Agri research to focus on doubling farm income by ’22

FACT FILE FOR FUTURE AGRO RESEARCH

Research should be pro-poor, pro-nature and pro-women
Shift focus towards infrastructure, investment and insurance from production, productivity and prices
Water productivity is next challenge in front of agro researchers
Need to increase micro-irrigation in order to ensure optimum use of water
Rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge practices should be vastly adopted
Land degradation is going to become serious problem in next few years
Desertification is increasing in Central and South India
By 2050, more than 20% of land will be lost
Future research must focus on these future challenges

NAGPUR: All agriculture researchers, scientists and entire machinery of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) is currently working to achieve one goal — doubling farmers’ income by 2022.

Director-general of ICAR Trilochan Mohapatra expressed confidence that increased productivity, better land use and water management will be important steps to achieve this goal.

“Increasing or doubling farmers’ income involves different aspects like reducing cost of cultivation, value addition in crops and making markets accessible to farmers. All four states — Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Goa — coming under the regional committee No. VII of ICAR will present their action taken reports on doubling farmers’ income during this biennial summit,” said Mohapatra.

Apart from this, our researchers will focus on increasing the contribution of farmers in developing India as $5-trillion economy by 2025.

For this, academicians from agriculture universities, researchers and students will brainstorm during next 48 hours,” he said. ICAR will soon start tapping into 10 local farmers from each state on research committees to get their first-hand suggestions and demands, he added.

Directors of 16 institutions attached to ICAR in this region, vice-chancellors of 10 agriculture universities in these four states, around 350 agriculture scientists and senior administrative officials from agriculture department were attending this two-day summit, which was inaugurated on Friday.

Maharashtra minister of animal husbandry and dairy development Mahadev Jankar was the chief guest for inaugural function. Jankar said that role of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairy needs to be explored further to increase farmers’ income.

Earlier additional secretary and financial adviser of ICAR Bimbharsingh Pradhan, deputy director-general (fisheries science) Joyeeta Basu, among others addressed the inaugural session. Dr R K Alagarswamy, DDG of agriculture engineering, ICAR, delivered introductory remarks. Dr SK Singh, director of NBSS-LUP and member-secretary of ICAR, proposed a vote of thanks.
‘Mah, Rajasthan are setting example for water mgmt’

By Kaushik Bhattacharya

“IT IS the peak time when we have to reduce our dependency over monsoon for agriculture. Maharashtra and Rajasthan must be role models for other states for water management in agriculture,” said Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) while talking to The Hitavada on Friday.

Dr. Mohapatra was in the city to attend ICAR-Regional Committee meeting that held at NBSS&LUP, Amravati Road.

“Keeping the water scarcity in mind, both states are doing commendable job in micro agriculture sector. Micro agriculture practice is the best option to reduce dependency over water in the era of global warming,” stated ICAR chief.

Dr. Mohapatra emphasised on rainwater harvesting for better agriculture and urged stakeholders and researchers to do more work in this regard.

“Maharashtra is doing 60 per cent micro agriculture practice in the country but the state is facing farmers suicides and other agricultural issues. Jalayukta Shivar and other modern techniques are helping to improve the situation in the state but more efforts are needed,” said Dr. Mohapatra.

“Farmers have to convert their crop pattern in state like Maharashtra where agricultural crops require more water. Sugarcane and paddy crops require more water and some changes are needed to reduce dependency on such crops in Maharashtra,” said Dr. Mohapatra.

‘Valley needs private investment in agriculture sector’

“JAMMU and Kashmir has tremendous scope in agriculture sector. Private companies and farmers should have come forward to promote agriculture in the state,” said Dr. Mohapatra.

According to ICAR chief, “Horticultural sector contributes immensely to strengthen the financial condition of Jammu and Kashmir from the beginning. Around 20 per cent area of the state is under horticultural crops. Hence, Government have to promote horticulture for better future.”

ICAR is working in Jammu and Kashmir from last many years with Agriculture Universities in Jammu and Shrinagar and removal of Article 370 will help scientists to do more work.

Horticultural sector contributes around Rs 5,000 crore to the annual income of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Among the horticultural crops in the state, apple occupies the predominant position constituting around 45 per cent of the total area under fruit crops. Promoting horticulture in Valley will bring down the cost of apple country wide.

While talking about Ladakh, Dr. Mohapatra said, “Ladakh has good scope for high density plantation and it should be promoted there.”
Integrated approach needed to solve farmers' issues: Jankar

Staff Reporter

“AN INTEGRATED approach is needed to solve farmers’ problems in the country, keeping this mind, Government of India is now constructing on doubling farmers’ income till 2022,” said Mahadev Jankar, Cabinet Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries Development, Government of Maharashtra, during the inauguration of two-day ICAR-Regional Committee meeting held at Dr S K Raychaudhary Auditorium, NBSS&LUP, Amravati Road on Friday.

Addressing the gathering, Jankar said, “Jalayukta Shivar is a boon for agriculture sector in Maharashtra and the results are clearly visible in the state.”

Researchers in agriculture sector should do more work to increase farmer’s income and it will be a big challenge to achieve the target till 2022, Jankar added.

Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), in his presidential address highlighted about self-sufficiency in food production.

“Excess production has become a problem and we have to find solutions for utilisation of excess produce and convert them to other bye products or value addition,” said Dr Mohapatra during the event. ICAR chief highlighted the policy action taken to utilise excess production of sugar into bio-ethanol to address the issue of fuel.

Dr Sushil Kumar, Additional Secretary, DARE and Secretary, ICAR and Binbhardar Pradhan, Additional Secretary, Financial Advisor, DARE/ICAR were the guests of honour. Dr K Alagusundaram, Deputy Director General, Agricultural Engineering and Natural Resource Management, ICAR welcomed all the participants to the meeting and explained the background of constituting Regional Committees in different regions.

Various publications and souvenirs were inaugurated at the hands of the guests. Secretaries and directors of State Agricultural Departments, Vice-Chancellors of State Agriculture, Veterinary and Fishery Universities, Directors of ICAR Institutes and project co-ordinators, incharges of KVKs were present during the programme. Young researchers from African countries also attended the programme. Dr S K Chaudhary, Assistant Director General (NRM), ICAR also shared the dais. Dr S K Singh, Director, ICAR-NBSS&LUP Nagpur and Member Secretary proposed a vote of thanks.
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NBSS&LUP's meet from 9th

The meeting will be inaugurated by Dr T Mohapatra

Staff Reporter

ICAR-NATIONAL Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP) is holding 25th meeting of ICAR Regional Committee No VII on August 9 and 10 at Dr S P Roychoudhary Auditorium, ICAR-NBSS&LUP campus, Amravati Road.

The meeting will be inaugurated on August 9 at the hands of Dr T Mohapatra, Secretary of Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General of ICAR at 10 am.

Addressing a press conference at Director's Committee Room, ICAR-NBSS&LUP campus on Wednesday, Dr Surendra Kumar Singh, Director of ICAR-NBSS&LUP said, “This 25th Silver Jubilee meeting of seventh regional committee is focused on the theme ‘Status of Centre State Coordination for R&D Linkage in Agricultural Research, Education and Extension.’ There are eight regional committees across the country. The seventh regional committee has been working in four states like Maharashtra, Goa, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. In addition to the Director General of ICAR, additional secretaries, finance secretaries, members of governing bodies, representatives of ten universities in these states including Vice Chancellors, Directors, Educationists, Researchers etc. will participate. This meeting will serve as a common platform for the State Department of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra, all agriculture universities and universities of animal and fisheries science universities etc.”

Stating that the meeting will discuss number of burning issues related to farmers in these four states, Dr Singh highlighted, “The main agenda of the meeting has been divided into 30 different subjects. State Department of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra will discuss the issues of managing irrigation induced salt affected and waterlogged soils in Maharashtra and reclamation of salt affected soils of Vidarbha region. Previously, millet was the major crop in Vidarbha region. The farmers switched over to cotton. The meeting will focus the discussions on back to millet and how to increase best marketing price for the millet. Crop diversification in Vidarbha, value addition-safflower oils, cooking from millet and for doubling farmers income bio-control for reducing cost of cultivation will be presented by Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh KrishiVidyapeeth Akola. Dr Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli will focus on ‘Need to support technically for small scale farmers of the Konkan region for improving the production and value addition in spices, medicinal crops, aromatic crops and tuber crops.’ Like these many issues will be discussed in the meeting.”

Dr P Chandran, Dr T K Sen, Dr Raju Shrivastava, Dr M S Raguvanshi, Dr S Chattaraj and Dr M T Sahu were also present at the press conference.
India’s land use tech far better, farmers need not end lives

Sorfraz Ahmed

Nagpur: A group of seven African agriculture officers were on Monday briefed to know that farmers are resorting to suicide in India despite the country having best practices, advanced technology and the know-how of land use.

Invited by the Indian government under the bilateral agreement with their countries, these officers are on a study tour to learn about the methods adopted by farmers, the role of the administration and training being imparted here.

‘Agri research will flourish in valley’: Main section P 8

Land administrator John Ngwenya from Malawi, Zambian ministry of agriculture representative Jacobina Mbinga, Seychelles’s Zara Aliy, Njirainy from Comoros, Namibian ministry of agriculture, water and forestry’s Joseph Kauferagwa, Zambian ministry of agriculture representative Aggrey Unupula and Demiss Mokaa of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute have been camping in the city for the last five days.

Speaking to TOI on the sidelines of ICAR’s regional committee, the group said they were impressed by India’s agriculture system and would like to use technologies used here in their countries.

“I am learning about what India is doing in soil survey. I would like to recommend this in my country too,” said Ngwenya.

Land administrator from Malawi said his country is lagging behind as far as use of remote sensing is concerned. “It is very effective in understanding crop area but not in its accuracy,” he said.

Jacobina, who imports training to farmers in Zambia, said, “Our methods are lengthy and take a lot of time. By using GPS, remote sensing and land survey, we can improve our productivity.”

Njirainy said farming tools used in India are far better than those available in Comoros.

“Wrongly paying attention to water and fertilizers. The use of soil is being completely ignored,” Zara said.

When asked if farmers in their countries were under stress, the African officers said various local and international organizations besides their respective governments were supporting them. “Farmers do not get frustrated when their crops fail. NGOs and other organizations like WHO, DMIU and other local organizations support them,” they said.

They added that needy farmers get subsidies on fertilizers and seeds and most of them don’t borrow much.

When told that distressed farmers in India commit suicide, the African officers said, “It is shocking. They have all the inputs regarding climate, irrigation and the latest methods. Why would they still take the drastic step?” they asked.

Oilseeds production likely to see major boost in 4 years

Chaitanya Deshpande

Nagpur: After significantly increasing the production of pulses through various strategies, the ICAR is focusing on boosting oilseeds production over the next four years. ICAR director general Prilochan Mohapatra said that strategic planning of introducing different oilseed crops in different zones and areas is in the final phase.

“Increasing edible oil production is the next challenge for us. This will reduce import dependence for edible oil by 2022. For this, we will encourage cultivation of oilseeds such as mustard and groundnut in states such as Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, the North East and Himachal Pradesh, where a large area of land is available,” said Mohapatra.

“During the last five years, the domestic consumption of edible oil has increased substantially. A person should consume no more than 10g oil annually. But per capita consumption of oils in India is 15g per person at present. Consumption is increasing every year and we need to remain prepared for the increasing oil needs,” he said.

A substantial portion of India’s requirement of edible oil is met through import of palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia.

“Focus on mustard, groundnut, sesame, sunflower...”

AFTER PULSES, OIL’S NEXT

- India imports around 70% of its edible oil requirement
- Govt has decided to spend Rs 15,000 core to boost production of oilseeds
- Five-year mission for oil seeds is being designed on the lines of pulses mission
- Mustard, groundnut, sesame will be promoted instead of palm and canola
- Seed production hubs will be started for farmers
- Awareness regarding excess consumption of oil will also be created

Increasing edible oil production will cut import dependence for edible oil by 2022. For this, we will encourage cultivation of oilseeds in states such as Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

TRILIOCHAN MOHAPATRA

ICAR DIRECTOR GENERAL

and soybeans should be increased instead of dependence on palm. There is a vast scope for more oil production if we successfully implement the idea of area expansion,” he said.

He added that the success story of pulses production in India will be a guiding force during the oil mission.
कृषि के विकास में पूरक व्यवसाय अहम

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद की कार्यशाला
भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद ने दिनांक 10 अगस्त 2019 को नागपुर में कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया। इसमें भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद के उपाध्यक्ष डॉ. राकेश महान्द्र, अन्य नेताओं और विभिन्न मंत्रियों के हस्ताक्षर भी रखे गए।

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद के उपाध्यक्ष डॉ. राकेश महान्द्र कहा कि कृषि क्षेत्र में संतुलित प्रदेश के संरचनात्मक विकास की क्षमता है। इसके लिए अनुसंधान का महत्व है। कृषि विकास पर पर्यावरण के आयुक्त डॉ. राकेश महान्द्र कहते हैं कि कृषि विकास में पूरक व्यवसाय अहम है। यह भारतीय कृषि उद्योग की वर्तमान स्थिति को भी सुधार सहायक होगा।