

INDIAN AGRONOMY NEWS

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INDIAN JOURNAL OF AGRONOMY GETS GOOD RATING FROM NAAS

The National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) has revised impact factor for all the journals related to agriculture and allied disciplines w.e.f. 1st January, 2008. The *Indian Journal of Agronomy* has now been awarded a score of 6.0 in the revised 0-10 scale. The revised impact factor is based on the Science Citation Index (SCI), the standing and activities of the Society, and opinion of esteemed fellows of the NAAS. The high impact factor of the *Indian Journal of Agronomy* shows its wide popularity and greater acceptability among the agricultural scientists across disciplines.

Over the years, the journal has grown qualitatively both in terms of scientific content and physical get up. This has been due to the tireless efforts of the Members of Executive Council and Editorial Board. This



Changing face of *Indian Journal of Agronomy*

INDIAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2007-2008

President	: Dr. R.P.S. Ahlawat
Vice President	: Dr. M.S. Gill
Secretary	: Dr. A.R. Sharma
Joint Secretary	: Dr. A.K. Vyas
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NEWSLETTER EDITORS

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

Indian Agronomy News is the official publication of Indian Society of Agronomy and is distributed free to members of the Society. This newsletter is published four times a year, in March, June, September and December. For membership, please write to **Secretary**, Indian Society of Agronomy, Division of Agronomy, IARI, New Delhi-110012. Material intended for publication in the Newsletter may be submitted to the Secretary of the Society.

higher impact factor is indeed a reward for their endeavour to enhance the quality and professionalism of the journal. Our endeavour should be not only to maintain, but also upgrade further the standing of the journal to the international standards. **We invite good quality comprehensive articles providing latest scientific information for publication in *Indian Journal of Agronomy* from our esteemed contributors. The articles must conform to the prescribed guidelines as given in *Indian Journal of Agronomy* 52(1) : 86-90 (March 2007).**

The details of impact factor of all journals assessed by the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences can be viewed at NAAS website <http://naasindia.org/rating.html>.

NEW WEBSITE OF INDIAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY

The Indian Society of Agronomy has

developed its new dedicated website: isa-india.in. It is a very exhaustive storehouse of information related to constitution, objectives and activities of the Society since its inception. It also provides information on the past office bearers, recipients of awards and honours, publications, membership and other miscellaneous activities of the Society. Another notable feature is the inclusion of contents of all the previous volumes of *Indian Journal of Agronomy* and *Agronomy Digest*, which will indeed be a good source of research information for the fellow scientists. The list of individuals holding life membership of the Society are given state-wise, along with their Email and Telephone numbers for faster communication and exchange of ideas. Further refinements are being made in this website to add more features such as article status, forthcoming events etc.

INDIAN JOURNAL OF AGRONOMY IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Society has entered into an agreement with Diwan Enterprises, Naraina, New Delhi for converting full text of the *Indian Journal of Agronomy* as well as *Agronomy Digest* into XML format and for hosting the same on their server: www.indianjournals.com. Accordingly, both our journals are now available online, and many institutions in India and abroad have already subscribed at a nominal additional cost. We are planning to provide free online access to all our esteemed life members shortly. Further, there are plans afoot to make submission of papers for publication online to expedite processing and reduce cost of communication. The members of the Society are urged to give their valuable suggestions for further improvement in the activities of Society for the benefit of agricultural scientists, administrators and policy makers.

NEXT BIENNIAL NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

In the Executive Council Meeting of the Indian Society of Agronomy held on 26th December 2007 in New Delhi, it was proposed to hold the next Biennium Symposium at Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat during October / November 2008. The theme of the Symposium and exact dates will be finalized during the next Executive Council Meeting Scheduled in March/April 2008.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ISA AWARDS

The Indian Society of Agronomy instituted various awards for honouring and recognizing the contributions of different categories of Agronomists. The **ISA Best Ph.D. Thesis Award** instituted in 1991 is awarded annually for the outstanding research work done for Ph.D. programme in Agronomy. The **ISA P.S. Deshmukh Young Agronomist Award** instituted in 1995 is also awarded annually for young scientists (below 35 years of age) for the significant research contributions in the field of Agronomy.

Application are invited from eligible Agronomists for both these awards for the years 2005 and 2006. Detailed information about these awards including proforma for application are available on the Website of

the Society and can also be obtained from the Secretary, ISA. The last date for receiving application is **30th June, 2008**.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Indian National Science Academy has invited nomination for the INSA Medal for Young Scientists – 2008, with the aim of recognizing young scientists of extraordinary promise and creativity who have made notable research contributions in science and technology. Only those born on or after 1st January 1973 are eligible for consideration in the year 2008. Nomination proforma can be downloaded from website www.insaindia.org. The last date for receiving nominations in Academy is 10th December, 2007.

SYMPOSIA/SEMINARS

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SPICES AND AROMATIC PLANTS

Amar Singh Post-Graduate College, Lakhaoti, Bulandshahr is organizing a National Workshop on Spices and Aromatic Plants on 15-16 March 2008. For details please contact: Dr. O.V.S. Thenua, Organizing Secretary and Head, Department of Agronomy, Amar Singh Post-Graduate College, Lakhaoti -245 407, Bulandshahr, U.P. Phone: 05732-236660; 09412859300 (Mob); Email: ovsthenua@yahoo.com.

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. A.C. Sadhu joined as Professor, Department of Agronomy, Anand Agricultural University, Anand with effect from 25th October 2004. He was previously working as Associate Professor in the same department.

Dr. J.J. Patel joined as Professor, Department of Agronomy, Anand Agricultural University, Anand with effect from 2nd January 2006. He was previously working as Associate Professor in the same department.

Dr. R. Sammauria joined as Associate Professor of Agronomy at Dryland Farming Research Station, Arjia, Bhilwara under Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur on 26th September 2007. Previously he was working as Assistant Professor of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Dr. Masood Ali, Director, Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur has been honoured with Indian Society of Pulses Research and Development (ISPRD) Gold Medal for his notable contributions in pulses research and development, fostering international linkages and promoting participatory seed production and research on grain legumes. The award was presented by Dr. Chandrika Prasad, Director General, UPCAR at Kanpur on 3rd November, 2007.

Dr. H.V. Nanjappa, Professor of Agronomy, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, has been honoured with the prestigious Fellow of the Indian Society of Weed Science on 2nd November 2007 at Hisar in recognition of his outstanding research contributions and teaching in the field of Weed Science.

Dr. J.S. Mishra, Senior Scientist, National Research Centre for Weed Science, Jabalpur, has been honoured with the prestigious Fellow of the Indian Society of Weed Science on 2nd November 2007 at Hisar in recognition of his outstanding research contributions in the field of Weed Science.

Dr. V. Ramamurthy, Senior Scientist, National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Regional Centre, Bangalore, has been awarded the Swami Sahajanand Saraswati Outstanding Extension Scientist Award of ICAR for the biennium 2004-06 for his outstanding contributions in the field of "Transfer of soil-based viable agro-techniques to farming community of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra through participatory technology assessment and refinement".

Dr. M. Yakadri, Associate Professor (Agronomy), ANGR Agricultural University, Hyderabad has been conferred the Best Teacher Award for the year 2005 at the 39th Annual Convocation of the University held on 24th March, 2007.

Dr. K.S. Dadhwal, Head, Soil Science and Agronomy, Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Dehradun, has been honoured with Prof. E.P. Odum Gold Medal – 2007 of the International Society for Ecological Communications, Dumaka, Jharkhand; Environmentalist of the Year Gold Medal Award – 2006 and Fellowship Award – 2007 by National Environmental Science Academy, Hamdard University, New Delhi, in recognition of his

outstanding contributions in the field of Natural Resources Management and Conservation.

FOREIGN DEPUTATION

Dr. I.P.S. Ahlawat, Head, Division of Agronomy, IARI, New Delhi and Chief Editor, *Indian Journal of Agronomy* visited Kumamoto (Japan) in November-December 2007 to represent India at 15th Asian Agricultural Symposium on "Future Prospects of Asian Food and Agriculture – Coexistence of Human and Nature Based on Asian Traditions".

Dr. B. Chandrasekaran, Director of Research, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore visited Michigan State University, Cornell University (United States), Nova Scotia Agricultural College (Canada) for research collaboration in the fields of Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, Library Networking, Resource sharing, Trainings for Library Personnel, Certification Programme, Joint-degree Programme and signing MOU. He also participated in Tropical Legumes Project II launching meeting of enhanced grain legumes productivity and production and incomes of poor farmers in drought-prone areas of SSA and South Asia organized jointly by CIAT, ICRISAT and IITA at Tanzania, during September 2007.

Ph.D. THESIS

R.P. Kacha, Effect of spacings, castor cake and nitrogen levels on green chillies (*Capsicum annum* L.). AAU, Anand (Chairman: Dr. A.C. Sadhu).

D.M. Patel, Response of summer clusterbean (*Cyamopsis tetragonoloba*) to irrigation scheduling and integrated nutrient management under middle Gujarat conditions. AAU, Anand (Chairman: Dr. A.C. Sadhu).

R. Sammauria, Response of fenugreek to phosphorus and zinc application and their effect on succeeding pearl millet under irrigated conditions of north-west Rajasthan. RAU, Bikaner (Chairman: Dr. R.S. Yadav).

Om Prakash Verma, Response of Ethiopian mustard (*Brassica carinata*) to different levels of irrigation, nitrogen and sulphur. IARI, New Delhi (Chairman: Dr. Subedar Singh).

V. Venkatachalapathi, Optimization of rice seedling age, plant density and irrigation re-

gimes under system of rice intensification (SRI). IARI, New Delhi (Chairman: Dr. Subedar Singh).

Ram Chandra Lakhana, Direct and residual effect of applied nutrients on mustard in mungbean - mustard cropping system. IARI, New Delhi (Chairman: Dr. Gajendra Giri).

Kapila Shekhawat, Effect of nitrogen sources, sulphur and boron levels on sunflower - mungbean cropping system. IARI, New Delhi (Chairman: Dr. Y.S. Shivay).

Ramkrushna Gandhiji Idapuganti, Phosphorus management in pigeonpea - wheat cropping systems. IARI, New Delhi (Chairman: Dr. I.P.S. Ahlawat).

BOOK REVIEWS

Principles of Agronomy – S.R. Reddy, 2007 (Third Revised Edition), pp. xxv+611 with index, Price: Rs. 250. Kalyani Publishers, B-192, Rajinder Nagar, Ludhiana. [ISBN 978-81-272-3970-1]

This is the third revised edition of the already popular book by Dr. S.R. Reddy. The book comprises thoroughly revised 10 main chapters, viz. Introduction, Agrometeorology, Soils and Tillage, Soil and Water Conservation, Dryland Agriculture, Mineral Nutrition, Manures and Fertilizers, Irrigation Water Management, Weed Management, Cropping Systems, and Sustainable Agriculture. Each chapter is further narrated under suitable sub-heads. The author has tried to present a comprehensive information under each chapter on all important aspects of Agronomy in current perspective. The up-to-date coverage of the topics and relevant references at the end of each chapter serve curious readers in understanding the subject in detail. The subject index listed at the end helps to locate the topic easily in the text. The presentation style and lucid language make the book attractive to students, researchers and teachers alike. Looking at the volume of information and size of the book, the price seems quite reasonable. The publication will serve as a good reference book not only for Agronomists but also to all interested in agriculture in general.

Crop Nutrition - Rajendra Prasad, 2007, pp. 272. Price Rs. 250. New Vishal Publications, New Delhi. [ISBN: 81-8399-020-7]

Judicious and efficient crop nutrition is possible only when functions in plants of differ-

ent nutrients, their amounts and forms present in soil, and reactions that they undergo in soils are well understood, and the management practices are fine-tuned to the crop plant needs. In most Indian and even foreign universities, the knowledge on these three aspects is provided by three different departments, namely Plant Physiology, Soil Science and Agronomy. This book has been brought out to provide updated information on the basic principles and their application in relation to crop nutrition. There are 16 chapters in this book, viz. Essential plant nutrients, (ii) Nutrient absorption and uptake, (iii) Nitrogen, (iv) Phosphorus, (v) Potassium, (vi) Sulphur, (viii) Magnesium, (viii) Calcium, (ix) Manganese, (x) Iron, (xi) Copper, (xii) Zinc, (xiii) Boron, (xiv) Molybdenum, (xv) Chlorine, and (xvi) Beneficial elements. Each of the plant nutrients is covered under the following sub-heads: (a) oxidation state, (b) functions in plants, (c) absorption and uptake, and (d) management practices, followed by an exhaustive list of related references. Appendices include terms on nutrient-use-efficiency, biological names of crops, and conversion factors. This book will be useful to the students, researchers and teachers in Agronomy, Soil Science, Plant Physiology, Microbiology, Horticulture, Vegetable Science, Floriculture, Agricultural Extension and others interested in crop production.

Agrometeorology - S.R. Reddy and D.S. Reddy, 2007, pp. 313. Price: Rs. 190. Kalyani Publishers, New Delhi. [ISBN: 978-81-272-3978-7]

Weather during crop production strongly influences the crop growth and development, and accounts for about two-thirds of variation in crop productivity. Knowledge of agrometeorology and the impact of weather and climate on crops greatly helps to devise appropriate crop production strategies for realizing optimum and sustainable agricultural productivity. Revolutionary advances in our understanding of agrometeorology and its applied aspects in crop production in the recent past prompted the authors to refine the traditional view of agrometeorology with applied aspects to meet the needs of agrometeorology courses across agricultural universities in the country. This book covers 12 chapters, viz. (i) Introduction to agrometeorology, (ii) Agrometeorological observatory, (iii) Atmospheric pressure and wind, (iv) Temperature, (v) Solar radiation and light, (vi) Humidity and evaporation,

(vii) Clouds and precipitation, (viii) Classification of climates and agroclimates, (ix) Weather characteristics of agro-ecosystems in India, (x) Climate and weather needs of major crops, (xi) Weather forecasting, and (xii) Climate change. Each chapter is divided into sub-heads and sub-subheads, all of which are suitably numbered. At the end of each chapter, a summary is given in bullet form, followed by a section on assessment, in which objective type and short questions are given for the benefit of students preparing for various examinations. This book covers applied aspects of agrometeorology in relation to crop production. The book, however, does not provide comprehensive coverage of agrometeorology beyond the requirements of undergraduate students in agriculture.

RETIREMENTS



Dr. Gajendra Giri, Principal Scientist, Division of Agronomy, IARI, New Delhi retired on 30th November 2007 after a distinguished service for 37 long years. Born on 21st November, 1945 at Maheshpur in Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh, he completed B.Sc (Agri.) in 1965, M.Sc (Agri) in 1967, P.G. Diploma from IIT, Kharagpur in 1968 and Ph.D in 1979. His major contri-

butions are in the field of Dryland and Oil-seeds agronomy. He guided 3 M.Sc and 15 Ph.D. students. He has 128 research papers, 112 popular articles and 6 book chapters to his credit. He was a very versatile speaker, poet and extension worker. He was the founder Editor of *Prasadoot* a popular Hindi Magazine from IARI, New Delhi. He delivered several talks and programmes on All India Radio and Doordarshan. He was involved in many professional societies, institute building activities and was honoured with many awards. The Indian Society of Agronomy wishes him a long, healthy and happy retired life (Contact at: 09871228890).

LIFE MEMBERS OF ISA (2007)

A.K. Singh, Patna, Bihar
 Angrej Singh, Ludhiana, Punjab
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NOTICE

It has been decided by the Executive Council of ISA in its meeting held on 26.12.2007 that printing of Indian Agronomy News may be discontinued after 2007. However, the related information of the Newsletter will be regularly displayed as per schedule on the website of the Society: isa-india.in. Accordingly, the members are hereby informed that there will be no issue of printed version of the Indian Agronomy News after Volume 20(3&4), December 2007; and they may visit the website for the news related material of the Society.

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