

**05 January 2009**

One day 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Regional Committee No. V was organized at the National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC Complex), New Delhi on December 19, 2008. The meeting was inaugurated by Dr. Mangala Rai, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, ICAR. About 125 eminent delegates including Dr. A.K. Upadhyay, Additional Secretary, DARE and Secretary, ICAR, Secretaries of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fishery and Forestry Departments from the Governments of Haryana, Punjab and Delhi, eight Deputy Director Generals (DDGs) of ICAR, Vice Chancellors of Agricultural/Veterinary Universities and deemed Universities from Haryana, Punjab and Delhi, Directors, Project Directors / Coordinators of ICAR Institutes, State Departments' officials participated in this meeting.

ICAR has divided the country into eight agro-climatic regions and has constituted a Regional Committee for each region to assess, review and prioritize the agricultural research and development needs of these regions once in every two years. In these Committees, research back-up need of the development departments are flagged and discussed, solutions provided and research agenda framed. Each Committee is coordinated by a DDG of ICAR. Agenda discussions of these Committees help in identification of problems and priorities to effectively address research, education and extension issues of the region relating to agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, horticulture and forestry. Dr. Gurbachan Singh, Director, Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI), Karnal is the Member Secretary of the Committee.

Dr. K.M. Bujarbaruah, DDG (AS) and Convener of the meeting formally welcomed all the delegates and dignitaries. Sh. A.K. Upadhaya, Additional Secretary, DARE and Secretary, ICAR emphasized on close coordination amongst ICAR Institutes, State Agricultural /Veterinary Universities and various line Departments of

the state governments. He stressed for the need to develop strategies to coup-up with the recent climate changes and their likely impact on agriculture in general and wheat in particularly.

While inaugurating the meet, Dr. Mangala Rai, Secretary DARE and Director General of ICAR expressed satisfaction over the action taken on the recommendations emerged from the previous meeting and had drawn the attention of the participants to the emerging issues like soil-nutrient imbalancing, conservation agriculture and groundwater depletion, public-private partnership developments to tap National and global markets etc. The Director General hoped that issues likely to be raised during the meeting would be effectively addressed to pace the way towards technology and growth in this region known for its significant contribution to National food basket.



Dr. Mangala Rai, Director General, ICAR  
inaugurating the meet



Dr. Mangala Rai, Director General, ICAR making  
his view points during inaugural session

In response to the issues raised by the State Development Departments, Deputy Director Generals of ICAR and Vice Chancellors of State Agricultural Universities responded to agenda items raised in the meeting. Some of the major recommendations emerged on various issues pertaining to agriculture, horticulture, animal sciences, fisheries, forestry sector development of the region are given below.



1. Network mode participatory research programme to solve water logging and soil salinity problems in states of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi is recommended. The CSSRI will lead the programme. The different management options such as subsurface drainage, fisheries, crop diversification and forestry will be integrated under participatory farming system approach to promote multiple use of water multi-enterprise agriculture. The concerned SAUs and ICAR Institute's located in the region will collaborate in the programme.
2. A network programme to study heat tolerance of different crops to be initiated in view of recent climatic abrasions. The IARI may develop required infrastructure facilities and may initiate initial experimentation. Other concerned ICAR institutes and State Agriculture Universities of the region will collaborate in the programme.

3. The dairying in the region is under transformation. There is shift in farmers approach from individual based cattle rearing to commercial dairying. In view of commercial dairying ventures in Punjab and Haryana, and dairying in limited scale in the metros like Delhi; it is recommended to formulate the policies on different aspects of commercial dairying such as credit, housing (in view of changing climate), feed, marketing, cattle breeding/artificial insemination, cattle clinics, processed milk products, etc.
4. It is also recommended to have regularization and standardization of agricultural input services such as credit, subsidy, seed, fertilizers, irrigation and equipments as well as agricultural processed industry, products and marketing for strengthening agriculture in the region.
5. It is recommended that different components of agriculture such as horticulture, floriculture, animal husbandry including dairying, fisheries, poultry, bee keeping, mushroom farming, etc. may be treated at par with farming in the region. The facilities/policies applicable to farming might be made available applicable to these components of agriculture.
6. It is recommended to strengthen Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of KVK. Directors of ICAR institutes in the area should be nominated as members of SAC of KVKs, besides state government representatives. One ADG should be nominated from ICAR side.
7. There is need of technology empowerment of KVKS; e-Connectivity among all stake holders; reforms in agriculture education system; strengthening of agricultural education and research infrastructure, human resources development in State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and ICAR Institutes in the region in view of globalization, international collaboration/ exchanges and network mode participatory research in emerging areas of agricultural research.