

## Preface

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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 promote research in the agricultural sciences. The Society has had the privilege of having the late Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad, then Union Minister of Agriculture, as its founding President. Dr. Prasad presided over the activities of the Society for its first 16 years, even after becoming the President of the Republic of India. The Society benefited immensely from his wisdom and guidance and has continued to grow in size and stature. Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research & Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Government of India is the current President. Notable members of the Society have included the eminent Indian statisticians Dr. P.V. Sukhatme, Dr. V.G. Panse, Dr. G.R. Seth, Dr. Daroga Singh and Dr. Prem Narain. The Society publishes the Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, which contains fundamental research articles in Agricultural Statistics as well as articles with applications in agricultural sciences, aimed at meeting research challenges in emerging areas. Papers published in the Journal are reviewed by the American Mathematical Society under the Mathematical Reviews and by Zentralblatt MATH, Germany. The Journal is available online at [www.isas.org.in/jisas/](http://www.isas.org.in/jisas/) and complete papers are downloadable free of charge.

In recent years, the global focus of economic and social planning has shifted from the macro to the micro level. As a consequence there has been a sharp increase in demand by administrators and policy planners for reliable estimates of various parameters at the micro level. In order to meet this demand, the international focus of sample surveys research has also shifted to the development of more precise methods of small area inference. As a consequence, a number of new small area estimation techniques have been proposed by researchers. This shift in focus to micro level planning has also occurred in India, and small area estimation is now of considerable interest to both planners and researchers in this country. Realizing this growing importance, the Executive Council of the Society decided to publish the April 2012 issue of the Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics as a special issue on Small Area Estimation.

This special issue on Small Area Estimation contains invited research papers from eminent statisticians around the world. In particular, active researchers working in the field of small area estimation were invited to submit their research articles for this issue. The response was very encouraging. After a thorough review process, eighteen of these papers were accepted and are now published in this Special Volume. We anticipate that they will represent a substantial contribution to this important area of research and application. Preparation of this Special Volume would not have been possible without the help that we obtained from a number of sources. In particular, we would like to express our deep sense of gratitude to all the contributors and reviewers for their unflinching support in meeting the deadlines that were necessary in order to bring out this special issue in time. We would also like to place on record our appreciation towards Professor V.K. Gupta, I.C.A.R. National Professor and Chair Editor, Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics for his strong support in making this Special Volume a reality. The support provided by Dr. V.K. Bhatia, Director, I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi and Secretary, I.S.A.S., is also gratefully acknowledged. We are also indebted to the Secretariat of the Society for their dedicated efforts in ensuring that this Special Volume has been published on schedule.

**Guest Editors**  
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