

Preface

The Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics was founded on January 03, 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 Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then Union Minister of Agriculture as the founder President of the Society. Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad continued to preside over the activities of the Society for 16 years even after becoming the President of Republic 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, President, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi as its present President. The Society was nurtured to cover new horizons in time by the legendry Indian Statisticians Late Dr. P.V. Sukhatme, Late Dr. V.G. Panse, Late Dr. G.R. 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 and Zentralblatt MATH, Germany. It is available online at www.isas.org.in/jisas/ and the full papers are downloadable free of cost.

Statistical concepts and principles permeate all aspects of science ranging from designing experiments, analyzing data, testing hypotheses, reporting results and interpreting the research literature. Although this is true for all scientific disciplines, the need for a basic proficiency in statistics has become even more important in genetics and genomics as technological advances now allow complex and high dimensional datasets to be routinely collected.

Besides bringing out the regular volumes of the Journal, the Society also brings out special issues on thematic areas. Realizing the importance of the upcoming subject of research in Statistical Genomics and also to demonstrate the power of statistical tools in handling massive data sets for analysis, it was decided by the Executive Council of the Society to bring out a special issue on 'Statistical Genomics' for motivating and creating interest among the members of the Society for research in this area and researchers engaged in this area of research around the globe. With the consent of the Executive Council, the Chair Editor decided to have the April 2010 issue of the Journal as a Special issue and appointed a team of Guest Editors for this purpose.

Renowned and active researchers working in this area of research from all over the globe were requested to submit their research articles for this issue. The response was very encouraging. The papers received for possible publication were thoroughly reviewed by the reviewers. After the review process, eight papers have been accepted for publication and are published in this special issue.

We express our deep sense of gratitude to all the contributors and the reviewers for their unflinching support in bringing out this issue in time. We would like to place on record our appreciation towards Dr. V.K. Gupta, ICAR National Professor and Chair Editor, Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics for his unbounded interest and support which made this issue a reality. The help received from Dr. V.K. Bhatia, Director, IASRI, New Delhi and Secretary, ISAS, is gratefully acknowledged. We also thank Shri S.C. 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 special issue of Statistical Genomics. Dr. Peddada's research was supported by the Intramural Research Program of the NIH, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences [Z01 ES101744-04].

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