

## PREFACE

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The Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics was founded on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1947 to provide a platform for disseminating research in Agricultural Statistics and also to establish the importance of Agricultural Statistics in agricultural research. The Society had proud privilege of having late Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then Agriculture Minister as the founder President of the Society. Dr. Rajendra Prasad continued to preside over the activities of the Society for 16 years even after becoming the President of India. The Society benefited immensely by his intelligence, wisdom and guidance and kept gaining strength and growing in size and stature. The Society had also the proud privilege of having notable personalities and high dignitaries as its Presidents in the past and Dr. Mangala Rai, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR as its present President. The Society was nurtured to cover new horizons in time by the legendary Indian Statisticians Late Dr. PV Sukhatme, Late Dr. VG Panse, Late Dr. GR Seth, Late Dr. Daroga Singh, Dr. Prem Narain and many others.

The Society brings out a Journal called “Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics” which holds the unique distinction of publishing research articles both in basic research as well as applied and innovative research in Agricultural Statistics with applications in agricultural research so as to meet the challenges of agricultural research in the emerging areas. The Journal is being reviewed by the American Mathematical Society under the Mathematical Reviews.

To mark the celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee (60 years) of the formation of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, an International Conference on **Statistics and Informatics in Agricultural Research** was organized at New Delhi during 27–30 December 2006. Sh. GK Vasan, Honorable Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, delivered the Inaugural Address.

Prof. C Radhakrishna Rao, Pennsylvania State University, USA was the Sessional President of this Diamond Jubilee Conference and was to deliver the Keynote Address on **Has Statistics a Future? If So, in What Form?** (The keynote address was read by Dr. R Krishnan, Ex-Professor, ISI, Kolkata, India, and an ex-Ph.D. student of Professor CR Rao, because Prof. Rao could not come to the Conference on account of his bad health).

Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Lecture is an annual feature of the Society. During this Conference, the 43<sup>rd</sup> Rajendra Prasad Memorial lecture was delivered by Dr. GS Bhalla, Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi on **Globalization and Current Crisis in Indian Agriculture**. Another annual feature of the Society is Dr. VG Panse Memorial Lecture. The 28<sup>th</sup> lecture in this series was delivered by Dr. AK Nigam, Director, Institute of Applied Statistics and Development Studies, Lucknow on **Understanding and Combating Undernutrition**. Three plenary talks were also delivered during the Conference.

The conference theme was achieved through the following six major heads:

1. Statistical Application 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

A total of 54 invited talks were delivered by eminent statisticians spread all over the globe. Besides these 155 Research Papers based on different themes of the Conference were also presented as Posters. For the benefit of

young researchers, two pre-conference workshops were organized on “Hotspot Geoinformatics” and “Regression Diagnostics”.

The Executive Council of the Society decided to bring out the Proceedings of the Conference for the benefit of all the members as well as other researchers. Therefore, it was decided that the August 2007 issue of the Journal would be devoted to the Conference Proceedings. Accordingly Guest Editors were appointed. All the speakers who delivered the invited talks were requested to submit their full length paper for publication in the Proceedings issue of the Journal. The response was very encouraging. The papers received for possible publication were thoroughly reviewed by referees. After the review process 18 papers have been accepted for publication and are published in this Proceedings Number.

We express our deep sense of gratitude to all the contributors and the referees for their unflinching support in bringing out this number. We would like to place on record our appreciation towards Dr. Mangala Rai, Chairman, International Advisory Committee and the Coordination Committee, Prof. Bal BPS Goel, Chairman, Editorial Board and Dr. SD Sharma, Chairman, Organizing Committee and Secretary of the Society and all the members of various committees for their untiring efforts in making the Conference a big success. We also thank Shri SC Rai for preparing the Hindi Supplement. We express our heartfelt thanks to the Secretariat of the Society for their dedicated and devoted efforts in bringing out the Proceedings number.

#### **GUEST EDITORS**

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