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सचिव एवं महानिदेशक

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SECRETARY & DIRECTOR GENERAL

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION
AND

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
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D.O. No. Secy(DARE) & DG(ICAR)/2015/

Dated the 30th December, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

Wish you and your families a Happy, Prosperous, Green and Clean New Year - 2016.

As the wheel of time rolls, year-by-year, our Institutions of agricultural research and higher education register landmarks, with continuing efforts towards appropriate technological and management solutions for science-led agricultural development in the country.

The year 2015 was a year of several missions, that were launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, who graced the ICAR Foundation Day at Patna for the second consecutive year. Farmer FIRST, Student READY, ARYA, ATFC and *Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav* were some of the unique initiatives of ICAR towards entrepreneurship development of agricultural graduates and improving technology dissemination. With regard to Institution building, the Hon'ble PM also laid the Foundation Stone of the new IARI at Hazaribagh, Jharkhand. The Union Cabinet cleared two of our major proposals, viz., the KVKs and Higher Agricultural Education in the country, giving a major fillip to our institutional supports and human resources.

It was concerning that the *Rabi* crop 2014-15 saw a setback in the northern states due to hailstorms and rains during the month of March, causing damages to ready-to-harvest wheat crop, in particular. Further, the monsoon ended with an overall deficit of 14%. However, the updated District-level Contingency Plans developed by ICAR provided adequate resilience to evade monsoon-related production deficiencies. The members of NARES deserve appreciation for their efforts in reaching out to farmers and working with them tirelessly during difficult situations. At the national level, the Council organized a 'Consultation on Enhancing Preparedness of Agricultural Contingencies in *Kharif-2015*' to identify better management practices in tiding over drought and other weather aberrations. The latter part of the year witnessed a rampant attack of white fly on the cotton crop in Punjab, as also the pink bollworm in Gujarat, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Here too, our Colleagues provided the required technical backstopping to combat the problems.

As a whole, the NARES continued to generate new agricultural technologies to boost productivity and enhance quality of farm produce, be it foodgrains, horticultural crops, livestock or fisheries. Some of the salient achievements include release of 80 varieties of food grains, oilseeds, pulses, fodder and fibre crops; production of 98000 quintals of quality breeder seeds; repeated strides in animal cloning; and issuing over 2.5 lakhs soil health cards to farmers. In addition, the revised nomenclature of several ICAR Institutes and mandates, along with Vision-2050 documents, provided directions to address the changing needs of agriculture and agricultural research. Drawing essence from them, the Council has implemented 16 Consortia Research Platforms and also launched the Extramural Funding in Agricultural Sciences.

We hosted the 23rd International Grassland Congress, attended by over 500 participants from 47 countries, wherein the Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare called for a National Grassland Policy. The Regional Conference on Agroforestry also developed a roadmap for implementation of the National Agroforestry Policy.

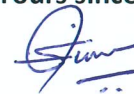
Towards the end of the Year 2015, the ICAR-NAAS commemorated the Golden Jubilee of Indian Green Revolution, wherein the contributions of scientists, national leadership and the farmers were remembered and tributes paid. ICAR participated in the 'Jai Kisan-Jai Vigyan' week, organized for the first time. Celebrating 2015 as the International Year of Soils with focused programmes, we are looking to 2016 as the International Year of Pulses.

Amidst these contributions, achievements and proud moments, I would like to take this opportunity to place on record, appreciation to all colleagues for their unstinted efforts in the service of the Indian farming community. I thank the family members of all colleagues who also extended wholehearted support in the service of the Council.

On the eve of New Year-2016, let us pledge to give our best to take Indian agriculture to newer heights in the times ahead.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,



(S. Ayyappan)

Encl: DARE/ICAR Salient Achievements - 2015

Distribution:

1. Additional Secretary & FA, DARE/ICAR; Additional Secretary, DARE & Secretary, ICAR.
2. DDGs; OSDs; ADGs; National Coordinators; Principal Scientists, Senior Scientists; Directors, Project Director; Deputy Secretaries, Under Secretaries of DARE/ ICAR Hqrs.
3. Directors/Project Directors of ICAR Institutes/ Directorates/ ATARIs/ Bureaux/ NRCs; Project Coordinators.

For kind information:

1. Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
2. Hon'ble Union Ministers of State for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
3. Chairman, ASRB; Member, ASRB; Secretary, Controller of Examinations, Deputy Secretary, Under Secretary, ASRB.
4. President, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi.
5. Vice-Chancellors of Central and State Agricultural Universities.
6. Secretary General, IAUA, New Delhi.
7. Director General, BISA, New Delhi.
8. Directors of CGIAR Centres and CABI, New Delhi
9. Chief Executive Officer, AgrInnovate India Ltd., New Delhi.