



INDIAN AGRONOMY NEWS

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NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT AT BHU, VARANASI

The Indian Society of Agronomy is organizing the biennial National Symposium on Conservation Agriculture and Environment at the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi during 26-28 October, 2006. The sub-themes to be deliberated in this Symposium are: (i) Conservation tillage and crop establishment techniques, (ii) Rainwater harvesting and water-saving technologies, (iii) Emerging trends in nutrient management, (iv) New paradigms in weed management, (v) Crop diversification and farming systems, and (vi) Reorientation of agricultural education. These topics will be addressed by experts emphasizing the challenges and opportunities available, supplemented by poster session to encourage detailed discussion with

presenters. Further information about the Symposium can be obtained either from Dr. I.P.S. Ahlawat, Secretary, ISA, Division of Agronomy, IARI, New Delhi or Dr. Kalyan Singh, Department of Agronomy, BHU, Varanasi.

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. K.A. Singh joins as Director, IGFRI, Jhansi



Dr. K.A. Singh joined as Director, Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi on 1st February, 2006. He was born on 27th May, 1953 and did his graduation and post-graduation degrees in 1974 and 1976, respectively from GBPUAT, Pantnagar. He was awarded Ph.D. degree in Agronomy from IARI, New Delhi in 1987. He did post-doctoral studies at Oxford University, UK in 1989, and also visited a number of other countries including Germany, France, Switzerland and Nepal. In 1978, he joined Agricultural Research Service of ICAR and served at IGFRI, Jhansi (1976-86) and ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region (1986-2002). He was Joint Director, ICAR RC for NEH Region, Arunachal Pradesh from 1997-2002. Before taking over as Director, he was Head, Crop Research Programme at the ICAR Research Centre for Eastern Region, Pusa, Bihar.

Dr. Singh specializes in the field of farming systems research, agroforestry and cropping systems research. He has 160 publications to his credit, and authored a book entitled "Resource Management Perspective of Arunachal Agriculture". He was awarded the ICAR Fakruddin Ali Ahmed Award for Outstanding Research in Agricultural Sciences in Tribal Areas in 1994-95.

The Indian Society of Agronomy wishes him a successful tenure as Director, IGFRI, Jhansi.

Dr. M.S. Gill joins as Project Director, PDCSR, Modipuram



Dr. M.S. Gill joined as Project Director, Directorate of Cropping Systems Research, Modipuram, Meerut on 1st August, 2006. He was born on 18th April, 1955

and did his B.Sc. Agriculture (Hons.) from GNDU, Amritsar in 1975, and M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Agronomy from PAU, Ludhiana in 1978 and 1989, respectively. He started his career as District Extension Specialist (Agronomy) in the Farm Advisory Service Scheme of PAU, Ludhiana during 1978 and conducted adaptive research trials on farmers' fields. Thereafter, he worked as Assistant Agronomist (1980-90), Agronomist (1990-95), Associate Director, Training (1995-98), Senior Scientist (Irrigation) (1998-99), Project Coordinator (RDTTC) and Senior Agronomist (1999-2006) at the same university.

Dr Gill has contributed significantly in testing and evaluating new research technologies on farmers' fields over a period of 10 years in Kandi region of Punjab. He developed many recommendations for large-scale adoption by the farmers under dryland agriculture and for direct-seeded basmati rice. He also developed numerous modules including fishery, poultry, piggery, apiculture, dairy, raboritory, horticulture, vegetables, aromatic and medicinal plants with crop husbandry for small and marginal farmers.

He has more than 200 publications to his credit, 10 bulletins, one manual and one book. He is recipient of NFL-FAI Award (1989), PPIC-FAI Award (1993), Punjab Sarkar Parman Patra (2000) and a Commendation Certificate. He received advanced training on water management at the University of California, Davis, USA for 3 months. He has guided 5 M.Sc. and one Ph.D. student.

The Indian Society of Agronomy wishes him a successful tenure as Project Director, PDCSR, Modipuram.

INDIAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2005-2006

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Dr. Jai G. Varshney joins as Director, NRCWS, Jabalpur



Dr. Jay G. Varshney joined as Director, National Research Centre for Weed Science, Jabalpur on 10th May, 2006.

Born on 20th November, 1950, Dr. Varshney

gained rich experience in research, management and teaching during his long career spanning over 3 decades. He held various important positions like Projector Coordinator, AICRP on grain legume crops; Head, Division of Crop Production, IIPR, Kanpur; and Head, Regional Centre, Directorate of Pulses Research, Gwalior. He worked on weed dynamics and sustainability of pulse-based cropping systems, management of purple nutsedge and role of adjuvants in enhancing herbicide efficiency. His recent activities involved providing leadership to weed research programme, coordinating network research, collaborating with national and international agencies, and providing consultancy on matters related to weed science.

Dr. Varshney is an active member of professional societies like ISPRD, ISA, ISWS, ARRW and IAHF. He was also Editor, Indian Journal of Pulses Research.

The Indian Society of Agronomy wishes him a successful tenure as Director, NRCWS, Jabalpur.

Dr. A.K. Gogoi joins as ADG (Agronomy), ICAR, New Delhi



Dr. A.K. Gogoi joined as Assistant Director General (Agronomy), ICAR, New Delhi on 18th May, 2006. He obtained his B.Sc. Agri. and M.Sc. Agronomy degrees in 1976

and 1979, respectively from Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat; and Ph.D. in 1986 from Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar. He served AAU, Jorhat in various capacities from 1979-2000, and was Principal Investigator, All India Coordinated Research Project on Weed Control from 1988-2000. He joined as Principal Scientist (Agronomy) at NRCWS, Jabalpur in 2000 and was acting Director, NRCWS and acting Zonal Coordinator, Zone -VII, JNKVV, Jabalpur during 2005-06.

Dr. Gogoi worked for more than 20 years on weed management in the NEH region and developed package of practices for major field crops. He was also involved in UG and PG teaching programmes at AAU, Jorhat. He has published 56 research papers, 9 books/chapters and attended 69 seminars/symposia. His major achievement is development of National Database on Weeds and preparation of weed map.

The Indian Society of Agronomy wishes him a successful tenure as Assistant Director General (Agronomy), ICAR, New Delhi.

Dr. Raj Kumar Mahey took over as Head Department of Agronomy, Agrometeorology and Forestry, PAU, Ludhiana on 1st July, 2006. He has made significant contributions on production and water management technologies in medicinal, aromatic and spice crops. He guided 12 M.Sc. and 3 Ph.D. students, and was instrumental in the application of remote sensing data in the university.

Dr. G. James Martin assumed the charge of Professor and Head, Department of Agronomy, TNAU, Coimbatore on 9th June, 2006.

Dr. G.R. Korwar took over as Head, Resource Management Division, CRIDA, Hyderabad on 31st March, 2006. Previously, he was working as Principal Scientist at the same institute.

Dr N.T. Yaduraju joined as National Coordinator, National Agricultural Innovative Project (NAIP), ICAR in May 2006. He was previously working as Principal Scientist (Agronomy), IARI, New Delhi. He served as Director, NRCWS, Jabalpur for a full term from 2000 to 2005.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Dr. R.C. Gautam has been chosen for the Bharat Ratna Dr C. Subramanyam Award for Outstanding Teachers for the year 2004-2005. Dr. Gautam served as Head, Division of Agronomy and was acting Dean, P.G. School, IARI, New Delhi.

BOOK REVIEWS

Handbook of Sustainable Weed Management – Harminder Pal Singh, Daizy Rani Batish, Ravinder Kumar Kohli (Eds.), 2006, pp. xxiv+892 with index, Price : US\$ 99.95 (soft, US\$ 139.95 (hard). Food Products

Press, 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, New York 13904-1580, USA.

Weeds compete with crop plants in agroecosystems and cause substantial economic losses. Chemical control through herbicides is though effective but causes environmental and human health problems. Therefore, this particular publication is in the desired direction of managing weed problems while minimizing the risks to environment and human health. The book deals with sustainable weed management through 25 chapters, namely, Weeds and their management: Rationale and approaches, Weed management: a basic component of modern crop production, Contribution to weed suppression from cover crops, Utilizing brassica cover crops for weed suppression in annual cropping system, Grass-legume mixed cover crops for weed management, Rye as a weed management tool in vegetable cropping systems, A rotation design that aids annual weed management in a semi-arid region, Examining tillage and crop rotation effects on weed populations in the Canadian Prairies, Potential of allelopathy and allelochemicals for weed management, Progress in weed suppressive rice cultivars for the southern United States, The ecology of weed seed predation in herbaceous cropping systems, mowing of weed management, Herbicide fate under conservation tillage, Cover crops and edge-of-field management practices, Strategies for developing bioherbicides for sustainable weed management, Developing microbial weed control products: commercial, biological and technological considerations, Implementation of weed biocontrol in forest vegetation management for conifer production, Characterization of phytotoxins from phytopathogenic fungi and their potential use as herbicides in integrated crop management, Applications of soil and rhizosphere microorganisms in sustainable weed management, Herbicide resistant crops and weed management, Strategies for managing herbicide-resistant weeds, Recent advances in parasitic weed research: an overview, Management of weeds in pasture systems, Integrated turfgrass weed management, Approaches to integrated weed management, and Learning groups for implementation of integrated weed management: principles and practical guidelines. All these chapters have been authored by leading international experts in the field of integrated weed management. The publication covers a wide range of important topics on the subject and provides valuable information for students, re-

searchers, teachers and all those associated with weeds and their management.

Handbook of Industrial Crops - V.L. Chopra and K.V. Peters (Eds.), 2005, pp.XIV+535, price: US\$ 59.95 (soft), US\$ 99.95 (hard). Food Product Press, The Haworth Reference Press, 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, New York 13904-1580, USA.

This publication deals with 12 important industrial crops namely arecanut, cardamom, cashew, cinchona, cocoa, coconut, coffee, oil palm, palmyra, rubber, tea and wattle. All these crops have been described in detail in respect of their cultivation and trade along with the information available on evolution and adaptation. There is up-to-date information on origin, history, distribution, world trade, botany and taxonomy, cytology, germplasm collection, crop improvement, crop management, harvesting, processing etc. for each crop. This publication may be of great interest to breeders, geneticists, agronomists, horticulturists, students, and personal associated with industries dealing with these crops.

Fundamentals of Tropical Turf Management - G. Wiecko, 2006, pp. 304, Price: US\$ 50.00 (27.50). CABI, Nosworthy Way, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX108DE, UK.

This book presents all the practical aspects of tropical turf management. It deals with all these aspects through 11 chapters, namely, introduction, grass species, soil management, grass establishment, nutrition and fertilization, mowing, irrigation, cultivation, compaction and thatch, golf course maintenance, sports turf and pests. All these chapters have covered the subject matter comprehensively and, wherever necessary, line drawings, photographs are used to illustrate the processes and relationships. Interestingly, the publication also focuses on sports field management like rugby fields, tennis courts, football and hockey fields, bowling greens and croquet courts, and playgrounds. The publication will indeed serve as a valuable source for students and practitioners in the field of turf-grass management, horticulturists, agronomists and landscape architects.

Commercial Crops (Vol. 1) - D. Lanka, 2006, pp. 337, Price: Rs.200. Kalyani Publishers, B1/1292, Rajinder Nagar, Ludhiana.

The first volume of this publication deals with fibre crops (cotton, jute and allied fibres), sugar crops (sugarcane, sugarbeet),

narcotics and tuber crops. All these crops are covered in detail in respect of origin and distribution, uses, soil and climatic requirements, varietal improvement, agronomic management, plant protection measures and post-harvest technology. In narcotics, tobacco, while in tuber crops, potato, yams, cassava, arrow root, sweet potato and arum are covered in the publication. This will serve as a useful text as well as reference book to researchers, teachers, students and all those associated with related industries.

Commercial Crops (Vol. II) - D. Lenka, 2006, pp. 343-729, price: Rs.225. Kalyani Publishers, B 1/1292, Rajinder Nagar, Ludhiana.

The second volume of this publication on commercial crops deals with spices and flowers. It covers all the spices of major and minor importance in the country along with export and import of these in India. Each crop has been described in detail with its botany, uses, composition, soil, climate, varieties, agronomic management, plant protection and processing etc.

In flowers, the publication deals with history of flowers in India, principles of flower cultivation, colouration in flowers and classification of flowers. The cultivation of important flowers including crop improvement, agronomic management and plant protection measures has been given in a comprehensive manner. The publication will serve both as text and reference book to researchers, teachers and PG students of various disciplines of agriculture.

Reducing Rural Poverty in Asia: Challenges and Opportunities for Microenterprises and Public Employment Schemes - Nurul Islam, 2006, pp. xxiv+374 with index, Price: US\$ 49.95 (soft), US\$ 69.95 (hard). Food Products Press, 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, New York 13904-1580, USA.

This publication deals with rural poverty alleviation in Asia, which accounts for the majority of the world's poor. It presents the case studies on public employment schemes and rural non-farm enterprises in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines. The entire subject matter has been presented through 14 comprehensive chapters in 2 parts - Part I includes 8 chapters on synthesis and major lessons namely, rural poverty and the non-farm sector in rural Asia, rural non-farm microenterprise; salient features and issues, Bangladesh case: review and analysis, Indian

case studies: review and analysis, overview of country experiences, conclusions; micro-finance for micro-enterprise, public employment schemes; case studies in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines and review of country experiences of public employment and policy conclusions. Part II deals with country case studies through 6 chapters, namely, SIBDI foundation for micro-credit, Maharashtra rural credit project, small enterprises development project in Bangladesh, a study on *grameen uddog*, MEDU, and Kishoreganj projects, a review of the employment guarantee scheme in Maharashtra, and public works employment and rural poverty alleviation in the Philippines. The book is the outcome of the research undertaken at the request of IFAD. It will serve as good resource for researchers, teachers, students, policy makers and development experts associated with programmes of poverty alleviation.

RETIREMENTS



Dr. K. Deo Singh laid down office as Director, CTRI, Rajahmundry on 31st January, 2006 after attaining superannuation. He served the ICAR for 38 years in various capacities as Experimental Scientist, CTCRI, Trivendrum (1968-70); Agronomist (1971-85), Head, Division of Agronomy (1986-90), Head, CTRI Regional Station, Pusa, Bihar (1990-2001). He was Director, CTRI, Rajahmundry from 2001 to 2006.

Dr. Singh developed high-yielding and superior quality varieties of different tobacco types, crop production technologies for FCV and non-FCV tobacco, and transferred the technologies to farmers' fields. He was associated with various assignments, such as Member, World Bank Team for Evaluation of NARP of RAU, Pusa; Chairman, Tobacco and Tobacco Products Committee, BIS, New Delhi; President, ISTS for 3 consecutive terms; Member, Tobacco Board, GOI etc. He received Dr G.S. Murthy Award and Gold Medals (1995 and 1998); ITA Award (2003); ISTS Combined Award (2003), Fellow of ISTS (2003), Jai Kisan Award (2003-04), NRDC Meritorious Invention Award (2005), Tobacco Board Award (2005) and many others.

The Indian Society of Agronomy wishes Dr. Singh a long and happy retired life.

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Dr. L.S. Brar, a renowned weed scientist, retired from PAU service on 30th June, 2006 on attaining superannuation. He joined the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana as a Research Assistant in 1970 and rose to the position of Senior Agronomist and Head, Department of Agronomy, Agrometeorology and Forestry. He also held the additional charge of Director, Students' Welfare from 2005-06. Based on his research work, 67 recommendations have been included in the State Package of Practices. He is very popular among the farming community of Punjab state. He guided 11 PG students, and published 90 research articles, 92 popular articles, 2 bulletins and 3 book

chapters. He was awarded Dr. G.S. Khush Distinguished Professor Award for the year 2004. He is a fellow of ISWS; and served as President, Chief Editor, Business Manager, Joint Secretary and Councillor of ISWS; Councillor, ISA and Editor, Indian Journal of Ecology.

The Indian Society of Agronomy wishes Dr. Brar a long and happy retired life.

Dr. R.A. Shetty, Associate Director of Research and Professor of Agronomy, UASD, RARS, Raichur, Karnataka retired from service on 30th April, 2006. He served for 38 years in various capacities as Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, Associate Director Research and Head, Department of Agronomy, UAS, Dharwad. He developed technologies related to water and fertilizer in transplanted rice and cotton including Bt cotton. He published one book, 42 research papers and 70 popular articles. He guided 18 Ph.D. and M.Sc. students.

The Indian Society of Agronomy wishes Dr. Shetty a long and happy retired life.

Dr. R.K. Singh, Principal Scientist, Division of Agronomy, IARI, New Delhi retired from service on 31st January, 2006. Dr. Singh made significant contributions in the field of dryland farming over a period of more than 3 decades at IARI. He guided 10 post-graduate students, and published more than 50 research papers. The Indian Society of Agronomy wishes Dr. Singh a long and happy retired life.

Members are requested to send information related to their career advancement, innovative research accomplishments and other achievements in teaching/extension activities for publication in the Indian Agronomy News. Senior and retired members may contribute thought provoking short articles which could be of benefit to the younger scientists and students for shaping their careers. Any other comments and suggestions for improvement of Indian Agronomy News are welcome.

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