



**Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics :
Review of Activities for the Year 2009**

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. 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 presentations, and awards and incentives in various forms. Last year, the Society held its 62nd Annual Conference at S.V. Agricultural College, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh from 24 to 26 November 2008. The Society conveyed its grateful thanks to the authorities of the Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad for organizing the Conference. This year, the

Society is grateful to the Vice Chancellor, Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar for inviting the Society to hold its 63rd Annual Conference at Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur during December 03–05, 2009. Symposia on (i) **Statistical and Computational Genomics**, and (ii) **Statistical and Informatics Perspectives of Climate Change** are being organized during the Conference.

The Society also publishes an International Peer Reviewed Journal called “Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics” with ISSN 0019-6363. Three issues of the Journal (April, August and December) are published in a volume in a year. The first Volume of the Journal was released in 1948. The Journal devoted to the publication of original research papers on all aspects of Statistics and Computer Applications preferably with innovative applications in Agricultural Sciences or that have a potential application in Agricultural Sciences. The review articles of the topics of current interest are welcome. Journal also accepts books, monographs and periodicals for review. Special issues on thematic areas of both national and international importance are also brought out. 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 Chair Editor, Associate Editors and Reviewers. The Society is thankful to them for their keen interest in its activities related to the publication of the Journal. The Journal is reviewed by Mathematical Reviews and indexed in Zentralblatt MATH, Statistical Theory & Methods Abstracts. 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	29
Life Members	<u>602</u>
	<u>631</u>

During the year under report, 07 new life members, 02 annual members and 02 institutional members were enrolled. 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. Thus, the total number of life members, annual members, institutional members and subscribers during the year was 827.

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 45 lectures so far and the memorial lecture organized during this Conference was 46th in the series and was delivered by Dr. H.S. Gupta, Director, IARI, New Delhi. 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 30 lectures in his memory and the current memorial lecture was 31st in the series and was delivered by Dr. Bikas Sinha, Ex-Member, National Statistical Commission, Government of India and Professor, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

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 variation of socio-economic development in the states of eastern region of the country was conducted and its details were presented separately in a different session during this Conference by Shri S.C. Rai.

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 Society organized a five day training programme under the technical supervision of FAO Statistics Division, United Nations in close collaboration with Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Government of India at IASRI, New Delhi from 25 to 29 May, 2009 on "National Demonstration Centre" on Food Security Analysis of National Household Surveys Food Consumption Data. Twenty two participants from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam attended the training programme. The NDC was successfully conducted and a large number of guests from the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Ministry of Agriculture, Central Statistical Organization, National Sample Survey Organization, World Food Programme, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and other national institutions participated in either the opening or closing ceremonies. FAO Representative in India has been very supportive in the success of the NDC.

The accounts of the Society for the year ending 31 March 2009 were audited by M/s K.L. Sehgal & Co., Chartered Accountants, Professional Auditors and were 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. Gupta, Shri R.S. Khatri, Dr. Rajender Parsad, Dr. P.K. Malhotra, Dr. A.K. Vishandass and Shri S.C. Rai. In the end, I wish to thank the staff of the Society for their devoted work.

V.K. BHATIA
Secretary