

## Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics

### Secretary's Report for the Year 2008

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The Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics is a scientific body which was founded on January 03, 1947 with the main objective of promoting and undertaking 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 even after becoming the President of the Republic of India. 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 presentation and awards and incentives in various forms. Last year, the Society held its 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference at Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi from 30 November to 02 December 2007. This year, the Society is grateful to the Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad for inviting the Society to hold its 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference at S.V. Agricultural College (ANGRAU), Tirupati from 24 to 26 November, 2008. Symposia on (i) **Accelerated Growth of Agriculture through Information Technology**, and (ii) **Agricultural Statistics for Planning** 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. A special issue of the Journal Volume 62, No. 2, August 2008 was brought out in the memory of Dr. K. Kishen in 2008. This issue contains 10 invited articles from India and abroad.

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 | 29    |
| Life Members                    | 606   |
| Annual Members                  | 04    |
|                                 | <hr/> |
|                                 | 639   |
|                                 | <hr/> |

In addition to its regular members, the Society has a number of institutional subscribers to its Journal in India and abroad. The number of Indian subscribers during the year was 185. During the year under report, 3 new permanent institutional members (Govt. Vidarbha Institute of Social & Humanities, Amravati; Dr. Gaur Hari Singhania Institute of Management & Research, Kanpur; Brahmanand Mahavidyalaya, Rath, Hamirpur) and 24 new life members were enrolled. Thus, the total number of members and subscribers during the year was 824.

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 44 lectures so far and the memorial lecture is being organized during this Conference would be 45<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 29 lectures in his memory and the current memorial lecture would be 30<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, a study relating to the estimation of level of development of different districts of Andhra Pradesh was conducted. The level of development was obtained with the help of composite index based on optimum combination of fifty socio-economic indicators. The district-wise data for the year 2001-02 in respect of these indicators were utilized for 22 districts of the State. The level of development was estimated separately for agricultural sector, infrastructural facilities and socio-economic sector. The district of West Godavari was ranked first in overall socio-economic development and the district of Guntur was found on the first position in respect of agricultural development. Wide disparities were observed in the level of development among different districts. Infrastructural facilities were found to be positively associated with the levels of development in agricultural sector and overall socio-economic field. Agricultural development was also influencing the overall socio-economic development in the positive direction.

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 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics (ISAS) was held at Department

of Agricultural Statistics, Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi – 834 006 (Jharkhand) from 30 November to 02 December, 2007. The Conference was inaugurated by Dr. Pronab Sen, Chief Statistician of India and Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India on 30 November 2007. Dr. Mangala Rai, Secretary, DARE, Government of India and Director General, ICAR, New Delhi and President of the Society presided over the Inaugural Function. Dr. A.K. Sarkar, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi delivered the Welcome Address. Shri A.K. Sarkar, IAS and Principal Secretary and Commissioner (Agriculture), Government of Jharkhand and Dr. N.N. Singh, Vice Chancellor, Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi addressed the participants. Review of the activities of the Society was presented by Dr. S.D. Sharma, Secretary, Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics. Dr. Mangala Rai, delivered the Presidential Address. Dr. K. Sinha, Professor and Chairman, Department of Agricultural Statistics, Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi and Organizing Secretary of the Conference proposed a Vote of Thanks. Dr. V.K. Gupta, ICAR National Professor, IASRI, New Delhi was the Sessional President of the Conference and he delivered the Technical Address on **Orthogonal Arrays and their Applications**. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Pronab Sen, Chief Statistician of India and Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, New Delhi. The topic of his lecture was **Reflections on Planning in India**. Dr. V.G. Panse Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. A.K. Srivastava, Former Joint Director, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi on **Small Area Estimation – A Perspective and Some Applications**. Two 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 were organized during the Conference. The methodologies and the findings of the research study carried out by the Research Unit of the Society were presented by Shri S.C. Rai. The topic of the study was Statistical Evaluation of Socio-economic Development of Different States in India. A total of 43 research papers were presented by different delegates during the Conference in the fields of Design of Experiments, Sample Surveys, Statistical Genetics, Applied Statistics, Statistical Methodology and Computer Applications.

Plenary Session was chaired by Dr. S.D. Sharma, Director, IASRI and Secretary, ISAS, New Delhi where the recommendations of both the symposia were presented by Dr. H.V.L. Bathla and Dr. Prajneshu and these were approved.

The Society conveyed its grateful thanks to the authorities of the Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi for organizing the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference.

The accounts of the Society for the year ending 31 March, 2008 were audited by M/s V. Garg & Co., 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, Dr. 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 their devoted work.

S.D. SHARMA  
Secretary