awarded to Sh. Prabina Kumar Meher, M.Sc. (Agricultural Statistics) student and for the year 2009 was awarded to Sh. Ashutosh Karna, M.Sc. (Computer Application) student. V.V.R. Murthy Award for the year 2007-09 was awarded to Sh. Prabina Kumar Meher, M.Sc. (Agricultural Statistics) student. Annual Report of the Institute for the year 2009-10 was released on the Annual Day.

## Seminars

Salient outcomes from the completed research projects undertaken in different aspects of Agricultural Statistics and Computer Application were presented in the seminars organized regularly at the Institute. Open seminars were also organized for new research projects proposals. Outline of Research Work (ORW) seminars, Course seminars and Thesis seminars were delivered



Release of Annual Report during Annual Day Function

by the students of M.Sc. and Ph.D., Agricultural Statistics and M.Sc., Computer Application.

During the period under report, a total of 104 seminar talks were delivered. Out of these, 64 were student seminars, 35 by scientists of the Institute and 05 by Guest speakers as follows:

## Guest Seminars

- Dr. KV Palanichamy, Director, Biostatistics and Statistical Programming, Kendle India, Ahmedabad. Experiences of a Practicing Statistician on 09 April 2010.
- Dr. CS Jonathan Liu, Vice President, State College, Pennsylvania. Soft Genetics-Software Tools for Genetic Analysis on 23 June 2010.
- Dr. DS Rathore, Founder Director, Wisdom International & Former Vice Chancellor, HPKV, Palampur. Wisdom for Happy Life on 23 September 2010.
- Dr. Mary Crowe, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Dr. Jan Rychtar, Associate Professor, Dept. of Mathematics & Statistics, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, North Carolina, USA. A Mathematical Model of Stealing with Asymmetrical Information on 13 December 2010.
- Dr. KV Palanichamy, Director, Biostatistics and Statistical Programming, Kendle India, Ahmedabad. A trip into statistics on 18 March 2011.