

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 its importance in research in agricultural sciences. The Society has had the proud privilege of having late Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then Union Minister of Agriculture as the founder President of the Society. He 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 wisdom and guidance and kept gaining strength and growing in size and stature. The Society had notable personalities and high dignitaries as its Presidents in the past and Dr. Mangala Rai, President, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi is its present President. The Society was nurtured to cover new horizons in time by the legendry Indian Statisticians, like Late Dr. P.V. Sukhatme, Late Dr. V.G. Panse, Late Dr. G.R. Seth, Late Dr. Daroga Singh, and Dr. Prem Narain. The Society brings out the Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics which holds the unique distinction of publishing research articles both in basic as well as innovative research in Agricultural Statistics with applications in agricultural sciences so as to meet challenges in 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 full papers are downloadable free of cost.

The Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics has decided to dedicate the August, 2010 issue of the Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics in memory of Late Dr. G.R. Seth, an internationally renowned statistician and former Director of the Institute of Agricultural Research Statistics, New Delhi (now I.A.S.R.I.). He had a uniformly brilliant academic record and bagged Gold Medals twice by getting first rank in the University of Delhi in both his Bachelor's and Master's programs. Dr. Seth successfully completed his Ph.D. in Mathematical Statistics from Columbia University, U.S.A. His fundamental contributions to the theory and applications of Sample surveys are monumental and are well-known. He also made tremendous contributions to the theory of parametric and nonparametric Statistical Inference, Sequential analysis, etc. Dr. Seth also had a brilliant and an illustrious career to his credit. Besides teaching at Hindu College (University of Delhi) and at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, he was also Associate Professor at Iowa State University, U.S.A. during 1948-49 and Professor at Columbia University, U.S.A. in 1952. He worked as Statistical Expert in Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations for eight years and had visited a large number of countries, like U.S.A., Thailand, Tanzania, Lebanon, Nepal, and Sri Lanka on various official assignments. Dr. Seth was elected Sectional President of Statistics of the Indian Science Congress in 1960-61, and Sessional President of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics in 1979. He held several important positions in the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, like Secretary, Vice-President and Patron. He was a member of American Statistical Association and Institute of Mathematical Statistics, as well as National Secretary of Indian Region of International Biometrics Society. For an illustrious career and for making colossal contributions in the field of Agricultural Statistics, the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics honored him with the prestigious Sankhyiki Bhushan award in 1996. Dr. Seth passed away on March 29, 2007 at the age of 93 years.

This Special Volume contains invited research papers from eminent statisticians around the World. Renowned and active researchers working in the area of Agricultural Statistics 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. After the review process, twenty papers have been accepted for publication and are being published in this Special Volume.

We express our deep sense of gratitude to all the contributors and reviewers for their unflinching support in bringing out this Special Volume in time. We would like to place on record our appreciation towards Dr. V.K. Gupta, I.C.A.R. National Professor and Chair Editor, Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics for his unbounded interest and support which made this Special Volume a reality. The help received from Dr. V.K. Bhatia, Director, I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi and Secretary, I.S.A.S., is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are due to Shri S.C. Rai for preparing the Hindi Supplement. We are also indebted to the Secretariat of the Society for their dedicated and devoted efforts in bringing out the Special Volume.

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