

## Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics

*Review of Activities for the Year 2007*

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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 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. PV Sukhatme and Late Dr. VG 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 presentations, awards and incentives in various forms. Last year, the Society held its 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (Diamond Jubilee Celebration) as an International Conference on Statistics and Informatics in Agricultural Research at Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi from 27 to 30 December, 2006 where several important recommendations

emerged. This year, the Society is grateful to the Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi (Jharkhand) for inviting the Society to hold its 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference at Ranchi from 30 November to 02 December, 2007. Symposia on (i) **Role of Agriculture in Containing Acute Rural Distress – Some Statistical Issues**, and (ii) **Statistical Aspects of Research in Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – Status and Scope** are being organized during the Conference.

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 the Journal. With a view to promoting research in Statistics and improving the standard of its Journal, the Society has been awarding prizes for the best papers published in the Journal for every biennium from 1987 in the fields of Design of Experiments, Sampling Theory, Statistical Genetics, Statistical Methodology, Applied Statistics and Computer Applications.

The membership of the Society which is drawn from all parts of India as well as from abroad during the year was

Permanent Institutional Members	26
Life Members	581
Annual Members	9
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	616

In addition to its regular members, the Society has a number of institutional subscribers to its Journal in India

and abroad. The number of subscribers during the year was

Indian : 198

Foreign : 4

Thus, the total number of members and subscribers during the year was 818.

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 43 lectures so far and the memorial lecture is being organized during this Conference would be 44<sup>th</sup> in the series. Also since 1973, the Society has been organizing a lecture in the memory of Late Dr. VG'Panse, who had been the guiding spirit behind the Society and its activities. The Society has so far organized 28 lectures in his memory and the current memorial lecture would be 29<sup>th</sup> 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 following two research studies have been conducted by the Research Unit of the Society.

The first study is on the **Evaluation of Agricultural Development in Asian Countries**. The status of agricultural development of different Asian countries has been estimated by optimum combination of 26 developmental indicators. Out of 50 countries in Asia, 39 countries covering more than 99 per cent population of the continent have been included in the study. China is found to be the best developed country in the farm sector in Asia. Agricultural development is observed to be highly associated with the productivity levels of wheat and rice. Suggestions for improving the levels of agricultural development of low developed countries have also been given. The methodology adopted and the results obtained from this study were presented by Dr. VK Bhatia, Joint Secretary of the Society in the Fourth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics organized on 22-24 October, 2007 at Beijing, China. The Conference was hosted by National Bureau of Statistics of China and sponsored by Eurostat, FAO, ISI, UNSD and the World Bank. The participants from many organizations and countries like USA, Italy, Mexico, United Kingdom, Switzerland, France, Uganda and others appreciated the study and took keen interest in its methodology and results.

The second study relates to the **Statistical Evaluation of Socio-economic Development of Different States in India**. The level of development of different states was obtained with the help of composite index based on optimum combination of a number of socio-economic indicators. Seventeen major states and ten smaller states of the country were included in the analysis. The data on various indicators for the year 2001-02 were used in the study. The level of development was examined separately for agricultural, infrastructural and overall socio-economic sectors. The state of Punjab was ranked first in overall socio-economic development. Wide disparities were observed in the level of development among different states. The overall socio-economic development was positively associated with the developments in agricultural sector. The infrastructural facilities and literacy status were influencing the socio-economic development in the positive direction. For bringing out uniform regional development, potential target of developmental indicators was estimated for low developed states. The methodology adopted and results obtained in the study will be presented in a separate session during this Conference by Shri SC Rai, Former Joint Secretary of the Society.

The problem 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 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics was held at Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi. Shri GK Vasan, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, New Delhi was the Chief Guest and he inaugurated the Conference on 27 December, 2006. Dr Mangala Rai, Secretary, DARE, Government of India and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi presided over the

Inaugural Function. Dr. Nawab Ali, Deputy Director General (Ag. Engg.), ICAR, New Delhi delivered the Welcome Address. Review of the activities of the Society was presented by Dr. SD Sharma, Secretary, Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, New Delhi. Dr. Mangala Rai, President of the Society gave the Presidential Remarks and Dr. VK Gupta, ICAR National Professor and Organizing Secretary of the Conference proposed a Vote of Thanks.

Dr. C Radhakrishna Rao, Pennsylvania State University, USA was the Sessional President of the Conference and he was to deliver the Keynote Address at the Conference. Due to some unavoidable circumstances, he could not reach Delhi but his lecture on **Has Statistics a Future? If so in What Form?** was read by one of his old student Dr. T Krishnan, Cranes Software International Limited, Bangalore.

Dr. 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**.

Dr. VG Panse Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. AK Nigam, Director, Institute of Applied Statistics and Development Studies, Lucknow on **Understanding and Combating Undernutrition**.

A number of technical sessions were organized during the Conference on the following 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 following plenary speakers delivered special lectures during the Conference

1. Dr. GP Patil, Pennsylvania State University, USA
2. Dr. James H Matis, Texas A & M University, USA
3. Dr. Padam Singh, National Statistical Commission, New Delhi

Poster presentation of 155 research papers based on different themes of the Conference were made in the fields of Design of Experiments, Sampling Theory, Statistical Genetics, Statistical Methodology, Applied Statistics and Computer Applications.

Two Pre-conference workshops were organized on 26 December, 2006 at IASRI, New Delhi on the topics of **Hotspot Geoinformatics** and **Regression Diagnostics**.

The complete proceedings of the Conference along with major recommendations have been published in the Journal of the Society Volume 61, No. 2, August 2007.

The Society conveyed its grateful thanks to the authorities of the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi for organizing the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

The accounts of the Society for the year ending 31 March, 2007 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. VK Bhatia, Shri RS Khatri, Dr. Rajender Parsad, Dr. AK Vishandass, Shri SC Rai and Dr. AK Srivastava. In the end, I wish to thank the staff of the Society for the devoted work.

**SD SHARMA**  
Secretary