

Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics

Review of Activities for the Year 2006

The Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics is a scientific body which was founded on January 03, 1947. The main aim of the Society is to promote and undertake research in Statistics and its application to Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fishery, Agricultural Economics, Computer Applications and allied fields. The Society was fortunate to have Late Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then Union Minister of Agriculture, Government of India and later Hon'ble President of Republic of India as its Founder President. He guided the Society for the first sixteen years of its inception. The Society had the privilege of receiving patronage and guidance from several eminent personalities from time to time as its Presidents in the past who took keen interest and were a source of great inspiration. In fact the Society could attain its present status due to the untiring efforts of its Presidents in the past and the continued patronage and guidance from the current President Dr. Mangala Rai, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. The farsightedness, overall guidance and unstinting support from the eminent statisticians and founder members, Late Prof. P.V. Sukhatme and Late Dr. V.G. Panse have been fundamental to the growth of the Society.

The Society organizes annually a conference in different parts of the country which provides a wide platform for exchange of ideas on various issues of national as well as regional importance through symposia besides holding invited lectures by eminent scientists, paper/poster presentation and awards and incentives in various forms. Last year, the Society held its 59th Annual Conference at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu where several important recommendations emerged. This year, the Society is grateful to Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute of ICAR for inviting the Society to hold the 60th Annual Conference (Diamond Jubilee Celebration) at New Delhi from 27 to 30 December,

2006. This Conference is the first International Conference by the Society on Statistics and Informatics in Agricultural Research. The main focus of the Conference is on the following six themes:

1. Statistical Applications in Agricultural Research
2. Emerging Issues in Areas of Basic Statistical Research
3. Agricultural Informatics
4. Statistical and Computational Biology in Agriculture
5. Statistical and Economic Issues for Prosperity of Rural Community
6. Human Resource Development for Agricultural Statistics and Informatics

The Society brings out a Journal every year consisting of three issues (April, August and December) in a volume. The Journal serves as a medium for disseminating research findings on agricultural statistics and allied fields. The Hindi Supplement continues to be a special feature of the Journal. The high standard of the Journal has been maintained due to the sincere efforts of the Editorial Board and the Referees. The Society is thankful to them for their keen interest in its activities related to the publication of Journal.

The membership of the Society is drawn from all parts of India as well as from abroad. In addition to its regular members, the Society has a number of subscribers in India and abroad.

In order to perpetuate the memory of its Founder President, Late Dr. Rajendra Prasad, a memorial lecture is being organized during the Conference since 1965. The Society has organized 42 lectures so far and the memorial lecture is being organized during this Conference would be 43rd in the series. Also since 1973, the Society has been organizing a lecture in the memory of Late Dr. V.G. Panse, who had been the guiding spirit

behind the Society and its activities. The Society has so far organized 27 lectures in his memory and the current memorial lecture would be 28th in the series.

The Society has a Research Unit to undertake research on specific problems of current interest under the guidance of a Research Direction Committee. This year, the Research Unit was engaged in carrying out research study relating to evaluation of socio-economic development at district level. Knowledge of development status of districts provides good input for drawing plans for the development of disadvantaged regions. With this in view, the status of development had been worked out for 282 districts belonging to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The level of development was estimated with the help of composite index based on optimum combination of different developmental indicators. The districts falling in different levels of development such as high level, middle level and low level were also identified for the states covered in the study. For enhancing the level of development of low developed districts, model districts had been identified and potential targets of important developmental indicators had been estimated.

Another study relating to the evaluation of agricultural development in Asian countries is also in progress. Out of 50 countries in the continent, 39 countries which are mostly depending on agriculture, have been included in the study. The data on crop productivity and other agricultural indicators are being collected from various published sources.

It is a matter of great pride for the Society that two of its life members got recognition in this year. Dr. Padam Singh has been appointed as Member, National Statistical Commission, Govt. of India by the Act of Parliament. This position is equivalent to Secretary, Govt. of India. Another important achievement is that, Dr. V.K. Gupta has been appointed as ICAR National Professor which is equivalent to DDG of the Council. We congratulate both of them for their significant achievement.

The problems of finance for scientific activities, printing of the Journal and other ad-hoc publications could be overcome to a certain extent through grant-in-aid received from the Ministry of Agriculture,

Government of India and Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The Society wishes to acknowledge very gratefully the financial assistance received from them during the year under report.

The Society continues to be a member of the International Statistical Institute, Netherlands, Indian Association of Social Science Institutions, New Delhi and Federation of Indian Societies of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, New Delhi.

The 59th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics was held at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Jammu from 11 to 13 November, 2005. Janab Muzaffar Husain Baig, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Jammu & Kashmir was the Chief Guest and he inaugurated the Conference on 11 November, 2005. Dr. Nagendra Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Jammu presided over the inaugural function. On this occasion, Prof. P.V. Sukhatme Gold Medal Award was presented to Dr. V.K. Gupta, Joint Director, IASRI, New Delhi by the Chief Guest. Dr. Mangala Rai, Secretary, DARE, Government of India and Director General, ICAR, New Delhi delivered Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Lecture on **Technologies for Sustainable Development of Agriculture**.

The Technical Address on **ICT as Tool for Information, Knowledge Management and Intelligence** was delivered by the Sessional President Dr. S.D. Sharma, Director, IASRI, New Delhi. The session was presided over by Dr. Nawab Ali, DDG (Engg.), ICAR, New Delhi.

Dr. V.G. Panse Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. K.C. Raut, Vice President of the Society on **Research Priorities in Livestock Statistics**.

Dr. D.N. Lal Memorial Lecture Award was presented to Dr. Rajender Parsad, National Fellow, IASRI, New Delhi. He delivered this memorial lecture on **Designing Experiments for Cropping Systems Research**.

The research work carried out by the Research Unit of the Society during 2005 was presented by Shri S.C. Rai, former Joint Secretary of the Society. The topic of his lecture was **Dimensions of Socio-economic Development in Jammu & Kashmir**.

Dr. A.K. Srivastava, former Joint Director, IASRI, New Delhi delivered a special invited lecture on **Small Area Estimation – Some Applications**.

Oral and poster presentation of 61 contributed research papers were made in the fields of Design of Experiments, Sample Surveys, Statistical Genetics, Applied Statistics, Statistical Methodology and Computer Applications during the Conference. Dr. A.K. Srivastava, Dr. V.K. Gupta, Dr. V.K. Sharma and Dr. H.V.L. Bathla presided over different sessions of oral presentation of papers. Dr. A.K. Srivastava, Dr. V.K. Sharma, Dr. B.V.S. Sisodia and Dr. D.K. Jain acted as Judges for the quality of poster presentation of research papers.

Two symposia on (i) Energy Issues in Agriculture, and (ii) Statistical and Computational Issues in Rainfed Agriculture were organized during the Conference. Dr. Anwar Alam, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST, Srinagar presided over the first symposium and Dr. H.V.L. Bathla, Principal Scientist and Head (Sample Survey), IASRI, New Delhi and Dr. Dipankar De, Principal Scientist, CIAE, Bhopal were the Convenors. Dr. G. Kalloo, DDG (Horticulture), ICAR, New Delhi presided over the second symposium and Dr. V.K. Gupta, Joint Director, IASRI, New Delhi and Dr. S.E.H. Rizvi, Associate Professor, SKUAST, Jammu were the Convenors.

There was a Plenary Session chaired by Secretary, ISAS where the recommendations of the symposia were presented by the Convenors.

The Technical Address, Dr. V.G. Panse Memorial Lecture, Abstracts of Contributed Research Papers and Recommendations of Symposia have been published in the Journal of the Society, Volume 60, No. 1, April, 2006.

The Society conveyed its grateful thanks to Dr. Nagendra Sharma, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST, Jammu for organizing the 59th Annual Conference.

The accounts of the Society for the year ending 31 March, 2006 were audited by M/s Jaideep Aggarwal & Associates, Chartered Accountants, Professional Auditors and will be presented in the General Body Meeting.

The work of the Society during the year was made possible through the advice and help of the members of the Executive Council, Editorial Board and the Research Direction Committee. The burden of the entire Secretariat of the Society has been willingly borne by my colleagues, Dr. V.K. Bhatia, Shri R.S. Khatri, Dr. Rajender Parsad, Shri A.K. Vishandass, Shri S.C. Rai and Dr. A.K. Srivastava. In the end, I wish to thank the staff of the Society for the devoted work.

S.D. Sharma
Secretary