



CROP AND WEED SCIENCE NEWS

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2016

The International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development

The pictures of dead whales in a beach of Germany arrest the eyes on a social site. The stomach of the whale contained plastic garbage and motor parts. This little piece of information has an astronomical dimension of what we do to Mother Nature to alleviate our greed for comfort. Everyday practices in our daily lives may not directly concern agriculture but make sustainability further vulnerable.

Tourism being one of the driving forces of global economic growth currently accounting for 1 in 11 jobs worldwide, makes things difficult. Visits to the tropical coastlines of Thailand, Malaysia and Srilanka and exposure to climate programmes perceived that youth, women and rural communities are the predominant workforce in this sector. Astounding to find different tourist places of UK, Spain, Czech Republic, Germany and Austria, enjoying a developed economies, despite better standards the issue of sustainability looms large. In Europe, tourism contributes a greater share to national economy and revenue earnings. Coastlines contribute the major share to the kitty of tourism revenue and sustainability concerns compound with climate change scenario make it more vulnerable. There is a need for developing a framework in collaboration with Governments, relevant organizations, the UN's other international and regional organizations and all other relevant stakeholders. The framework should address the tourism with inclusivity of local people, their culture and cuisines as well as promoting sustainable growth and development and advancing corporate social responsibility.

Besides, its impact on economic growth and sustainable development, tourism is one of the sectors better positioned to deliver on jobs, perhaps the single most common issue of concern at this time. Tourism creates opportunities for entrepreneurship and provides millions of direct jobs worldwide, as well as countless more through its multiplier effects on related sectors such as agriculture, trade, manufacturing and construction. So the decision to adopt 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development comes at a particularly important moment as the international community embraces the new Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), approved by the UN General Assembly last September. Tourism is included as targets under three of the SDGs: (i) Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; (ii) Sustainable Consumption and Production and (iii) Conserve and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

The United Nations' specialized agency for tourism, UNWTO is committed to demonstrate the value of the sector while promoting tourism development that is responsible, sustainable and universally accessible, paying particular attention to the interests of developing countries.

Prof P Bandopadhyay and Prof K Brahmachari
(Editors)

The Bengal Science Lecture Programme on "Intellectual Property Rights" at BCKV

Bengal Science Lecture on "Intellectual Property Rights" was organized by the BCKV with the initiative of Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, BCKV in the Seminar Hall of the Director of Extension Education building, BCKV on 13 December, 2016 in collaboration with the West Bengal State Council of Science & Technology.

The programme was started with the welcome address by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of BCKV, Dr D D Patra. After the keynote address from Dr Maitreyi Banerjee, Sr Scientist, West Bengal State Council of Science & Technology, two renowned scientists, Dr Indira Banerjee and Dr Prabuddha Ganguly delivered their lectures respectively on "Protection of Biotechnological Inventions & related issues" and "Innovations in Biotechnology, Developing Plant Varieties and Strategies for their Protection using Intellectual Property Rights".

Besides the speakers and others dignitaries from the West Bengal State Council of Science & Technology, the heads of the teaching departments, faculties, scientists, Ph D scholars and other hierarchies of BCKV attended the programme in a large number and made the programme successful and meaningful.



The XIX Convocation of BCKV was held on 16 June, 2016. His Excellency Chancellor of the University Governor of West Bengal, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi presided over the Convocation. The Hon'ble Chief Guest Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE, Govt. of India and Director General, ICAR delivered the Convocation address. Presence of leading personalities in the field of Agriculture and allied sciences including esteemed former Vice Chancellors of BCKV and distinguished Senior Professors, guests, recipients of degrees, medals and prizes graced the occasion.

'Plant Genome Savior Community Award' for Sagar Krishnanagar Swami Vivekananda Youth Cultural Society

Sagar Krishnanagar Swami Vivekananda Youth Cultural Society, a farming community-based organization, is engaged in conservation of 39 rice landraces and 34 types of medicinal plants during last 7-8 years in Sagar island of South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. Amongst these rice varieties, aromatic ones like Gobindabhog, Harina Khuri, Badshabhog, Durgabhog, Kanakchur, Kalojira, Kartikbhog, Sitabhog, Radhatilak, Lal Badshabhog etc. are conserved and cultivated in Sagar island area under technical supervision of RKVY Project on 'Bengal Aromatic Rice', Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya since June, 2012.

With these efforts and activities, the Society submitted their application duly forwarded by the Director of Research, BCKV to the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA), New Delhi in December, 2014. After primary selection, a team of Scientists from PPV&FRA visited the Society on 4 June 2016 in the presence of Dr Mrityunjay Ghosh, Dr Amitava Biswas and others of the University. As per final decision of PPV&FRA, Dr Ravi Prakash, Registrar (Farmers' Rights) informed the Society (F. No. PPFRA/Reg/(FR)/19-14(A)/ 2014, dated 01.12.2016) that it had been selected for 'Plant Genome Savior Community Award, 2013-14' along with four other Farmers' Organizations of 4 different states (Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Goa and Andaman & Nicobar islands) of the country.



The Award Function was held at B P Pal Auditorium, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi on 21 December 2016. Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister was present as the Chief Guest along with Shri S K Patnaik, Agriculture Secretary, Dr T Mahapatra, Director General, ICAR, Dr R R Hanchilal, Chairman and Dr R C Agarwal, Register General, PPV & FRA. Shri Singh conferred the national award comprising Rs. 10 lakh cheque, memento and citation to the members of Society (Shri Sukdev Nath, Sri Uttam Tripathi, Smt Namita Nath and Prof Arbinda Mitra) and Prof Mrityunjay Ghosh as facilitator of BCKV. After the award function, Dr. Dharani Dhar Patra Vice Chancellor, BCKV, said that it is an achievement of the farmers' organization of our state in association with technical knowledge of BCKV, and opined that such awards will further motivate the farmers for conservation of traditional varieties of crops in their areas.

BCKV's New VC Steps in

Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya set out for a new journey with the joining of Dr D D Patra as the Vice-Chancellor on 10 June 2016. Dr Patra has brilliant academic records throughout his career. He ranked First in Agricultural stream in West Bengal Board in 1971. He also secured Second position during graduation and First position in post graduation from BCKV in 1976 and



1978 respectively. Dr Patra did his Ph D in 1982 from Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. His doctoral research fetched him the prestigious FAI (New Delhi) Gold Medal in 1983. His research interests are nitrogen balance in soil plant system, soil microbial biomass and nutrient bioavailability, utilization of marginal lands through cultivation of medicinal and aromatic crops and agro-technology of high value industrial crops, medicinal plant based agroforestry system, bioamelioration of salt affected soils and heavy metal polluted soils with aromatic plants as the model.

Dr Patra started his career as Assistant Professor in Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, in Rajasthan Agricultural University in 1982 and subsequently joined Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR), Lucknow in 1987. In recognition of his work Dr Patra has been conferred with several awards and laurels; the important amongst them are FAI Silver Jubilee Awards 1980, FAI Gold Medal 1983, PPIC-FAI Gold Medal 2000, 12th International Congress Commemoration Award 2005, UP Eminent Scientist Award on Natural Resource Management 2006, ISCA Platinum Jubilee Awards 2008; member of the teams conferred with Golden Peacock Eco-Innovation (UK) Award 2008 and CSIR Rural Development Award 2008. Dr Patra is a Fellow of the Indian Society of Soil Science, New Delhi, National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi and West Bengal Academy of Science and Technology, Kolkata. Under Commonwealth Fellowship Dr Patra visited Rothamsted Experimental Station, UK in 1983-84.

A proud alumnus of BCKV, he has started reengineering the teaching, research and extension programmes with pragmatism and innovation, blended with the active support from teachers, students and employees of this University at large. Immensely blessed with scholastic acumen, his determination and leadership have already permeated and incubated both dream and euphoria of work to usher a real progress of Viswavidyalaya for much needed transforming of the destiny of millions of farm families of the state and beyond.

Accreditation of BCKV by Indian Council of Agricultural Research

Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya has got accreditation by the National Agriculture Education Accreditation Board (NAEAB) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research in its XVII meeting held on 26 October, 2016 at NASC Complex, New Delhi. The accreditation was granted to the university after thorough review of its Self Assessment Report for last five years submitted to the ICAR. The Peer Review Team of ICAR has visited the university during 3 to 5 October 2016 and evaluated the performance of the university during last five years in respect of its governance, Faculty and other human resources, student development, research and extension services, library, farm, class room, laboratory, hostel and other physical facilities, financial sustainability and achievements of the university in various areas and submitted their recommendations to the ICAR. Based on the report of the Peer Review Team the accreditation was granted to the university for a period of five years (2016-17 to 2020-21) by the National Agriculture Education Accreditation Board of ICAR.

Peeping Through the Eyehole at the World



Our members, Prof Saon Banerjee, Prof Chamapak K Kundu and Prof Pintoo Bandopadhyay attended the 2nd International Conference on Science, Ecology and Technology at Barcelona, Spain during October 2016. They presented their valuable work on weed control in tea plantations, climate change issues and low volume herbicides for wheat. Prof Banerjee also chaired a very important session at this international conference.



Prof Rati Kanta Ghosh has been honoured by the Asia-Pacific Chemical, Biological and Environmental Engineering Society (APCBES),

Korea as a Senior Member (ID no. 101185) in 2015. He has also been selected a Member of IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), Australia for 2013-16. Prof Ghosh has been selected an author for Weed Management Chapter in IPM Book by the Directorate IPM, ICAR in 2016. He was earlier selected an author for Chapter 10 (Use and Misuse of Parthenium) of the Book on Parthenium published by CAB International, UK in 2013 and as an author for Weed Management Chapter in Plant Protection Schedule published by State Directorate of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal in 2010.

Our founder member, Prof Koushik Brahmachari



and his PhD scholar Mr Dibakar Ghosh of the Department of Agronomy, BCKV attended the 7th International Weed Science Congress (IWSC 2016) on "Weed Science and Management to Feed the Planet". The congress was held at Clarion Congress Hotel, Prague, Czech Republic on and from 19-25 June, 2016. They delivered an oral and poster presentation on "Cultural weed management of Indian weedy rice through deep tillage and flooding" and "Pre and post herbicidal weed management in rice-rice cropping system in eastern India" respectively. Mr Ghosh was awarded with "Graduate Student Travel Award" to participate in the congress at Prague. Dr Sankhajit Roy of the Department of Agricultural Chemicals, BCKV also attended the congress.

Our member Dr Umesh Thapa delivered an oral presentation on "Varietal evaluation of Cherry tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* Mill. var. *cerasiforme*) for optimization of planting date and pruning in protected conditions" in the 4th International Conference on Agriculture, Animal Science, Aquaculture and Fisheries, held on and from 28-29th December at Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Dr Abdus Sattar, former Research Scholar, Department of Agricultural Meteorology and Physics, BCKV, now Assistant Professor and Nodal Officer (Agrometeorology) attached to Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar, was honoured with the "Dr PD Mistry award for the best PhD thesis in Agricultural Meteorology" by the Association of Agrometeorologists in India in the inaugural function of National Seminar AGMET 2016 on "Climate Driven Food Production System: Agrometeorological Interventions" held during 20-22 December, 2016 at TNAU, Coimbatore. The title of PhD thesis is "Agroclimatic characterization for assessment of crop potential under rainfed condition in Bihar".

Prof Koushik Brahmachari has been elected councilor of the Indian Society of Costal Agricultural Research (ISCAR) Executive Committee for 2017 & 2018.

AICRP on Cashew



AICRP on Cashew, RRS, BCKV organized training for tribal women on cashew apple and cashew nut processing. 60 tribal woman farmers actively participated in the training and prepared "cashew ready to serve drink" and Jam from cashew apple. They processed 30 Kg kernel from raw cashew nut during the training period. The nut processing machineries were handed over to them.

APPLICATION OF SNA APPROACH FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL LIVELIHOOD

Application of Social Network Analysis (SNA) approach for studying human managed system in the context of agriculture and rural livelihoods is one of the novel ideas in social science research. The applications envisage Agricultural Knowledge and Information System (AKIS), livelihood support system, diffusion of innovations and farming system study. The pioneering work of Dr Rupak Goswami and Prof Debabrata Basu is arguably the first ever effort made in the context of agricultural extension scholarship in India and abroad. Some of these works have been published in national and international journals and conference proceedings. This approach will help us in understanding and intervening complex agricultural systems and their relationship with multiple stakeholders for sustainable rural livelihood.

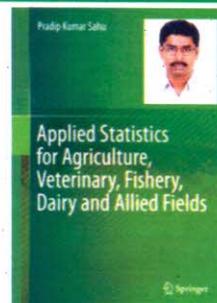
The RNARC at BCKV

The Regional Nuclear Agriculture Research Centre (RNARC) has been established inside the Mohanpur Campus of BCKV, mainly to build the capability of carrying out basic research work in the broad areas related to various

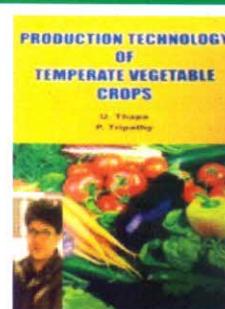


aspects of agriculture, biotechnology and food preservation like genetic improvement of crop plants, especially for West Bengal region through induced mutations, conventional breeding and biotechnological approaches; enhancement of phytomedicines through nuclear intervened molecular breeding; improvement of crop nutrition through radio tracer technique; use of nuclear techniques for food preservation; seed multiplication of improved BARC varieties and distribution of varieties in parts of West Bengal; development of protocol for residual pesticide analysis; improvement of phenolic antioxidant properties of medicinal plants through irradiation in vitro and molecular characterization of mutants. The centre was inaugurated by Padmashree Dr Sekhar Basu, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary to Govt of India, Department of Atomic Energy on 5 September, 2016, in the presence of several dignitaries like Dr D D Patra, Vice Chancellor, BCKV, Pradip Mazumder, Agricultural advisor to the Chief Minister, WB, Dr Ramendra Nath Biswas, MLA, Kalyani and others. Any organization can use high (GC5000) and low dose (BI2000) of irradiation sources which are now available in this centre. Interested persons or organizations may contact the Centre in Charge, RNARC BCKV (9433556387) for this purpose.

Publication of Books



These are the recently published books written by Prof Pradip Kumar Sahu and Prof Umesh Thapa.



ACIAR activities with BCKV



Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) just completed the East India Plateau Project with BCKV, PRADAN, WVC, ACWRDM and it has just started a new programme at Sundarbans in collaboration with BCKV, CSSRI, TSRD & different other Institutes of Australia & Bangladesh.

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