



HILL AGRICULTURE REPORTER

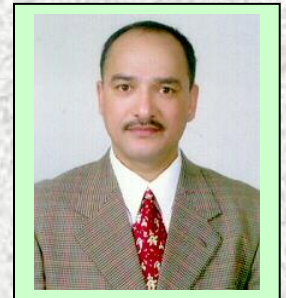
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Dr. Tej Partap asks Scientists to Serve the Farming Community with Mission Oriented Approach



Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar, Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Palampur has resolved to serve the farming community with mission oriented approach in the field of organic farming. Dr. Tej Partap, Vice-Chancellor, declared this in an especially organized organic farming awareness workshop for the whole University community and students, here on January 1, 2008.

He said that a systematic and sustained campaign to educate the farming community about advantages of green and healthy farming and dangerous consequences of chemical farming will be launched. Similarly, special training programmes for the young unemployed farmers and farm ladies are in the anvil. The university is starting a large number of certificate and diploma courses to increase the existing 800 student number. Attracting NRIs was a major agenda to generate funds. In addition, a massive seed production programme has been formulated to generate income.

The Vice Chancellor hinted for major reforms in teaching, research, extension education programmes and in the administration of the university. The college of basic sciences is being upgraded to

college of biological and Environmental Sciences and students' Counseling and Placement Cell is being strengthened to assist the students in having better interaction and jobs with industry, banks, etc. Cells on entrepreneurship, income generation and administrative reforms are being created with a team of spirited scientists and staff. He said that there were sufficient funds as far as research is concerned but there were little funds to plan and formulate state need based and farmers' friendly research projects. He has already requested the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to give special grant for such projects and special packages for financial poor farm Varsities. So far, ICAR only gives special grants to already financial sound Universities. Dr. Tej Partap in his elaborated speech added input in the form of a documentary entitled "Slow Poisoning of India" for the audience. He also conducted a technical visit to the university organic farm. For the first time, university farming calendar was also released and distributed among the staff. The workshop was attended by University Statutory Officers, Heads, Scientists, Students, Non-Teaching Staff and Incharges of University's Farm Science Centres and Research Stations spread across the state.

Campus/out stations' Activities (Dec, 2007)

Dr. Tej Partap, Vice-Chancellor and Deans of the constituent colleges and other senior officers of the University held a meeting with the representatives of the British Columbia University and Senior Officers of the Govt. of Canada with regard to India Canada Scientific and Technological Cooperation. The meeting was held on 3 December at Chandigarh.

The University Academic Council Meeting was held on 10 Dec, 2007.

Senior functionaries of the University attended Vice-Chancellors' Conference organized by the ICAR at Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi on 19-20 December, 2007. It was emphatically proposed that ICAR should financially strengthen the financially poor SAUs, should give special packages for research as per the needs of the concerned State farmers and should assist the SAUs to increase the seats/students' number.

The Vice-Chancellor also attended India Organic Fair at New Delhi from 29 Nov.-2 Dec, 2007. He was Chief Guest of a National Seminar on Biotechnology at NIT, Hamirpur on 11 Dec, 2007.

An important decision has been taken by the University Management Committee to sell all kinds of Agricultural, Horticultural, Home Science and Livestock produce through Agricultural Technology and Information Centre (ATIC) for the benefit of the farmers of the Himachal Pradesh.

Education Related Activities- Mr. Atul Dogra, Ph.D. scholar of the College of Agriculture presented a paper entitled, "Sustaining issues in village economy: The

case of Malanis and their deity Jamdagani" at International Symposium held from 28-30 Nov., 2007 at Bangkok (Thailand).

An Article entitled, "Extent and source of Instability in food grains Production in India" by H.R. Sharma, Kamlesh Singh and Shanta Kumari was adjusted best paper for the year 2006 by the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics. A Sum of Rs.5,000/- was awarded along with certificate for the same.

E-manual on Plant Clinic was prepared by the teachers of the Plant Pathology, Entomology, Horticulture, Soil Science & Agronomy Departments for the benefit of both students and farmers.

Extension/Trainings-The Directorate of Extension Education organized 14 short-term training programmes on various aspects in which 427 farmers (men and women) participated. In addition, 4 Field Days were also organized by the KVKs in which 320 farmers participated. About 145 farmers visited this University from various parts of the State for technical guidance.

Training on Basic Hospitality Management was organized by the College of Home Science from 28 Nov. to 3 December, 2007. It was for the internal staff of the University Guest House/Rest Houses/Hostels.

To train the traditional weavers and artisans, a three days training workshop on the promotion of natural dyes was organized from 13-15 December in the College of Home Science.

While inaugurating the workshop, Dr. Tej Partap, Vice-Chancellor underlined the importance and value of natural dyes in the world market. He said that handloom and handicraft products in the state need orientation on these aspects and the young generation needs to be trained in designing and e-marketing. Twenty weavers from Kullu district took part in the training sponsored by the H.P. State Handicraft and Handloom Corporation.

The Department of Horticulture organized two training camps under the project entitled "Trainers Training on Improved Production Technology of Horticultural Crops" at MAREC, Sangla, Distt. Kinnaur and KVK, Berthin, Distt. Bilaspur.

239 clinical cases were diagnosed & treated in the Veterinary Clinics and 298 samples were analyzed.

Students' Activities-NSS and NCC Volunteers of the University celebrated the World AIDS Day on 1 December, 2007. A rally was organized on AIDS Awareness in the Campus, which was attended by about 150 NSS/NCC volunteers of all the constituent Colleges of the University.

Campus/out stations' Activities (Jan2008)

VC pitches for more funds to financially poor SAUs: Dr Tej Partap attended meeting of the Vice-Chancellors of SAUs on 19-20 January at New Delhi. He strongly pleaded the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to give special grant to financially poor Farm Varsities. So far, ICAR only gives special grants to already financially sound Universities. He further requested to give financial assistance to formulate research projects as per the needs and aspiration of state farmers. A need to increase student number in State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) was also discussed in addition to attract more NRIs to various academic programmes.

Up-gradation of facilities: The University is in process to upgrade teaching, research and extension education facilities at main campus and it's out stations. Central Development Assistance is being used to strengthen conference hall facilities, new farmers' hostel, student hostels, sports facilities, counseling and placement facilities, etc. The University intends to switch over to ernet leased line connectivity of 2 Mbps in future. Internet concentricity and penetration has increased to 234 users.

It is further upgraded to accommodate more users. There is proposal to decrease paper work and use intranet for internal communication.

Republic Day celebrated with enthusiasm: The Republic Day was celebrated on 26 January, 2008 with enthusiasm and gaiety.

Dr.Tej Partap, Vice-Chancellor, unfurled the National Flag and addressed the University Community. Sweets were also distributed to mark the occasion.

Research Activities-Under state funded project "Studies on the Migratory Routes of Fishin Beas Drainage System in Relation to Habitat Degradation" the physico-chemical parameters of water bodies of fish farm have been monitored daily as well as weekly.

The study revealed that the water temperature (5-7 degree Celsius) was very low for the growth of fish.

Validation of low volume saponified vaccine against haemaorrhagic septicemia was started based on cytokine estimation through PCR under ICAR network project on haemorrhagic septicaemia.

A multi institutional project entitled "Probing the Molecular Mechanisms governing Cold Tolerance during reproductive Growth in chickpea" amounting to Rs. 44.07 lakh awarded to Dr. Kamal Dev Sharma by the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India. Dr. Harsh Nayyar of Department of Botany, Punjab University, Chandigarh is another collaborator in this project.

Education Related Activities- Educational tour of BSc.(Agr.)-II & IV year classes were conducted to North and South India respectively.

Registration of students for the 2nd Semester of Academic session 2007-08 has been done and teaching work has started.

Extension/Trainings The Directorate of Extension Education organized 27 training programmes on various aspects in which 1119 farmers (men and women) participated. In addition, 197 Telephone Helplines were rendered. Two Scientific Advisory Committee Meetings of KVK, Mandi and KVK, Bajaura (Kullu) were held.

268 clinical cases were diagnosed & treated in the Vety. Clinics

Organized one day Organic Awareness workshop on 1st January, 2008 under NAE program in Organic Farming in Hill Agriculture and conducted visit of the University employees in the Model Organic Farm.

Japan International Cooperation team visited the Deptt. of Vegetable Science & Floriculture on 4th January, 2008 and the HOD highlighted the scope, varietal status and post harvesting operations of vegetables, which are in vogue in H.P.

Students' Activities- The National Youth Day was celebrated on 12 January, 2008. A Youth Information Centre was established at the University in 2007 to increase awareness and social responsibility among youth about HIV/AIDS and other problems of youth. On the occasion of National Youth Day-2008, the Youth Information Centre organized a film show "Badalti Soch" and workshop for NSS Volunteers in Collaboration with District Health Department to sensitize the audience and increase their level of understanding. The venue was a NSS Camp of CSKHPKV Palampur at Govt. Primary School Bindraban. Thirty-eight students participated in the camp.

Ten Days NSS Camp was organized for the NSS volunteers of College of Basic Sciences at Bindraban w.e.f. 5.1.2008 to 13.1.2008. The activities such as literacy program, cleanliness of water channels, paths and environment conservation were carried out during the period. Pradhan, Gram

Panchayat Bindraban appreciated the work done by the NSS volunteers.

Campus/out stations' Activities (Feb.2008)

As a new service to the farming community of the State, Agro-advisory Service was started in the Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC). This service is available from 10.00 AM to 1.30 PM on all working days where a panel of experts attends to the Agro-livestock related problems of the farmers. Plant clinic work like diagnose of plant problems brought by the farmers are diagnosed by the experts drawn from various disciplines of agriculture and suitable solutions are provided on the spot.

Landscaping work was initiated in the University. Under this, watersheds will be prepared, road network will be strengthened, steps will be taken to clear bushes and grass from the campus. Services of experts are being sought to make the campus neat, clean and beautiful.

A preparatory workshop on Preparation of District Agricultural Plans was organized on 23 February, 2008.

National Science Day was celebrated in the College of Basic Sciences on 28 February, 2008.

Research Activities- Three research projects worth Rs. 1.9 crores have been sanctioned to this University by Govt. of India (NAIP) and ICSSR.

At Rice and Wheat Research Centre, Malan, sixty entries of wheat germplasm were screened against root knot nematodes. Under All India Coordinated Research Project entitled "Improvement of feed resources and nutrients utilization for raising animal production" a total of 380 samples comprising of blood, plants and soil were analyzed for various macro and micro minerals. Based on the deficiencies recorded,

80 kg. Mineral Mixture was distributed to the farmers for further research trials.

The Deputy Directors of Agriculture, Nahan, Solan, Una, Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Kangra were requested to give necessary instructions to the farmers of their respective areas to spray the wheat seed crop with Tilt 25 E.C. @ 0.1% as the prevailing weather conditions were congenial for the development of Kernal Bunt of Wheat.

Forty four frontline demonstrations on rapeseed-mustard crop were conducted in an area of 8.0 ha by the scientists of SAREC, Kangra at different locations of District Kangra and Chamba to demonstrate the improved technologies over local practices. Visits were conducted to these FLD's and farmers were given advice for the proper conduct of these demonstrations.

Education Related Activities- Mr. Chandra Shekhar Prabhakar, Ph.D. student of the Deptt. of Entomology, got second prize for his project, "DNA bar-coding of Indian fruit flies for National biosecurity" in Anveshan-student Research Convention-2008 held at Punjab University, Chandigarh from 13-15 February.

Dr. P.K.Mehta, Professor, Department of Entomology, has been conferred the honorary fellowship of Indian Society for the Advancement of Insect Science.

Dr. Adarsh Kumar, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Vet. Surgery was honored with an award by Himotkarsh Parishad, H.P. for his Ph.D. Program.

Extension/Trainings -Directorate of Extension Education and Krishi Vigyan Kendras organized 36 training programmes on various aspects in which 1610 farmers (men and women) participated.

In addition, 109 Telephone Help lines were attended and 502 farmers visited main campus and KVKs.

One Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting of KVK, Sirmour at Dhaulakuan was organized.

256 clinical cases were diagnosed & treated in the Vety. clinic and 401 clinical samples were analyzed

A three days On-campus training programme for the tribal farmers of Spiti valley (Distt.L & S) was organized by the Research Sub-Station, Lari at main campus Palampur. Ten farmers were trained on various aspects of vegetable cultivation under protected cultivation.

16 days biogas mason training and one day biogas user camp was organized in the Sangrah block of Sirmour district.

Campus/out stations' Activities (Mar, 2008)

His Excellency the Governor of Himachal Pradesh and Chancellor of the university Sh.V.S.Kokje chaired the 17th meeting of the senate on 23 March. H.E. called upon the scientific community to be proactive towards the newly emerging problems of the farmers and livestock keepers. While appreciating the efforts of the university in the areas of teaching, research and extension education, the Chancellor advised that more training programmes should be organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendras as a large number of farmers cannot afford to visit Palampur. Sh.Kokje also appreciated the proposal to establish a Community Radio (CR) station for effective farm communication needs. The Governor also wanted the university to take effective steps for cutting expenditure wherever possible and generate resources to make it financially sound.

Dr. Tej Partap, Vice-Chancellor, while presenting the progress report highlighted major achievements in academics, research and extension education programmes. He told that 20 adhoc research projects worth Rs. 7.55 crore have been sanctioned to the

University and 37 research projects worth Rs.24.83 crore have been submitted to different funding agencies for financial assistance. Elected and ex-officio members took part in the senate meeting and deliberated on various issues concerning the University and farming community.

Board of Management and Finance Committee meetings were organized on 17 March, 2008.

Research Activities-Five research projects worth Rs.67.47 lakh were sanctioned under HTM by the ICAR.

Two days Research Interface Workshop on insect taxonomy was organized at Rice & Wheat Research Centre on 29-30 March, 2008.

Strategic Research & Extension Plan of Lahaul & Spiti was prepared by RSS, Lari.

Development of the mother stools of clonal rootstocks of apple of M 793 and MM 111 for further multiplication and distribution to the farmers.

Latest varieties of apple have been introduced in the Horticulture departmental gene bank.

The H.P. State Seed certification agency certified the seed of released varieties of linseed on 19.03.2008.

18 lyophilized culture extracts of fleshy fungi collected from wild habitat of the state and submitted to the specified CSIR laboratories.

One coat protein gene sequence of Bean Common Mosaic Virus was submitted to NCBI after cloning and sequencing.

Dried powder of *Acorus calamus* (Barian) showed strong anti-bacterial activity against *Ralstonia solanacearum*, the cause of bacterial wilt of Solanaceous crops. Prof. Yashiko Mukai from Osaka Kyoiku University, Osaka, Japan has been on a visit

to Department of Plant Breeding & Genetics to execute an international collaborative project in the sphere of modern biology & biotechnology in association with Dr. H.K. Chaudhary (PI, Indian side) and his group in the molecular Cytogenetics and Tissue culture lab w.e.f. 16.03.2008 to 30.03.2008.

Education Related Activities-

Eight postgraduate students of various institutes enrolled themselves for their research training in the molecular & tissue culture lab. of Department of Plant Breeding & Genetics.

Organized two trainings for students under the project entitled "Experiential Learning: Training on Horticultural Nursery Management" at the Department of Horticulture.

Scientists from different Departments of the College of Agriculture/KVKs conducted surveys and collected data in different blocks of the state for the preparation of District Agricultural Plan.

Extension/Trainings/Meets-

The Directorate of Extension Education and Krishi Vigyan Kendras organized 22 training programmes on various aspects in which 908 farmers (men and women) participated. In addition, 221 Telephone Help lines were attended and 669 farmers visited main campus and KVKs for technical guidance. Five field days were organized by KVKs in which 515 farmers participated.

KVK, Sundernagar organized a Kisan Divas on 11 March, 2008. Dr. Tej Partap, Vice-Chancellor, was the Chief Guest.

Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) site committee meeting was organized on 19 March, 2008.

324 clinical cases were diagnosed & treated in the Vety. Clinic and 339 clinical samples were analyzed. Two trainings on "The diagnosis of brucellosis" under continuing veterinary education (CVE) program of

Veterinary Council of India were organized by the Dept. of Veterinary Microbiology.

ATIC to Provide Services for Twelve Hours

Palampur: 22 February- As a new service to the farming community of the state, Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar, Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur has started "Agro-Advisory Service" recently. This service is available in the University's Agricultural Technology Information Centre from 10.00 AM to 1.30 PM on all working days where a panel of experts attends to the agro-livestock related problems of the farmers. Plant clinic work like diagnose of plant problems brought by the farmers are diagnosed by the experts drawn from various disciplines of agriculture and suitable solutions are provided on the spot. Similarly, experts keep an eye on the weather changes and suggest suitable action in the farmers' fields. Livestock keepers can also avail the services of veterinary experts to solve their cattle related problems.

The Agricultural Technology Information Centre remains open from 8.00 AM to 8.00 PM daily including holidays and all university farm produce is available on nominal rates to the clients. It also provides farm advise on toll free telephone numbers 1551 and 951894 235929.

Mr. R.S. Jasrotia joins as CSKHPKV Registrar

Palampur, 22 February- Mr. R. S. Jasrotia, a Senior Himachal Pradesh Administrative Services officer has joined as Registrar of CSK H.P. Agricultural University, here today.

He started his career in the year 1990 and held various administrative posts including SDM at Naduan, Bharmour, Una, ADM at Pooh and Secretary, H.P.Ex-Servicemen Corporation etc. Mr.Jasrotia belongs to a farming family and has deep interest in the

upliftment of the farming community. During his tenure as ADM, Pooh he is known for introducing off-season vegetable cultivation and lavender in the tribal belt.

Preparatory Workshop on District Agricultural Plans

Palampur, 23 February- A day-long preparatory workshop on district agricultural plans was organized at CSK H.P. Agricultural University here today. Dr.P.C.Kapoor, Principal Secretary, Agriculture and Horticulture, Govt. of H.P. while presiding over the workshop, informed that the Eleventh Five Year Plan has set a target of 4 per cent growth for agriculture sector and 9 per cent for the economy as a whole. To accomplish this rate of growth, the Govt. of India has emphasized fast and inclusive growth so that benefits percolate down to the most vulnerable sections of the society. A number of initiatives have been launched to revive growth in agriculture. One such important innovation that has been introduced is Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana with an outlay of Rs.25000 crore to give states more flexibility and incentives to spend more on farm sector. Dr.Kapoor advised that to accelerate the farm growth in the state, there was an urgent need to expand and strength the irrigation facilities. He asked all Departments, Universities and Institutions concerned with agriculture to work in close cohesion for the Socio Economic Development of the farming community.

Dr.K.K Katoch, Director of Extension Education, CSK HPKV Palampur gave detailed information about these plans. He said that to get adequate funding from the center in the Eleventh Five Year certain given target will have to be achieved.

Dr.J.C.Rana, Director of Agriculture, Govt. of H.P., said that all District Level Plans must be ready by June so that the Planning Commission, Govt. of India, could be approached with concrete plans for funding.

Three Days Training Programme on the Diagnosis of Animal Disease "Brucellosis"

Palampur, 15 March- Dr. Tej Partap, Vice-chancellor, CSK H.P. Agricultural University, has called upon the field veterinary officers to effectively prevent and control various infectious and contagious diseases of animals particularly those which are transmitted to human beings. He was addressing them on the occasion of three days training programme on the diagnosis of animal disease "Brucellosis" at Dr. G.C. Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences.

Dr. Partap said that animal husbandry was a major contributor to the rural and national economy and the animal diseases affected the economy badly. Animals not only hold the balance between humans and nature but were the factories that convert crop residues into milk, meat, wool and other utilities. Livestock sector was contributing 8-10 per cent to Indian GDP, 27 per cent to Indian Agricultural Economy, and had a contribution in growing economy at 4 -5 per cent per annum over last decade.

He said that all out efforts should be made to prevent and control animal diseases to reduce economic losses to the livestock keepers. There was an urgent need to spread the awareness about infectious diseases among the farming community.

Dr. A. C. Varshney, Dean of the college informed that "Brucellosis" was an important infectious disease of animals that caused contagious abortions thus massive economic losses to the farmers. In addition, the disease was communicable to humans as well. The infection was almost invariably transmitted by direct or indirect contact with infected animals or their products.

Dr. Mandeep Sharma, Head, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, told that under the

GOI sponsored programme, continuing veterinary education was an activity of personal efficiency development schemes and veterinarians were to be updated with latest knowledge and skills so as to prepare them for future challenges. The primary objective of the training was to sharpen the knowledge of registered veterinary practitioners aimed and improving the quality of veterinary services to efficient and effective diagnosis of the diseases. Seventeen field veterinarians from various parts of the state took part in the programme that was inaugurated by Dr. S. C. Sharma, Director of Research. This programme was first in the series of such trainings.

A National Seminar on Policy Interventions for Promotion of Balanced Fertilization and Integrated Nutrient management

Palampur, 10 April- A national seminar on policy interventions for promotion of balanced fertilization and integrated nutrient management was organized by Department of Soil Science, College of Agriculture, CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya on May 10-11, 2008. Prof. P.D. Sharma, Assistant Director General (Soils), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, who was Chief Guest, said that to achieve four per cent growth in agriculture as envisaged by the central government, it was imperative to improve the soil health.



He said that there was large-scale excessive or inadequate use of fertilizers leading to deterioration in soil quality in various parts of the country. Excessive use of nitrogenous fertilizers has depleted soils from essential elements like potash, phosphorous, sulphur and micro nutrients like boron, zinc, etc. The Government of India was giving huge subsidies in fertilizer sector that were difficult to sustain in future. The Assistant Director General asked the scientific community to devise strategies and policies to improve soils and production and make the farming community aware about the soil health, balanced use of fertilizers and integrated nutrient management.

Dr. P.D. Sharma informed about All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRP) in soil sciences, status of fertilizer industry and new proposals for adequate production of fertilizers in the country to meet ever-increasing food demand.

Dr. Krishan Bihari, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Union Ministry of Agriculture, said that in view of shrinking land and water resources, the singular option for India to meet future challenges on food front was through increase in productivity. He called for efficient, economic and integrated nutrient management system to sustain the productivity of different crops and cropping systems.

Dr. S.C. Sharma, Director of Research of the University, said that technologies and expertise to improve soil health were available but need was for a systematic campaign to educate the stakeholders about balanced and efficient use of resources, including soil and water. A firm policy was required to strengthen and popularize soil-testing service and prepare digital soil fertility maps at village level and making online fertilizer recommendations.

Dr. B.B. Kanwar, Head, Department of Soil Science, gave detailed account of on going research activities of the Department of Soil Science. He told that programmes have

been implemented for the promotion of biological sources of the nutrients.

Dr. SP Sharma, Organizing Secretary, informed that seminar has been sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, GOI, New Delhi through Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi and around 150 delegates from various parts of the country, including State Department of Agriculture, were participating in the two days seminar. Around a dozen distinguished soil scientists and experts of the country delivered specialized lectures in the seminar.

Dr. Mehta conferred Honorary Fellowship of Indian Society for the Advancement of Insect Science

Dr P.K.Mehta, Professor, Department of Entomology, CSK H.P. Agricultural



University has been conferred the Honorary Fellowship of Indian Society for the Advancement of Insect Science. In recognition of his Outstanding Contributions in the subject, the Vice- Chancellor, Punjab Agricultural University, honoured him. The Society conferred the Honorary Fellowship

on 20 Entomologists from India and one from Pakistan. Dr Mehta is the youngest Entomologist and only from this University to receive this honour. Dr. Tej Partap, Vice-Chancellor, has appreciated the young scientist for his prestigious professional achievement and hoped that other scientists will imbibe him to bring glory to the university.

51st Annual Workshop of All India Coordinated Maize Improvement Project

Palampur, 5 April-Dr.P.L.Gautam, Deputy Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, has called upon the Scientists to build public private partnership in research and extension activities for the common good of farmers. He was addressing around 150 maize scientists of the country during inauguration of 51st annual workshop of all India Coordinated Maize Improvement Project at CSK H.P. agricultural university, here today.



Inauguration of 51st Annual Workshop of All India Coordinated Maize Improvement Project

Dr.Gautam said that much work has been done in the field of maize research yet a lot more needs to be done so that quality seed and technology was made available to the farmers at affordable price. Sixty coordinated research projects on various crops were going on various crops and maize projects had been a torch bearer for all other projects. Usefulness of this crop

was increasing in industry and growing it in different Agro-Climatic Zones in different seasons can increase the productivity. He regretted that State Governments and State Agricultural Universities were reducing funds for maize research and requested for revision in this policy otherwise decreasing man power was bound to affect research efforts. He underlined the urgent need to enhance basic and strategic research. He asked the scientific community to make all out efforts to make available the quality seed, especially hybrid seed, to the farmers at a faster pace.

Dr.R.B.Singh, former Deputy Director General, FAO and former member, Farmers' Commission, who was chief guest of the programme, informed that all recommendations of the commission have been accepted by the Govt. of India and the National policy for farmers was also based on these recommendations. He said that maize crop can play an important role in the food security of the country. He said that the farmers were not getting remunerative prices for their crops where as food was becoming dearer to the consumers. He asked scientists to repeatedly make policy makers aware about such problems. Dr.Singh said that developed countries were paying huge subsidies to their farmers but opposing the same for developing countries. He said that concerted efforts were required to feed ever-increasing hunger. He also touched issues like large-scale corruption in public distribution system and other programmes meant for the benefit of farmers and poor of the country

Dr.Tej Partap, Vice Chancellor of the University, said that it was imperative to strike a balance between traditional and modern technologies. Increasing gap between urban and rural areas, insecurity and uncertainty were the major problems faced by the farming community and all concerned must join hands to serve the farmers. He also warned about excessive use of chemicals in the agriculture.

Dr.S.L.Vassal, a well known maize scientist, suggested good will work for the

popularization of maize crop. "Per unit production of maize can be increased by multiple strategies like hybrid seeds and improved production technology", he added.

Dr.S.N.Shukla, Assistant Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, informed that Rs.25 crore were made available in the Tenth Five Year Plan for maize and collaboration with many international institutes has been done for maize research. Dr.Sain Dass, Project Director of Maize, told that average maize production of Himachal Pradesh was higher than national average. Area and production under this crop was gradually increasing in the country. Sixteen new maize varieties were released in the last year and 9039 Front Line Demonstrations were laid.

Dr.S.C.Sharma, Director of Research of the University, told that maize was third most important cereal crop in India after rice and wheat that provides food, feed, fodder, fuel and serves as basic raw material for number of industrial products. He also elaborated about research work on the crop in the University. Dr.D.R.Thakur, Senior Maize Scientist also expressed his views. Seven publications on maize were also released on the occasion.



51st Annual Workshop of All India Coordinated Maize Improvement Project

Inauguration of Krishi Niketan in CSK HPKV

Palampur, 30 May- Prof Prem Kumar Dhumal, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh visited the campus on 30 May. He inaugurated administrative office building of the College of Agriculture and launched Dhauladhar brand organic tea produced by the University. It was his maiden visit after taking over as Chief Minister in his second tenure. The Hon'ble CM, while addressing the university community, exhorted the farm scientists to accept the food crisis as a challenge and make farming more remunerative. He asked the university to become a role model for other farm universities by accelerating its efforts in teaching, research and extension activities. Giving a road map for agricultural development, he said that all concerted and coordinated efforts should be taken to increase the production in the areas of agriculture, horticulture, floriculture and herb production.

The Chief Minister complimented the efforts of University to rejuvenate Kangra tea by producing organic tea. He expressed the hope that in due course of time the University tea factory will be able to process tea of other tea planters. The university has around 110 acres area under tea plantation and organic tea is being produced in 20 acres. Gradually more area will be brought under organic tea and increase present organic tea production of 1500 Kg to 7000 Kg.

The Chief Minister appreciated Dr.Teji Partasp, Vice-Chancellor for his dynamism in bringing funds from the GOI for infrastructure development. The VC assured the state government to reformulate its plans to realize the vision of Chief Minister. He said that there was no separate fund to make area specific plans in the state and requested for more funds for niche based research plans and filling up of the vacant positions.

A Seminar on, "Issues and perspectives in Indian Agriculture"

Palampur 28 June- Mr.Shanta Kumar, member, Rajya Sabha, has expressed anguish at the callous attitude towards agriculture in the country. He was chairing a seminar on, "Issues and perspectives in Indian agriculture" at CSK Himachal Pradesh agricultural university, here today.

Mr Shanta Kumar said that it was tragic that two divergent classes have emerged in the country- one super rich and the other striving to make two ends meet. Giving figures, he cited that population below poverty line was on the rise, investment in the farm sector has declined and merely 24 per cent research has percolated down to the fields as funds have decreased for the agricultural extension sector. Around 1.5 lac farmers have committed suicide. These are very serious challenges. As agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy, an integral organ of the country's life and bread. So immediate attention is required to tackle the issues concerning the farmer and farming.

The chief guest said that it was surprising that special economic zones were given priority over agriculture and hoped that the Govt. of India will give due attention to this sector. He appreciated the University for its Efforts in the field of state agriculture and desired renewed hard work for the betterment of farming. He assured to get all possible help from the state government in solving major problems of the university. He also inaugurated sports complex constructed at the cost of Rs.1 crore 10 Lac in the university. This has been constructed from the Prime Minister's special grant to the university. This will give impetus to the indoor sports in the university. Dr.S.C.Jha, member, economic advisory council to the Prime Minister, delivering his keynote address, said that India was the land of opportunities and if proper development strategies were implemented, the country

could emerge as the great economic power of the world. Agriculture would be the key towards realizing this dream. He said that the agriculture sector continues to be the main springboard of India's overall economic development. This sector contributes about 22 per cent of GDP and provides employment to 64 per cent of the country's workforce. It still provides the source of sustenance to 50 per cent of population. Dr Jha said that there was a big challenge before the country to make the agriculture sector dynamic and modern and maintain the higher level of growth momentum sustainable over a longer span of time .In order to meet this goal, Indian agriculture must grow on an average rate of 4-5% annually. Dr. Jha informed that the new technologies have increased the dependence of farmers on modern inputs and have substantially increased the cost of production. Farmers' incentives have a setback due to both declining farm productivity and lower profit margins. The food grains production has declined from 2-3 per cent during 1960s and 1980s to around 1-2 per cent in recent years with implications for rising unemployment and rural poverty incidence. The land base has considerably shrunken, which provided the main source for agricultural growth with less support for higher public investment in irrigation, research and extension services, and growing deficiencies in institutional arrangements for services and delivery of inputs, production momentum has slowed down. To feed the ever growing population, the country will need roughly 300-325 metric tons of food grains by 2020. There is a challenging task ahead, of bridging the demand - supply gaps, by accelerating the pace of domestic production of food grains through considerably enlarged investment in farm production. The question of food security should be viewed as an integral part of national security and accordingly, top priority should be accorded to sufficient production of food grains.

He suggested that the needed measures include appropriate technological innovations for yield improvements through adequate R&D support; appropriate and

adequate price and marketing support to farmers; progressive land leasing policy, trade policy, and enlarged investment support to agriculture; and Improved food delivery system at the grass root level and efficiency in food management. Since there has been observed limitations in food grains productivity in certain regions of the country, attempts need to be shifted towards planning and harnessing vast potentials in the untapped regions of the country where yield increase potential is very high.

Dr Jha said that in recent years agricultural teaching, research, and extension services have been accorded lowest priorities in development funding. He hoped that for India to compete in the world trade for its farm produce and to protect from the danger of emerging food crisis, priority will have to be accorded to agricultural research. The future course will also require re-establishment of closer operational links between farm and institutional research labs. India's share in global trade must increase early in the arena of farm products. Another major area of focus that India must put on is rainfed agriculture. He concluded by suggesting that attempts must be made to promote more cooperatives as well as corporate farming.

Dr. Tej Partap, Vice-Chancellor, said that Himachal Pradesh has emerged as model of development as far as social development, governance, infra-structure development, etc. and other hill states can imbibe various development parameters adopted here. He told that none of the passed out graduate from his university was un-employed and recent campus interview and recruitment efforts have yielded very good results. He said that his dream of converting the university to most modern and one of the best in the country needs Rs.200 crore and he hoped to generate that much amount from various sources.

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