



# INDIAN AGRONOMY NEWS

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## Message from the President, ISA: Agriculture- Sole Catalyst for Rural Prosperity

India is now one trillion dollar strong economy, something which none of us would have ever envisioned five years back, and if the national economy continues to grow at the rate of 9%, our Gross Domestic Product would get doubled within eight years and quadrupled in 16 years. To raise the national growth rate to 10%, the Planning Commission has set the target of 4% compound growth rate for agriculture sector during 11th Plan. Attaining it should not be that difficult as: 1) The average yield of most of the crops still ranges between one-third to one-half of the created production potential and thereby indicating enough scope for raising the average productivity of crops by 2-3% every year, 2) The irrigated area in the country is projected to expand by at least 8

million ha with the completion of pending major, medium and minor irrigation projects, construction of water harvesting, conservation and storage structures, and adoption of pressurized irrigation systems, 3) Acceleration in the momentum for diversification to high value/industrial crops, and 4) Increasing focus of the Central/State Governments on value addition and agro-industry development in the rural areas. Besides, there is going to be substantial increase in the fertilizer consumption because of the easy availability of credit through micro-financing agencies. New innovations/discoveries in Science and Technology and easy access to information on trade, tariff, subsidies, incentives etc. would further supplement nation's efforts to achieve the targeted growth rate.

What infact worries me as to whether: 1) 4% growth rate in agriculture would be able to bridge the gap between demand and supply of essential commodities and stabilize their prices. However, since the last year growth rate is computed to be 4% and yet the prices went up, 2) the void between the income of rural and urban people, which is 1:6, would get narrowed since manufacturing and service sectors are already growing at more than 10%, and 3) the growth will be inclusive and sustainable in the long-run. When the nation envisages to improve the standard of living of the rural masses, the planners and policy makers should target a growth rate of 8-10% for agriculture sector or else the rural India will always play as second fiddle. The country has, in my opinion both the capability and the resources to achieve the above growth rate as has been demonstrated by it in the secondary and tertiary sectors. What now needed is the strong will and the pursuance.

Since the national agenda holds rural prosperity on top priority: 1) gross investment on capital formation in agriculture sector i.e. on irrigation, drainage, electrification, Science and Technology and agro-pro-

cessing industries should commensurate with that of manufacturing/service sectors, which is 30%, 2) to fix minimum support prices of agricultural commodities at par with international market price, and 3) to revive forward market trading of farm produce. The above measures will definitely promote agriculture sector in ensuring rural livelihood security and sustainability.

### New Executive Council of the Indian Society of Agronomy (ISA)



Dr. R.P.S. Ahlawat, President, Vice Chancellor, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Distt. Vulsar, Gujarat



Dr. M.S. Gill, Vice-President, Director, Project Directorate for Cropping Systems Research, Modipuram, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh



Dr. A.R. Sharma, Secretary, Principal Scientist, Division of Agronomy, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi



Dr. A.K. Vyas, Joint Secretary, Principal Scientist, National Research Centre for Soybean, Indore, Madhya Pradesh



Dr. B. Gangaiah, Treasurer, Senior Scientist, Division of Agronomy, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi

#### INDIAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2007-2008

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Vice President	: Dr M.S. Gill
Secretary	: Dr A.R. Sharma
Joint Secretary	: Dr A.K. Vyas
Treasurer	: Dr B. Gangaiah

#### NEWSLETTER EDITORS

DR B.G. SHIVAKUMAR  
&  
DR A.R. SHARMA

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In the Executive Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2007, the new Executive Council assumed the charge.

The new Executive Council reconstituted the Editorial Board for the biennium 2007-08. The new Editorial Board is as follows:

### Chief Editor

Dr. I.P.S. Ahlawat, New Delhi

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Dr. V.S. Korikanthimath, Goa

## NEW PRESIDENT OF ISA

Dr. R.P.S. Ahlawat, Vice Chancellor, Navsari Agricultural University, Gujarat has been elected as President, Indian Society of Agronomy for the biennium 2007-08. Born on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1945, Dr. Ahlawat did his Master's (1965) and Doctorate (1971) degrees from GBPUAT, Pantnagar. He served GBPUAT as Assistant Director, Deputy Director (Seed Production) before joining Gujarat Agricultural University in 1977 as Associate Director of Research at Junagadh and Navsari. He rose to the chair of Director of Research and Dean, P.G. Studies in 1997. In recognition of his outstanding contributions, he was entrusted with the responsibility to lead GAU as Vice-chancellor (2003-04) and NAU (since 2004). He has guided 14 Masters' and 8 Ph.D. students and has to his credit more than 50 research papers published in journals of national and international repute. Dr Ahlawat's leadership has registered a two-fold accumulation of Revolving Fund, and the NAU has shown the way for adopting consortium approach with appropriate institutional linkages in frontier areas like bio-technology as well as to encourage contract farming. He was conferred Fellow and Gold Medal of the Indian Society of Agronomy in 1993 and 2003, respectively.

## NEW CHIEF EDITOR OF ISA JOURNALS



Dr. I.P.S. Ahlawat was nominated as the Chief Editor of Indian Journal of Agronomy by the Executive Council of ISA in the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2007. Born on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1947, Dr. Ahlawat completed his M.Sc. (1966) and Ph.D. (1977) from Agra University. He started his career at IARI in 1967, and is working as Head of the Division of Agronomy since 2005. He has more than 200 publications to his credit. He was awarded Rajendra Prasad Award of ICAR (1987), Best Teacher Award of IARI (2000), Fellow of ISA (1993), Gold Medal of ISA (2000) and ISPRD Recognition Award (2003). Dr. Ahlawat is involved with the activities of Indian Society of Agronomy

since 1977, and was Treasurer for 4 terms, Secretary for 6 terms, and Chief Editor, Indian Journal of Agronomy (2001-02). He is presently serving as an expert in the panel of UGC, DST, CSIR, HRD, many SAUs, IGNOU, ICAR etc. Dr. Ahlawat has guided 20 PG students, 4 for M.Sc. and 16 for Ph.D. degree. His specialized areas of research are: Agronomy and resource management in legumes. He has perfected technology for pigeonpea-wheat cropping system and also quantified N economy through legumes in cereals.

## NEW SECRETARY OF ISA

Dr. A.R. Sharma has been elected as Secretary of the Indian Society of Agronomy for the biennium 2007-08. Born on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1960, Dr. Sharma obtained B.Sc. Agri. (1981) from HPKVV, Palampur, M.Sc. (1983) from PAU, Ludhiana; and Ph.D. (1988) from IIT, Kharagpur. He served at CRRI, Cuttack (1987-96), PAU, Ludhiana (1996-98), CSWCRTI, Dehradun (1998-2001) and was selected as Principal Scientist at IARI, New Delhi in 2001. He has more than 100 publications to his credit. He was awarded Jawaharlal Nehru Award (1989) of ICAR for best Ph.D. thesis, KRIBHCO Award for Outstanding Research (1991), Pran Vohra Award (1994-95) of ISCA, Best Worker Award (1995) of CRRI, Hooker Award (1997-98) of IARI and Dhuru Morarji Memorial Awards of FAI (1990, 1994 and 2002). He was conferred the prestigious Fellowship of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi in 2004. His specialized areas of research are: nutrient management, flood-prone rice, soil and water conservation, and tillage and crop establishment techniques. He was Convenor, Publication Committee, Second International Agronomy Congress (2002), and National Symposia of ISA organized at PAU, Ludhiana (2004) and BHU, Varanasi (2006). He was also Editor, Indian Agronomy News and Member, Editorial Board of Indian Journal of Agronomy during 2003-04 and 2005-06.

## SYMPOSIA/SEMINARS

### International Symposium on Organic Farming and Renewable Sources of Energy for Sustainable Agriculture

The Phosphate Rich Organic Manure (PROM) Society, Udaipur in collaboration with Maharana Pratap University of Agricul-



ture & Technology and M.L. Sukhadia University, Udaipur is organizing an "International Symposium on Organic Farming and Renewable Sources of Energy for Sustainable Agriculture" from 19 - 21 November 2007 at Udaipur, Rajasthan.

The themes of the Symposium are:

1. Crop production through organics including biofertilizers and green manuring
2. Phosphate rich manure in sustainable agriculture
3. Recycling of farm residue and animal wastes
4. Organic based post-harvest and processing technology
5. Renewable sources of energy and uses of their by-products
6. Production and utilization of petro/ bio-energy crops
7. Size distribution of minerals and mechano-chemical activation
8. Conservation of medicinal plants and their sustainable utilization
9. Social and environmental aspects of organic farming and renewable sources of energy

The last date of submission of Abstract/ Papers is extended up to 15th September, 2007 so as to facilitate the interested scientists/officers to avail the opportunity of participating in this important event. For more details please visit the website: [www.promsociety.org](http://www.promsociety.org) and/or [www.mpuat.ac.in](http://www.mpuat.ac.in)

## APPOINTMENTS

**Dr. A. N. Tewari**, Professor (Weed Science) and Principal Investigator, AICRP Weed Control has been selected as Dean, College of Agriculture, C.S. Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur. Dr. Tewari took over the new assignment on June 26, 2007.

**Dr. P. Subbian**, joined as Director, Agribusiness Development, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore on 11th February, 2007. Dr. Subbian did his Post Doctoral in farming systems at Ohio State university, USA. During last 27 years of service he has held various positions in TNAU including Joint Registrar and Head, Agricultural Research Station, Bhavanisagar. He has received three awards for research, published 5 books and 80 research papers,

and guided 5 Ph.D and 7 M.Sc students.

**Dr. R.K. Rai**, Principal Scientist took over as Professor, Division of Agronomy, Indian Agricultural Research Institute on 30th June 2007. He has a vast experience of more than 35 years in research and teaching in agronomy. He has a large number of research publications in journals of International and National repute and several books to his credit. He has guided 3 M. Sc and 17 Ph.D. students. He is also recipient of the prestigious "Best Teacher Award" of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

**Dr. S.N. Sharma**, Principal Scientist, Division of Agronomy, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi has been selected as the prestigious Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi from 1 January, 2007.

**Dr. D. Blaise**, Principle Scientist (Agronomy), Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal, has been selected as the Associate of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi from 1 January, 2007.

**Dr. Yashbir Singh Shivay**, Senior Scientist, Division of Agronomy, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi has been selected as the Associate of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi from 1 January, 2007.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Medicinal and Aromatic Crops: Harvesting, Drying and Processing** - Serdar Oztekin and Milan Martinov (Eds.) August 2007. pp. 320, price: US \$ 49.95 soft cover and US \$ 89.95 hard cover. Haworth Food & Agricultural Products Press An Imprint of the Haworth Press, Inc. 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, New York 13904-1580, USA.

This book presents harvest and post-harvest mechanization methods for the profitable production of market-ready medicinal crops. This practical handbook includes photos, detailed figures, and schematic drawings of machines that will help bring existing design ideas to life and inspire new ones for use in harvesting and primary processing. The book also includes general information on medicinal and aromatic plants, current production trends, and

"how-to" instructions for improving the production process.

Even though the use of mechanization contributes not only to a marked increase in production, but also enables uniform quality and a decrease in drudgery for everyone involved. Medicinal and Aromatic Crops fills in the gap, providing a thorough, comprehensive look at every aspect of the mechanism of growing, harvesting, and processing, including production steps and procedures, safety and quality, plant drying, the use of renewable energy sources, dry processing, extraction, industrial usage, financial analysis, and software usage. This book can be an invaluable guide to harvest and post-harvest mechanization for anyone involved in plant production and for teachers and students.

**Vaiganeek Veedhi se Ganne Kee Khethi** (An original book in Hindi) - Rattan Lal Yadav. 2007. pp. 204. Price Rs. 250. ICAR, New Delhi.

The book contains 24 chapters, grouped into 7 parts dealing with different issues related to sugarcane cultivation. It has 15 colored photographs and 24 tables. The book may serve as a useful guide for all those who are practicing sugarcane farming.

**Chickpea Breeding and Management** - S. S. Yadav, R. Redden, W. Chen and B. Sharma (Eds.) April 2007. pp. 448. Price: £99.50/US\$198.00/•160.00. CABI, UK.

Chickpea is an ancient crop that is still important in both developed and developing nations. This authoritative account by international experts covers all aspects of chickpea breeding and management, and the integrated pest management and biotechnology applications that are important to its improvement. With topics covered including origin and taxonomy, ecology, distribution and genetics, this book combines the many and varied research issues impacting on production and utilization of the chickpea crop on its journey from paddock to plate. The book will be useful for advanced studies in plant breeding and disease management, extension scientists and researchers in agronomy and Entomology.

**Agronomy** - S.C. Panda, 2005, pp. 833, Price: Rs. 1800.00/ US\$ 90.00, Agrobios (India), Agro House, Behind Nasrani Cinema, Chopasani Road, Jodhpur -342 002.

This book is written to serve as a text book of Agronomy-cum-reference/guide book for



the students of agriculture, veterinary, soil conservation and field practitioners. The book fills the need for an up-to-date comprehensive text on integrated farming and cropping systems management under varying situations and covers comprehensively the content of all courses in Agronomy offered for the students at under-graduate and post-graduate levels of agricultural universities in the country. This book will be of immense use in imparting knowledge on the basic principles of Agronomy and applied aspects of farming systems for students, teachers, scientists, extension workers and professionals engaged in agricultural development.

**Soil Water Conservation and Dry Farming** – S.C. Panda, 2007, pp. 490, Price: Rs. 990.00/ US\$ 50.00. Agrobios (India), Agro House, Behind Nasrani Cinema, Chopasani Road, Jodhpur - 342 002.

This book is written to serve as reference/guide book for the students of agriculture, soil conservation and field practitioners. The book fills the need for an up-to-date comprehensive text on soil and water conservation, and dry farming under varying situations for the students at under-graduate and post-graduate levels. This book will be of immense use in imparting knowledge on the basic principles and applied aspects of the dry farming for soil and water conservation for students, teachers, scientists, extension workers and professionals engaged in agricultural development.

**Crop Production and Tillage** - S.C. Panda, 2007, pp. 359, Price: Rs. 795.00/ US\$

80.00, Agrobios (India), Agro House, Behind Nasrani Cinema, Chopasani Road, Jodhpur - 342 002.

This book is written to serve as reference/guide book for the students of agriculture, veterinary, soil conservation, agricultural engineering, farm machinery and power, and field practitioners. The book fills the need for an up-to-date comprehensive text on crop production and tillage under varying situations for the students at under-graduate and post-graduate levels. This book will be of immense use in imparting knowledge on the basic principles and applied aspects of the crop production and use of agricultural implements and machinery for all operations and practices to improve productivity of soil, for students, teachers, scientists, extension workers and professionals engaged in agricultural development.

**Principles of Agronomy** — S.R. Reddy, 2007, pp. 611, Price: Rs. 250, Kalyani Publishers, 4779/23, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi -110 002.

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.

This is the third revised edition of the book first published in 1999. It consists of 10 chapters covering various aspects of agronomy with upto date coverage presented in several sub-sections under each chapter. The author has tried to provide the latest information on different aspects covered under different chapters. The presentation is quite lucid and in simple language inspite of lot of technical information involved in the subject. An effort has been made to cover all the topics current interest. The book also contain the list of references which will be of great help to interested reader for finding more information. Further the subject index provided at the end will help user of the book to locate the required information quickly. The book will serve as a good source of information for all those interested in the subject of agronomy. Compared to the volume of information provided the pricing of the book is not very high.

#### RETIREMENTS



**Dr. B.N. Mishra**, Professor, Division of Agronomy, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi retired from active service on 31.1.2007 after rendering more than 35 years of dedicated service in the discipline of Agronomy. The Indian Society of Agronomy wishes him a long, healthy and happy retired life

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## BOOK-POST

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To

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FROM :  
**SECRETARY**  
**INDIAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY**  
**DIVISION OF AGRONOMY**  
**I.A.R.I., NEW DELHI-110 012**