IAUA NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF INDIAN AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 6 No. 4 OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2006

CONTENTS

SPOT NEWS

Dr H.P. Singh, VC, RAU, Pusa takes over as DDG (Horticulture), ICAR, New Delhi on 5 February 2007

Dr S.M. Ilyas, VC, NDUAT, Faizabad takes over as Director, NAARM, Hyderabad on 8 February 2007

NEW VCs

Dr S.P.S. Ahlawat, Dir., IVRI, Izatnagar

Dr S.P.S. Ahlawat

Dr S.P.S. Ahlawat joined as Director, IVRI, Izatnagar on 21 November 2006. Dr Ahlawat was born on 5 June 1948. He did his graduation, post-graduation (Animal Genetics) and Doctorate (Animal Breeding) from G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar. He has been a meritorious student throughout his career and received the ICAR and CSIR fellowships during his Masters and Doctorate programmes. His scientific career started as Pool Officer at HAU, Hisar in 1980. Subsequently, he was selected in Agricultural Research Services and joined as Scientist S-1 at IVRI/CARI, Izatnagar from 1978 to 1985; Scientist S-2 at CARI, Port Blair in 1985 and Scientist S-3 in 1989. Then he served as I/c Division of Animal Sciences (October 1989 to October 1995); Head, Division of Animal Genetics and Breeding, IVRI, Izatnagar (October 1995 to May 1999); Director, Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair (24 May 1999 to 17 October 2002); Director, NBAGR, Karnal (18 October 2002 to 20 November 2006).

Dr Ahlawat evolved new breeds of goat, poultry and cattle, developed goat surviving or saline sea water and Nicobari fowl laying the highest number of eggs among the indigenous poultry birds of the country. He published 250 research papers and 8 books.

Dr Ahlawat received several awards, viz. ICAR Team Research Award as Team Leader (1991-92), Fakhruddinn Ali Ahmed Award (1986 and 1994), Bishnu Sudama Memorial Award (1999), Best Annual Scientific Research Award (1998-1999), Rashtriya Vikas Jyoti Award (2002), Rajarshi Tandon Rajbhasha Award (2002), and Best KVK Award (2002). He holds a number of positions like President, Society for Conservation of Domestic Animal Biodiversity, Karnal; President, Andaman Science Association; Member, Haryana and Punjab States Steering Committees for preparation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan; Member, State Advisory Committee for Livestock Breeding and Establishment of State of AGR in Uttar Pradesh; Member, Core Group for Preparation of National Document on Import and Export of Animal Germplasm etc. Dr Ahlawat is engaged in characterization and conservation of Animal Genetic Resources in India and South-East Asia.

Prof. Debi Prasad Ray, VC, OUAT, Bhubaneshwar

Prof. Debi Prasad Ray

Prof. D.P. Ray joined as Vice-Chancellor, OUAT, Bhubaneshwar on 18 December 2006. He was born on 15 August 1949 in Ganjam district of Orissa. He did B.Sc. (Agric.) from OUAT, Bhubaneshwar and M.Sc. (Agric.) in Horticulture and Ph.D. from Calcutta University, Calcutta. He started his professional career as Agricultural Officer in State Department of Agriculture, Orissa, during 1971 to 1975. He joined Calcutta University in 1976. In November 1981 Prof. Ray joined as Horticulturist at RRTTS and later held various positions, viz. Reader in Horticulture (June 1984- October 1989); Professor and Head, Department of Horticulture (September 1997-March 2003); Dean of Extension Education (November 2002- February 2006) and Registrar, RRTTS (June 2005-18 December 2006).

Prof. Ray was nominated as Member of Research Advisory Council of various ICAR institutes; Member in Management Committees of local ICAR institutes; Member, Syllabus Committee of ICAR; Chairman, Site Selection Committee of ICAR for establishment of new KVKs; and Advisor of Selection Committee for Senior Managerial Positions including Directors, of ASRB, ICAR. He is President, Orissa Horticulture Society; Member, Executive Council of Agriculture Society of India, Calcutta; and is a Fellow of Horticulture Society of India, New Delhi.

Prof. Ray guided 11 Ph.D. and 23 post-graduate students in Horticulture, participated in 24 national and international seminars or symposia on Horticulture, attended several national workshops and group meetings of different co-ordinated projects of ICAR, compiled and edited several publications on salient research findings of post-graduate and Ph.D. students, and wrote a profile on success of KVK-adopted farmers. Prof. Ray published 88 research papers, 6 chapters in textbooks, 2 Oriya textbooks and 13 extension bulletins.

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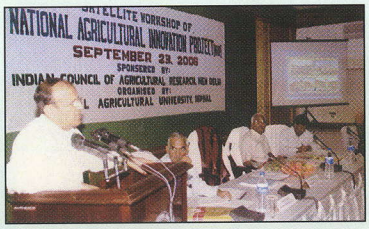
CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, IMPHAL

Sensitization Workshop of NAIP for NE Region

The satellite sensitization workshop of NAIP was held at CAU, Imphal on 23 September 2006. Dr Mruthyunjaya, National Director, NAIP (ICAR), delivered lectures on different aspects of basic concepts of NAIP; preparation, evaluation and selection of projects, and the administrative and financial rules of NAIP in different technical sessions of the workshop. A total of 60 participants gathered from different constituent colleges of CAU, government and non-government organizations of central as well as NE states in the workshop.

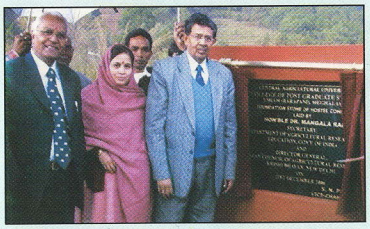


Dr Mruthyunjaya addressing the participants

Major discussion centred around the basic concept of the NAIP; its objectives and the concept of consortium behind each component; preparation, evaluation and selection of projects as well as their implementation and governance, besides the modalities of consortium partners and the ICAR; sharing of responsibilities, accountability and benefits. It also deliberated on administrative, financial and procurement management. The workshop generated awareness about NAIP project formulation.

Foundation Stone of College of Post-graduate Studies, CAU, Barapani, Shillong

The 18th Regional Committee Meeting of Zone III was held at ICAR Complex for NEH Region, Barapani, Shillong during 20-21 December 2006. Dr Mangala Rai, DG, ICAR and Secretary, DARE, laid the foundation stone of hostel complex of College of Post-graduate Studies at Barapani. The total outlay is estimated around Rs 10 crores.

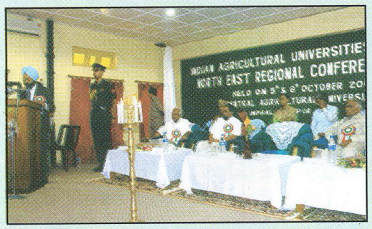

Dr Mangala Rai laying foundation stone of hostel complex of PG College; also present are Dr (Mrs) Lalita Rai and Dr S.N. Puri, VC, CAU

IAUA VC's Regional meeting on Agriculture and Livestock Integrated Farming System

Central Agricultural University, Imphal organized Indian Agricultural Universities Association North-East Regional Conference during 5 and 6 October 2006, where 21 Vice-Chancellors and Directors of Deemed National Agricultural Institutes deliberated on the following issues.


H.E. Shri S.S. sidhu, Governor, inaugurating the conference

To improve the productivity and profitability of various components of farming systems like crops, animals, fishery, etc., the availability of quality seed, planting material, fish seed, chicks etc. should be ensured. The region lacks the basic infrastructure to meet the requirement. It was recommended that systematic planned programmes should be undertaken and necessary infrastructure should be created.


His Excellency, Shri S.S. Sidhu, delivering the inaugural address

For human-resource development, creation of awareness and development of technical skills in various aspects of production and rearing of various components of farming systems is a pre-requiresite for improving the productivity of the system. The scientists of KVKs should be given the required training to serve as master trainers. Research infrastructure in the region is extremely poor, and needs suitable strengthening.


Prof. S.N. Puri addressing IAUA Conference

The region receives high rainfall but the corresponding benefit is not reflected in the overall cropping patterns. A greater part in most of the states has monocropping, mostly rice. Rain-water conservation for its better utilization in non-rainy or drought period will help in increasing the cropping sequence and cropping during winter (*rabi*) season.


VCs at IAUA Conference with the participants of Manipur Cultural Troupe

Soil and water conservation, especially terrace cultivation on the hill slopes, improvement of productivity in land under *jhum* cultivation and improvement of acidic soils are the important scientific interventions for realizing higher yields of crops with reduced soil and water loss.

The participants paid a visit to newly established Horticulture Research Centre to observe field demonstration of high-density planting of pineapple, passion-fruit, local banana, turmeric and ginger cultivars.

Recommendations

1. A Regional Consultative Group needs to be established under the Chairmanship of the most senior VC in the region to frame education and development agenda in a partnership mode, to facilitate addressing of farmers' issues and propagation of intensive integrated farming-system models developed for the region by ICAR Research Complex.
2. A Regional Referral Laboratory needs to be established in NEH Region of ICAR to promote organic agriculture and animal husbandry.
3. Cultivation of maize and soybean, the two important components of animal feed, along with rice bean, and other forage and feed crops should be popularized in a mission mode with forward and backward linkages.
4. Rain-water conservation for its better utilization in non-rainy or drought period will help in increasing the cropping sequence and insensitive cropping during winter *(rabi)* season. Shallow tube-wells will prove highly beneficial in valley areas.
5. The scientists of KVKs should be given the required training to create awareness and development of technical skills in various aspects of production and components of farming systems. Women should also be a focus for training in livestock and fish farming.
6. To improve the productivity and profitability of various components of farming systems like crop, animal, fishery etc., the availability of quality seed, planting material, fish seeds, chicks etc. should be ensured and necessary infrastructure should be created.
7. For improving the livelihood of the farmers and farm income on year-round basis, crop diversification and integration of crops with livestock and fishery as complementary activities is the most sustainable practice.
8. There is great scope to diversify the area for medicinal plants, vegetables, pulses (lentil), groundnut, soybean etc. Seeding in the standing crops of paddy with field pea, berseem etc. may be attempted. Niger is another low water-input-requiring crop, which may be tried in the area for honeybee enterprise. The under-crops of turmeric and ginger with main fruit crops may be tested in this region.
9. There is a need for formation of SHGs/farmers' clubs with women empowerment along with training for post-harvest processing, value addition and marketing.
10. Extensive work is needed on collection, evaluation and conservation of various crops of NE region. Wild species of paddy, vegetables, fruits, horticultural crops, under-utilized fruits, spices, ornamentals and the medicinal and aromatic plants need more emphasis.
11. Indigenous livestock of NEH Region including Manipuri pony, Banpala sheep, Dam and Mali pig and wild Asiatic buffalo need to be surveyed and characterized, both at phenotypic and molecular levels and conserved. Non-descript cows should be upgraded through crossing with Sahiwal or Gir. Backyard poultry should be encouraged and model backyard poultry farms should be established by KVKs in their areas of jurisdiction. States should develop regional livestock databank so that species-wise breeding policy can be framed with the help of NBAGR.
12. Facility of credit availability at low interest rate should be provided for land development, establishing regulated markets and processing facilities.

13. Role of women needs to be promoted further, especially for skill-based cottage industries and homestead farming components.
14. To improve the efficiency and rate of tea-leaf plucking, there is need to propagate light-weight cloth-bags for collecting the leaves and use of finger-blades for cutting the leaves instead of hand plucking.
15. Value addition of fruits, vegetables, bamboo shoots, fish and bio-fuel by planting *Jatropha* can be taken up. Use of waterlogged areas of Assam and Tripura for cultivation, production and processing of lotus stem, *makhana* and *singhara* needs attention.
16. Women should be organized at village, block and district levels. Funds by line departments like Tribal Welfare Department, Rural Development Department etc. should be released directly to women organizations. Women's grants can be issued through Micro-credit plan of village and implemented with or without bank-credit support.
17. General Recommendations covering SAUs, DUs and CAUs:

(i) Adoption of Model Act.
(ii) Enhancement of RAWE and Internship for agricultural and veterinary graduates under consideration by the ICAR should be pursued for early orders.
(iii) Resource crunch in SAUs, ICAR and IAUA should be taken up with Planning Commission for adequate flow of funds.
(iv) Conditional advertisement of NET for recruitment for SAUs may be given.
(v) To make KVKs as the knowledge centre, only State Government or line department should take up extensive activities.

Focus on Universities Achievements and Events

DEEMED UNIVERSITY

INDIAN VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, IZATNAGAR

Advanced course on Clinical Nutrition of Livestock and Pets

Advanced course on Clinical Nutrition of Livestock and Pets

A three-week advanced course (the 27th) on 'Clinical nutrition of livestock and pets' was held at Animal Nutrition Division, IVRI, Izatnagar during 2-3 November 2006. It was organized under the aegis of Centre of Advanced Studies, wherin 22 trainees from different states participated.

Inaugurating the function, the chief guest, Dr Nagendra Sharma, VC, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture and Technology, Jammu said that such a sort of advanced reorientation courses are exceedingly beneficial for the scientists, teachers and field veterinarians. He pointed out that nutrition should be effective, efficient and economic. It is the balanced diet that can provide proper energy to animals, leading to several normal metabolic activities. He informed that with the increase in population, not merely per-caput (head) availability of land area has decreased but simultaneously land allotted for fodder and pasture has also shrunk. Keeping in view the constraints, he called upon the animal nutritionists to take up the gauntlet to develop animal productivity by the dint of significant researches.

UNIVERSITIES

A Profile

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES EDUCATION, MUMBAI

Genesis

CIFE old blue building

The premier alma mater for fisheries in India, CIFE, was established in 1961 as an in-service training centre, mainly to impart proficient training and education to the fisheries professionals for exposure to various operative learning strategies, to equip them to face the challenges of the fisheries sector. By 1979, in view of the talent of in-service candidates generated by and in recognition of the growing needs and the services provided to the sector and the society, CIFE came under the administrative control of ICAR. Thus it started acting as a catalyst to metamorphize a learning society, and soon different academic programmes were started. In recognition of its yeomen services and expertise, CIFE was conferred the Deemed to be University status by UGC in 1989; subsequently its scope and mandate were widened to include education as well as research. In 2003 the Yari Road campus of CIFE with state-of-art infrastructure facilities was developed to achieve fisheries education par excellence. By 2004, CIFE has made its mark in a knowledge-driven economy and in the process of enriching the quality of fisheries education the academic programmes offered by CIFE were accredited by ICAR.

CIFE new building

Mandate

In view of the Vision 2025 perspective, CIFE envisages to revise its mandate as:

(i) To conduct post-graduate degree programmes in core and emerging disciplines of fisheries science.
(ii) To conduct basic and strategic researches in frontier areas of fisheries.
(iii) To conduct demand-driven training and educational programmes for different stakeholders in fisheries sector.
(iv) To provide technical support, policy-development support and consultancy services.

Education Programmes

1. Masters and Doctoral Programmes

Masters		Doctoral	
Discipline	**No. of seats**	**Discipline**	**No. of seats**
Fisheries Resource Management	5	Fisheries Resource Management	5
Aquaculture	15	Aquaculture	8
Post-harvest Technology	5	Post-harvest Technology	3
Fish Genetics and Biotechnology	5	Fish Genetics	2
Fish Nutrition and Biochemistry	5	Fish Biotechnology	2
Fish Pathology and Microbiology	5	Fish Nutrition and Biochemistry	2
Fish Business Management	5	Fish Pathology and Microbiology	2
		Fish Business Management	1

2. Diploma programme: Post-graduate Diploma in Inland Fisheries Management.

3. Demand-driven, short-term training programmes

4. Centre for Advanced Studies in Fisheries

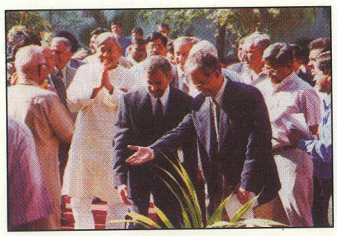
Cage-culture experiment at Lonavala

Major Achievements

Academic

The CIFE with 54 scientists and 120 technical personnel, engaged in

teaching the post-graduate courses and research in the major thrust areas is a reservoir of talent and has gained a reputation of being the numero uno in imparting professional and entrepreneurial training in the fisheries sector. During 1961-95, it trained and developed 4,000 trained personnel and students, including more than 100 foreign students, mainly through Diploma programmes and Certificate courses, and a few Masters and Ph.D. students.

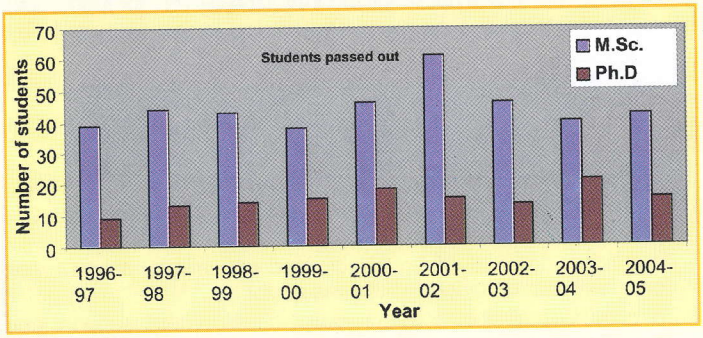


Visit of Shri Neetish Kumar, Agriculture Minister

Academic achievements: award of degrees to students

No.	Academic programme	No. of students awarded		
		Up to 1989	1989-2005	Total
1.	Ph. D.	-	88	88
2.	M. F. Sc.	-	437	437
3.	M. Sc.(by research)	30	-	30
4.	M. Sc.(Fisheries Management)	-	115	115
5.	M. Sc. (Inland Fisheries Administration and Management)	-	55	55
6.	Diploma in Fisheries Science	979	53	1,032
7.	Certificate Course in Inland Fisheries Development and Administration	1,374	287	1,661
8.	Certificate Course in Fisheries Extension	498	-	498
9.	Certificate Course in Inland Fisheries Operatives Management	926	-	926

Students passed during 1996-97 to 2004-05



Research

As the centre of advanced learning and research in frontier areas of fisheries science, CIFE has generated commendable research outputs and commercially viable technological packages. Some of the prominent ones among them are given below

Hatchery and rearing technology

The CIFE was among the first in 1980s to initiate sustained research into technically sound and commercially viable hatchery technology for carp and prawn (*Microbrochium rosenbergii*) culture. The prawn-hatchery technology and grow-out system developed at CIFE has made commercial prawn culture possible in the country and helped bring thousands of hectares under profitable prawn culture in Andhra Pradesh, leading to Blue Revolution. Similarly, mass-scale production of Indian magur seed is one of the much acclaimed success stories from CIFE.

Aquaculture technology for utilization of salt-affected areas

The CIFE has developed hatchery technology for *Microbrachium rosenbergii* using inland saline ground-water. In addition, culture technology for *Mugil cephalus, Chanos chanos, Etroplus suratensis, Microbrachium rosenbergii and Peneaus monodon* in saline ground-water has been demonstrated.

Visit of Shri Ajit Singh, Union Agriculture Minister

Fish feed and nutrition

The CIFE has come out with formulations and structural parameters of feed for *Peneaus monodon* and *Microbrachium rosenbergii* juveniles and aquarium fishes. In addition, probiotic agents and live-food organisms have been evaluated for their suitability as feed supplements for various kinds of organisms under culture.

Fish in human nutrition

Low-cost and sometimes even trash fishes can be suitably modified to acceptable form, fetching better prices. Scientific understanding of properties that stimulate taste buds, fish meat from pink perch, dhoma, has been converted to various ready-to-eat products. The vegetable proteins that are usually low in lysine content have been complemented with high lysine-containing fish meat to make products. Conventional products like papad and pickle have been prepared scientifically from low-value fishes. Flavour-extraction technique from shrimp waste has been standardized, for preparation of imitation products.

Post-harvest biotechnology

Fermented fishes are widely consumed in north-eastern and eastern part of India. Using biotechnological methods it is now possible to reduce fermentation period for lona fish and seedal by 50%.

Visit of Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Agriculture Minister

Fish-health management

The PCR-based technique has been successfully used for research on white-spot syndrome virus and bacterial pathogens. Apart from diagnosis and treatment of diseases, commendable progress has been made towards holistic approach in health management.

Aquatic-environment management

Use of probiotics for better health and of nitrogenous bacterial fertilizer in culture systems has been studied and recommended for better health of fish and better environment. Anthropogenic effects on resources at primary and secondary productivity levels have been studied. Changes in bacterial communities, biochemical parameters, heavy-metal concentrations and microscopic organisms have revealed pollution along Mumbai coast stretch up to 5 km from the shore.

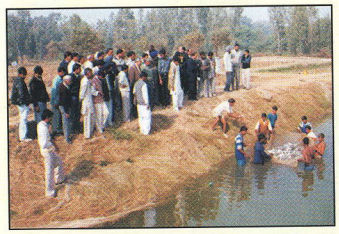
Fish-resource management

The CIFE has been successful in assessing finfish and shellfish resources of north-west sector of Indian EEZ. A database for marine fisheries of Maharashtra has also been developed. In inland sector the potential of cage culture has been studied in detail. The cage culture of fry to fingerlings of commercially important fishes in open waters has been developed to augment the natural stock in open waters. Successful trials of cages that can be dismantled and transported showed potential of their use in several reservoirs of India.

Bioactive substances from marine organisms

Five species of jelly fishes, one species of octopus, one of cone snail, three species of catfishes and two species of *sciaenid* fishes have been identified as potential sources of bioactive substances. Biotoxins from marine cnidarians and conids have been evaluated for their therapeutic potential. Crude and partially purified fractions of mucus toxin from *Arius dussumieri* and *Osteogeneiosus militaris* showed toxicity to mice, and oedematic and haemolytic activation on chicken erythrocytes.

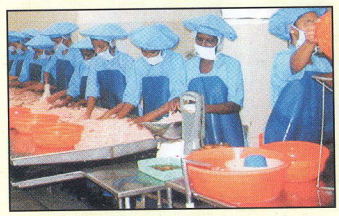
Visit of Dr M.S. Swaninathan in 2002



Extension work in rural areas

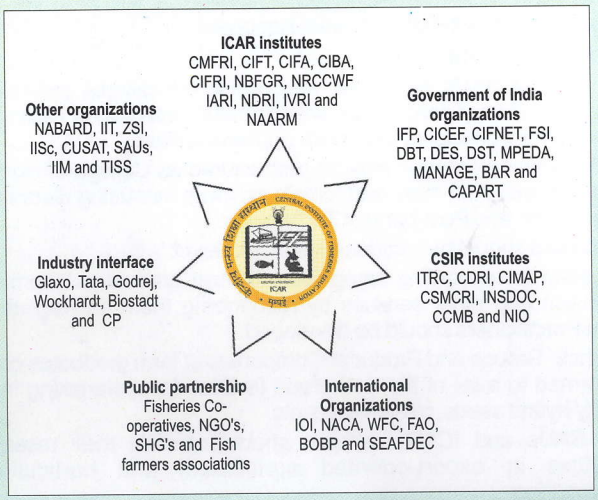
Genetic improvement of fish

The population genetics revealed and that stocks of *Peneaus monodon* from the east and west coasts are not genetically different, but show significant differences in economic characters. These differences provide scope for genetic gradation and selection. Methods to cryopreserve the germplasm of several commercially important fishes have been developed at CIFE.



Training to fisher-women in preparing value-added products

NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

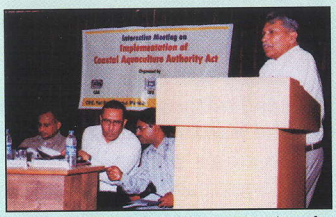


NEW INITIATIVES

Academics

Education for Global era

The CIFE is aiming for a paradigm shift in primary focus towards 'Education for Global Era'. The major programmes envisaged for providing quality education and training required for the global era are given below.



Interactive meeting on implementation of Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act

Knowledge for its own sake

The CIFE aims not only to nurture the utilitarian part of the knowledge alone, but also to create an environment where freedom of thought and intellectual inquiry flourish and are cherished.

Hatchery complex

Global curriculum and faculty

The CIFE aims to mutually enrich student-exchange programmes by developing linkages with selected premier institutions across the world, and have faculty-exchange programmes to develop and update the knowledge and skills and attain global outlook. Interactive learning with foreign faculty through video conferencing would improve the students' exposure to wider groups of experts.

Innovative pedagogy

By integrating contents, training, technologies and services the CIFE plans to produce the learning outcomes required for knowledge era.

Global outreach centres

The CIFE, on account of the internationalization of the education, visualizes opportunities for setting up global education centres in collaboration with suitable overseas partners in Asian, African and Latin American countries.

Visit of Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agricultur, to CIFE

Customized programmes

In near future a new programme will be started specifically to strengthen capacities of the fisheries developmental sector, consisting of State departments of fisheries, NGOs and other developmental agencies. E-learning will become an important part, wherein dual mode and distance-education programmes would be launched to provide interactive education at doorsteps. Post-doctoral Fellow programmes, Research Associateship through long-term externally-funded education and research programmes with provision for contractual employment would be initiated to strengthen the faculty positions.

Technology incubation and entrepreneurship development

The buzzword will be generation of 'job creators' instead of 'job seekers'. An environment and culture conducive to it, including infrastructure facilities and collaborations with industries, would be in place.

Regional and international hub for fisheries programmes

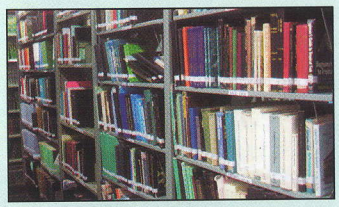
The CIFE would put to use the world-class facilities and research infrastructure being developed to host regional and international programmes, including workshops, symposia and conferences, on the emerging areas of fisheries science, technology and development. It will evolve into a strong centre for policy interventions and groom the budding policy makers. This facilitation would not only expose students to top-end scientific activities from around the world but would also help develop linkages with the institute. throbbing hive of activities.

Research Charting New Boundaries

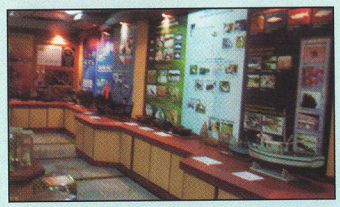
Basic and Strategic Research

Major research programmes are planned to cut across narrow disciplinary boundaries, to conducted in an inter-disciplinary and collaborative mode. The institute has undertaken an exercise to mainstream the on-going research projects and identify thematic or niche areas. Six major research areas have been identified for formulation of new projects, viz. Genotype environment interactions, Aquaculture in inland salt-affected areas, Production of non-food aquatic organisms, Quality enhancement of fish, Fisheries co-management and Policy framework for Indian fisheries and aquaculture.

The CIFE plans to develop into a formidable intellectual think-tank to provide policy support (both need-based and long-term) in fisheries sector to Central and State governments, international organizations, development agencies and other stakeholders. It will conduct applied and strategic research on issues related to existing policy needs and gaps, HRD needs; globalization, WTO and intellectual property management; trade, livelihood and gender concerns; returns on investment in fisheries industry, education, research and extension. Also, it will address the emerging issues of national and international importance like eco-labelling, code of conduct for responsible fisheries, coastal-zone management, fisheries subsidies, water and energy use, disaster management protocols etc., to provide research-based policy support in fisheries and aquaculture.

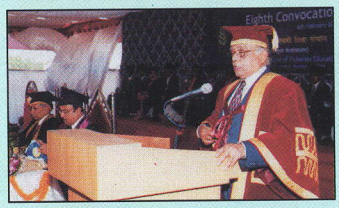


Hiralal Cahudhary Library



State-of-art museum Matsyadarpan

Training vessel MFV Saraswati



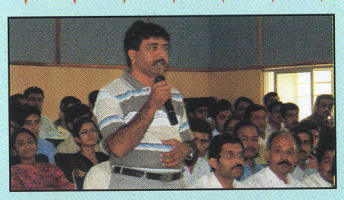
Dr chidambaram, Chief Guest at convocation along with Dr Dilip Kumar

Dr Dilip Kumar, Director, CIFE

ANAND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, ANAND

Lifting of Ban on filling Vacant Positions

An interaction programme with Minister of Agriculture, Gujarat State and VCs of Agricultural Universities of Gujarat with newly appointed Assistant Professors and Assistant Research Scientists of all the four SAUs in Gujarat was organized on 24 November 2006 at AAU, Anand. The outcome of the meeting was that 139 Assistant Professors and their equivalents



Interaction programme

Interaction among newly Assistant Professors

have been appointed in four SAUs including 60 Assistant Professors in AAU, Anand and every year one-third posts will be filled up.

Celebration of World AIDS Day

AAU, Anand celebrated World AIDS Day on 1 December 2006, which aims to prevent this dangerous disease such as HIV and AIDS. About 200 under-graduate and post-graduate students, Deans of various faculties and university officers were present. 'Red Ribbon Club' was established at the AAU.

Prof. M.C. Varshneya, vc, administering oath to members of Red Ribbon Club

CCS HARYANA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, HISAR

Dr Ashok Kumar Yadav, Professor of Agronomy, was conferred Academy of Advancement of Agricultural Sciences Award (Senior) by Indian Society of Plant Physiology, in addition to Lifetime Fellowship of the society.

Dr Ashok Kumar Yadav

Dr K.K. Thakral

Dr K.K. Thakral, Professor of Vegetable Science, was honoured with Indian Society for Spices (ISS) Fellowship as well as a certificate and memento in recognition of his significant contribution to spices research.

C.S. AZAD UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, KANPUR

31st VCs Annual Convention

Lighting the lamp Dr Ashok Bajpai & Dr R.B. Singh

The 31st VCs Annual Convention on 'Role of SAUs in ushering second green revolution' was organized at Kanpur during 9-10 December 2006. The inaugural function was attended by Prof. (Dr) V.K. Suri, Vice-Chancellor. The chief guest, Dr Ashok Bajpai, Agriculture Minister of U.P. Government; guest of honour, Dr R.B. Singh; invited guest, Dr Chandrika Prasad; President, Dr M.P. Yadav; all the VCs (26), and the Deans and Directors (36). Dr Ashok Bajpai urged the participants to give serious thought on Green Revolution first before going for ushering in second Green Revolution, especially in the context of WTO. Dr R.B. Singh, ex-Member, NCF, stated that the theme is most topical and timely. Today Green Revolution has waned, the agricultural production is stagnant for the past several years; per-caput (head) availability of food is declining, resulting in wheat imports; yield is stagnant; barring a few crops, the growth rate has declined, indicating technology fatigue; and there are wide yield gaps, indicating failure of services and extension. He also pointed out that all-time low (only 1.3% of national GDP) investment in agriculture and the failure of the SAUs in removing the farmers' distress in hot spots are some of the areas to be addressed. The second Green Revolution differs from the first owing to its focus on inclusiveness, efficiency, transparency, WTO, ICT and ecotechnology, and in being pro-poor, pro-nature, pro-women. The projected growth of 9% without 4% agricultural growth will not be sustainable. Dr Chandrika Prasad, DG, UPCAR, appealed to the VCs to learn from the past experiences and make action plan for second Green Revolution that can bring smiles on the poor. Dr M.P. Yadav also found it a most suitable platform for discussing the role of SAUs in ushering in second Green Revolution. Dr R.P. Singh, Executive Secretary, briefed about the progress of the IAUA. A *Souvenir* containing messages and articles of the dignitaries was released during the inaugural function. Eight books written by different faculty members of the university were also released by the Chief Guest. Dr A.N. Tewari, Dean (Agriculture) of the host institution, proposed the official vote of thanks.

The Convention was divided into five sub-themes, viz. Self-employment generation through imparting need-based education, Promotion of export-oriented agricultural and horticultural commodities, Demand-driven technology dissemination, Right to information and Special session on farmers-scientists interaction, at which 13 farmers from different parts of the country were honoured.

Recommendations

1. The goal of SAUs and other agricultural educational institutions should be 'Every scholar an entrepreneur', integrating business-management principles with major applied courses.
2. Home Science colleges may be restructured as College of Human Sciences with both male and female scholars mastering disciplines like Nutrition and Post-harvest Technology.
3. Agriculture should be introduced at school level.
4. A system for according recognition to farm graduates to provide extension and other services by recognizing them as Registered Farm Practitioners should be developed.
5. Self-help Groups and Producer Companies of farm graduates could be formed to avail of the new credit facilities for undertaking high-quality hybrid seeds, bio-fertilizers etc.
6. The SAUs and ICAR institutes should upscale their research activities in export-oriented agricultural and horticultural commodities.
7. A Growers' Association should be formed and involved in production, post-harvest management and export decisions to ensure sustainability.
8. Land reforms in various states including consolidation, ceiling limits and lease markets should be accomplished on priority basis.
9. To create awareness among the farmers about new technology, more stress should be laid on participatory approach.
10. Technology generation, technology transfer and commercialization of technologies with the participation of all the stakeholders should be strongly promoted.
11. The technology-transfer system must concentrate more on cost-effective technologies for maximizing net returns of farmers.
12. There is an urgent need to have more information flow and knowledge regarding Right to Information Act.
13. The IAUA may be kept informed by the universities about various issues arising out of the requests received under RTI Act, and the relevant useful information should be published in *IAUA Newsletter*.
14. Strong linkages should be established between farmers and scientists.
15. Social engineering should be geared up to improve economic status of the farmers by adopting new technologies.
16. Krishi Mahotsav adopted by Gujarat should be implemented also by other states to educate the farmers.

DR BALASAHEB SAWANT KONKAN KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, DAPOLI

Ornamental fish breeding and management

A workshop on 'Ornamental fish breeding and management' was conducted at Maharashtra Council for Agricultural Education and Research, Pune on 23 November 2006 under the Chairmanship of Adv. Vijayrao Kolate, Vice-Chairman, MCAER, Pune, at which Shri Prabhakar Deshmukh, District Collector, was also present. The programme was organized by Dr Shekhar Kovale, Associate Dean, College of Fisheries, Shirgaon, district Ratnagiri in collaboration with ATMA, Pune. A total of 69 participants attended the programme. Group discussion was organized during the concluding session of the programme to understand the views of the participants and problems of the existing entrepreneurs.

An ornamental fish-breeding unit was established in Wet Laboratory of the Aquaculture Department of College of Fisheries, Ratnagiri. The broodstock of several ornamental fishes, angelfish, swordtails, ciamese, fighting fish, mollies and goldfish are maintained and bred regularly in the laboratory by post-graduate students of the Department to acquire hands-on-training. The fishes produced in the process are sold out to the private entrepreneurs for rearing and marketing. The centre was inaugurated by Dr V.B. Mehta, VC, on 14 November 2006.

G.B. PANT UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, PANTNAGAR

Unique hill fowl of Kumaon

The birds of local hill fowl of Kumaon are very hardy, resistant to many

diseases, good foragers, bio-controllers of insects, worms and parasites, and efficient converters of quality food. However, during the last few years their population has greatly decreased due to distribution of improved or crossbred coloured chicken in the region by Government agencies or NGOs for backyard poultry production. It has also led to genetic erosion and almost extinction of local hill fowl. In view of the need to protect it from further degradation and to ensure its conservation, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences took up a project entitled 'Characterization and conservation of local hill fowl of Kumaon region', funded by the ICAR, New Delhi.


Local hill fowl of Uttaranchal

Release of new varieties

Cowpea UPC 622: Its yield potential is 35-40 tonnes/ha green fodder and 5.5-6.0 tonnes/ha dry matter at 50% flowering stage in 85-90 days after planting. It has high dry-matter digestibility of 65-70 % and crude protein content of 16-18 %, besides lower ADF and NDF percentages. The variety is resistant to yellow mosaic virus, collar or root rot, anthracnose, bacterial blight and aphids; and tolerant to major diseases and insect pests including flea-beetle nematode and pod-borer at field level. Its slightly twining tendency and subglobose leaves make it suitable for mixed or intercropping with maize and other cereal fodders.

Pea Pant Pea 25: It is a dwarf variety of field pea, developed through backcross followed by pedigree selection method. It is resistant to powdery mildew and tolerant to rust diseases. It matures in 120-125 days and gives average yield of 20-25 acres/ha, which is 43.7% more than of VL 1, the best check. In view of its superiority in yield and resistance or tolerance to the two major diseases, the State Varietal Release Committee for Uttarakhand released this variety in 2006 for cultivation in the plains of the state.

Wheat UP 2584: This new wheat variety was released for cultivation in irrigated areas of Uttarakhand hills. Its potential yield is 32 acres/ha under irrigated hills conditions. Its plant height is 95 cm, it matures in 158 days, and possesses good protein content and high flour-recovery trait.

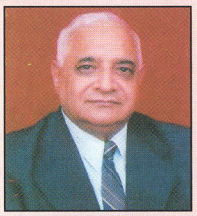

Dr N.B. Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, inaugurating Farmers' Fair

Farmers' Fair

Eighteenth Farmer' Fair and Agro-Industrial Exhibition of Krishi Kumbh, held during 11-14 October 2006, demonstrated the best and latest in agricultural technology.

New university of horticulture and forestry

A new University of Horticulture and Forestry came into existence at Ranichauri on 29 December 2006. Two colleges of GBPUAT, Pantnagar will be its constituent colleges, viz. Colleges of Forestry and Hill Agriculture, Ranichauri and Vir Chandra Singh Garhwal College of Horticulture, Bharsar.


Dr P.L. Gautam, founder VC of UHF

Workshop on sugarcane

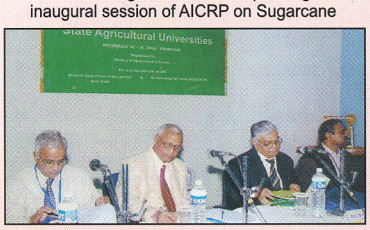
The 26th Biennial Workshop on All-India Co-ordinated Research Project on Sugarcane was held during 16-18 October 2006 at Pantnagar.


Dr S.C. Modgal, former VC, Speaking at inaugural session of AICRP on Sugarcane

MARATHWADA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, PARBHANI

Training programme on Biosafety

A training programme on Biosafety was organized by Consortium India Ltd, New Delhi and MAU, Parbhani during 18-19 December 2006 to create awareness about the risks associated with the release of transgenic crops under field conditions.



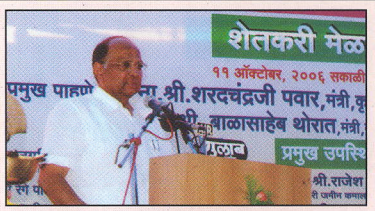
Training Workshop on Biosafety for SAUs

Agricultural Technology Transfer week

The MAU organized Agricultural Technology Transfer week during 9-13 October 2006.

Grand parents in Child Development

Department of Child Development, College of Home Science organized Grand Parents Day, 2006 to educate the community about the significant contributions of grand parents in wholesome development of children.



Shri Pawar addressing the farmers at Mega Kisan Mela


Dr G.S. Jadhav relesing folder on multiple parenting. Prof. D. Murali, ADP, Home Sc., Shri Yashwant Choudhari & author & HoD CDFR Prof. Visala patnam are seen

Annual Training Camp of NCC

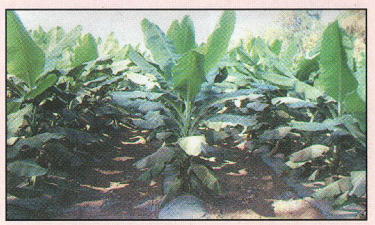
The Annual Training Camp of 53 MAH BN, NCC was organized at College of Agriculture, Latur campus from 28 November to 9 December 2006.


Participants of Annual Training Camp, Latur

NAVSARI AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, NAVSARI

Precision farming technology for banana

NAU, Navsari has developed and demonstrated a precision farming package, consisting of drip, fertigation, black plastic mulching and chemical desuckering technologies in banana crop.


Soil and Water Management Research unit

Mango processing plant

NAU is the first agricultural university in the country to establish commercial-scale Mango Processing Plant of 500 kg/hr processing capacity.

Biocontrol laboratory

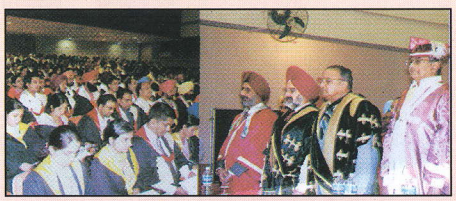
Department of Entomology organized a seminar on 'Role of bio-agents in integrated pest management' on 14 October 2006.


Shri Bhupendra Sinhji Chudasama inaugurating the processing plant

PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, LUDHIANA

Thirty-fourth Annual Convocation

The 34th Annual Convocation of PAU was held on 31 October 2006, presided over by the Chancellor General, S.F. Rodrigues (Retd), Hon'ble Governor of Punjab. The Union Minister for Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram urged the scientists and scholars of PAU to draw an ambitious blueprint for Indian agriculture in 21st century, where farming should not be considered a drudgery but an occupation of choice and profit, which brings dignity and prosperity to the farmers. Speaking about new investment in agriculture, he emphasized that we must change our policies to build a strong system of credit input services, post-harvest technology, retail marketing and export.


Thirty-fourth Annual Convention

In his convocation report, VC, Dr K.S. Aulakh, presented an account of PAU activities. He identified two main areas of concern to scientists, viz. preserving and protecting for posterity the state's natural resources, and agro-processing for value addition. Dr Aulakh referred to seven key

areas to fill national food kitty and slash import bill on oilseeds, pulses and the cash or commercial crops. He added that PAU will improve upon its extension education or outreach programmes for on-time dissemination of knowledge, information and warning signals in the event of natural calamities, taking advantage of information technology and communication network. At the convocation 239 degrees were awarded. The university also honoured nine faculty members for their contributions in promoting teaching, research and extension. Merit certificates for excellence in academics were given to 59 students, and gold medals etc. were awarded to 19 students.

SARDAR VALLABH BHAI PATEL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, MEERUT

Symposium on Ornamental Bulbous Crops

A National symposium on Ornamental Bulbous Crops was organized during 5-6 December 2006 at Meerut in collaboration with Indian Society of Ornamental Horticulture, New Delhi. Dr M.L. Choudhary, Horticulture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture, GoI, inaugurated the symposium and Prof. M.P. Yadav, VC, SVBPUAT, Meerut, presided over the inaugural function. Dr Yadav emphasized the need to conserve the existing genetic diversity of ornamental bulbous crops and utilization of potential of edapho-climatic resources of the country for their production. At the symposium 152 delegates from different states participated. The major recommendations of the seminar are :

Inaugural ceremony of National Symposium on Ornamental Bulbous Crops

- Genetic diversity of bulbous crops should be conserved and documented in collaboration with NBPGR for further utilization.
- Commercial cultivation of bulbous crops should be promoted for export and domestic market.
- Availability of quality planting material should be increased through systematic and participatory approach.
- Emphasis should be given to post-harvest management including increase in the shelf-life.
- Based on the information available, some documents should be prepared on site-specific agro-techniques including IPM and INM.
- Co-ordinated or network programmes may be initiated for promotion of R & D in bulbous crops.

Isolation of entomo-pathogenic nematode strains

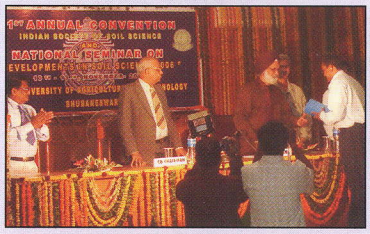
The use of natural enemies, parasitoids and insect pathogens as biological insecticides is the most viable pest-management alternative leading to their economical, and long-term control and without risk to human beings and other non-target organisms. Entomo-pathogenic nematodes (EPN) are considered as natural enemies of insects, particularly of polyphagous pest, as they serve as vectors of bacteria and are very effective against the target insect pests. Two local strains of EPN have been isolated in October 2006 at Bio-control Laboratory at Meerut. These were isolated by baiting technique, and their microscopic observation revealed that they were *Rhabditis* sp. and *Heterorhabditis* sp. Based on bioassay, they were found to parasitize Lepidopterans, viz. *Corcyra cephalonica, Scirpophaga incertulus, Earias vitella, Leucinodes orbonalis* etc. It is the report of the isolation of the local strain of entomo-pathogenic *Rhabditis* sp. from northern India. The two EPNs are yet to be identified up to species level. Keeping in view the efficacy of local strains of EPN, the identified genus, *Rhabditis* sp. needs to be characterized ecologically before its commercial exploitation under field condition.

Local strain of *Rhabditis* sp.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

ANAND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, ANAND

Dr V.P. Ramani, Assistant Research Scientist, Micronutrient Project (ICAR), Anand has won Indian Society of Soil Science (ISSS) Best Doctoral Research Presentation Award, 2006 for his Ph. D. dissertation on 'Effect of Ni and FYM on yield and chemical composition of field crops grown on effluent irrigated Fluventic Ustochrepts soils'.



Dr J.S. Samra presenting award to Dr V.P. Ramani

DR BALASAHEB SAWANT KONKAN KRISHI VIDYAPEETH, DAPOLI

Dr M.S. Randhawa award to Dr A.G. Powar

Dr M.S. Swaminathan, President, NAAS, New Delhi, announced Dr M.S. Randhawa Award 2005-06 to Dr A.G. Powar, Director of Extension Education and Associate Dean, College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology Dapoli.

Dr A.G. Powar

G.B. PANT UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, PANTNAGAR

Outstanding Senior Scientist Award

Dr Beer Bahadur Singh, widely known as Mr Cowpea, Visiting Professor at Pantnagar, who was earlier a plant breeder at International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, was honoured with Outstanding Senior Scientist Award by Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

Dr Beer Bahadur Singh

INDIRA GANDHI AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, RAIPUR

ISA Best Ph.D. thesis award to Dr Rajendra Lakpale

Dr Rajendra Lakpale, Senior Scientist (Agronomy), received the Best Ph.D. Thesis award by Indian Society of Agronomy, New Delhi for the year 2004. The award consists of a citation and cash prize of Rs 5,000.

Dr Panjab Singh, presenting the award to to Dr Rajendra Lakpale

Corrigendum

For 'Arjun ghee (Herbal)', the legend with the photograph appearing on page 2 in *IAUA News;* **6** (2) under sub-heading CAU, Imphal; R*ead* ' Visit of Shri. S.P. Srivastava at CAU, Imphal'.
The mistake is regretted.

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