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Vol.2, No. 2, July., 2018



# ARICARE news

## From the Desk of President

The agriculture based Indian Economy needs high agriculture income for the farmers who feed 1.25 billion Indian population. Government of India has decided to double the farmer's income by 2022 when India would celebrate 75 years of Independence. The goal of doubling farmer's income by the year 2022 has been dubbed as impossible and unrealistic by some experts. After adjusting for rising costs, an Indian farmer's income effectively rose 5% per year over a decade (2003-2013). This implies that the on-going and previously achieved rate of growth in farm income has to be sharply accelerated. Strong measures are needed to harness all possible sources of growth in farmers' income within and outside agriculture sector. Doubling of real income would be "a miracle of miracles", as it would imply a compound growth rate of 12% per annum, according to Ashoke Gulati, former chairman of commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices and Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations. Agriculture is subject to a lot of uncertainties, ranging from rainfall and pest attacks to market prices. Even within states, there is enormous variation in agro-climatic conditions, extent of irrigation, penetration of roads, proximity to markets, and availability of credit through banking infrastructure. The other challenges are: Fragmented farm holding; poor package of practices at farm level; low productivity; low capital formation; highly risky nature of agriculture; high input cost and low-price realization leading to perpetual debt trap; lack of connectivity with processors and the like.

The four point action plan of the Govt includes the following measures: 1) Reforming existing marketing structure; 2) Raising productivity; 3) Reforming agriculture land policy; and 4) Relief measures. Farmers' income from crop production, livestock farming and non-farm activities is an outcome of synergy and convergence between technology, extension, institutions and policies to achieve the set target. The focus must shift from increasing per acre productivity to gainfully employing farm households in other farm-related activities. ICAR and SAUs should develop models of farming system for different types of socio-economic and bio-physical settings combining all their technologies and best practices on production, protection and post-harvest value addition for each sub system along with crop sequences, crop mix, livestock, horticulture, forestry. Govt should now initiate action on following suggestions of Swaminathan commission

- To distribute ceiling-surplus and waste land among farmers
- To prevent diversion of prime agricultural land and forest to corporate sector for non-agricultural purposes.
- To ensure grazing rights and seasonal access to forests to tribals and pastoralists, and access to common property resources.
- To establish a National Land Use Advisory Service to link land use decisions with ecological meteorological and marketing factors on a location and season-specific basis.
- To set up a mechanism to regulate the sale of agricultural land, based on quantum of land, nature of proposed use and category of buyer
- To give farmers a minimum support price at 50 per cent profit above the cost of production

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH EMPLOYEES  
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### **From the desk of secretary**

At the very initiation we extend our most heartfelt sorrow and condolences on sad demise of our beloved Life member Dr. Gour Gopal Kundu on 07-06-2018 due to lung cancer followed by cardiac and respiratory failure. He retired on 31.12. 1993 from IARI New Delhi. We pray to the Heavenly Father for his soul may rest in peace.

The 'e-Journal & Face book' sub-committee deserves hearty congratulations for successfully bringing out the second issue of 2nd vol. of ARICARE news. The issues of 'ARICARE news' are gaining more and more praises **and appreciations from large section of people, even beyond ARICARE.** I like to mention that **all our sub-committees are working very efficiently..** With initiatives of sub-committee on 'Pension, Administration and Medical' the Association has done an excellent progress in the matter of Notional pay fixation of Retired employees (other than Scientists) of ICAR as per 7th CPC. Some has already got the Pay Fixation certificate. For Scientists, the work on Notional pay fixation is in progress. We have achieved a good success in cashless medical treatments for Retired persons. Heartfelt thanks and congratulations goes to Dr. Jiban Mitra and Mr Pradyumna Jain Director and Chief Administrative Officer of CRIJAF, Barrackpore, respectively for their very positive attitudes and bold decisions. We had also been in constant touch with NIRJAFT, Kolkata and CIFRI, Barrackpore and it is a matter of great encouragement that both these Institute are in sincere efforts for introducing such systems. The administrative authorities of both these Institutes deserve praise and appreciations The pending cases of several retirees regarding non-payment of revised pension and arrears as per 7th CPC were also resolved.

### **OBITUARY**

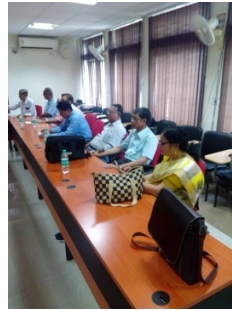


**Dr. Gour Gopal Kundu**  
**(01.01.1934 – 07-06-2018)**

Dr. Gour Gopal Kundu, Ex-Principal Scientist, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi expired on 7<sup>th</sup>. June, 2018 due to respiratory and cardiac failure. He was suffering from Lung cancer for a long time. Dr. Kundu joined Div. of Entomology of IARI on Oct. 05, 1962 as Assistant Parasitologist. He was on deputation to the University of Udaipur as Entomologist from 1971 to 1976 and to the Democratic Republic of Somalia (East Africa) as Crop Protection Officer from 1979 to 1982. He retired on 31<sup>st</sup>. Dec., 1993 after 31 years of creditable service. Dr. Kundu published more than 70 research papers, several popular articles and one book. He guided one Ph.D. and two M.Sc. students. Dr. Kundu has been an unassuming and simple personality who believed in hard work and sincerity. The Association expresses its deep condolence to his near and dear ones and prays to God that his departed soul may rest in heaven.

# ***MEETINGS AND EVENTS***

## ***EXTENDED GOVERNING BODY MEETING AT ICAR-ATARI, KOLKATA ON 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2018***



An extended Governing Body (GB) meeting of ARICARE was held on 07.04.2018 (Saturday) at ICAR-ATARI, Block- GB, Sector- III, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700097. Besides GB members, a good number general members and members of different subcommittees attended the meeting. Profuse thanks were given to Dr. S. S. Singh, Director, ATARI, Kolkata for allowing to held the meeting in his Institute and for gracing the gathering. Thanks were given to all the staff members of ATARI, Kolkata for their excellent cooperation.

## ***ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING AT ICAR-NIRJAFT, KOLKATA ON 19<sup>TH</sup>. MAY, 2018***



The AGM of ARICARE for the year 2017-18 was held on 19.05.2018 in the BPD hall of ICAR-NIRJAT, Kolkata. On the onset Dr. K. K. Satapathy, President, welcomed all the members, thanked them for participation and briefly summarized the agenda of AGM. He requested the Secretary Dr. B. K. Bandyopadhyay to continue with the business of AGM as per agenda. Dr. B.K, Bandhopadhyay, greeted all the members, particularly, those joined ARICARE after the last AGM and those new members who were present in the AGM for the first time. He conveyed special thanks and gratitude to the Director, NIRJAFT for permitting to hold meeting in NIRJAFT.

# ***NEWS ROUND UP***

## **Budget 2018 is a Roti-Kapada and Kisaan Budget says Deloitte India**

New Delhi: Speaking about the announcement being made at the Union Budget 2018 in the parliament today, Deloitte India said the Budget in its true sense is a Roti-Kapada and Kisaan budget. "With 150% increase in MSP for crops, support to organic farming, doubling the expenditure allocation to INR 1,400 crores for food processing sector, state of the art facilities to 42 food parks, liberalisation of agricultural exports, allocation of INR 10, 000 crore to fisheries, animal husbandries and related infrastructure, this budget is in true sense a Roti-Kapada and Kisaan budget," said Anil Talreja, partner, Deloitte India on Consumer Business.

Moreover, as he explained special tax benefits to enterprises in the footwear and leather industry will act as a helping hand to these enterprises to increase their resources by reducing tax flow. Additionally, measures for the Small and Medium Enterprises will help budding enterprises to scale up performance and if they can take full advantage, SMEs will become a key contributory to the growth of the consumer related sectors. "Perhaps for the first time there is a special attention to the ancillary sector including infrastructure which will help the overall consumer and farm sector," Talreja added.

As per Talreja, the focus of these measures is to ensure that the farm produce reach the ultimate consumers from the farms with maximum returns for farmers, introduction of facilities and technology leading to reduction in wastage in the sector, a boost to the fishery, aquaculture and animal husbandry sectors.

***(ET Retails, Feb. 1, 2018)***

## **Why hydroponics could be the future of farming**

There could be several reasons why India may have no option but to embrace this method of farming. It is economically viable. What is needed is a sound government policy on the one hand, and active handholding of the farmer on the other.

This is the closest one can get to fresh food, uncontaminated by pesticides and insecticides. At a time when agriculture itself is being buffeted by climate change including unseasonal rain and hail storms, hydroponics is a way of managing to grow plants under controlled conditions. Thus, you could recreate the atmosphere of say Gangtok in the middle of Maharashtra and actually focus on growing medicinal plants that normally found in the North East parts of India. You could control all the variables, including the strength of active ingredients which have tended to degenerate and deteriorate over a period of time.

It could be the best solution for the Indian government when it comes to land acquisition. The government could offer farmers land for land, and work out ways whereby the hydroponics company would handhold the farmer to teach him how to master the technologies involved. With controlled supply of nutrients and with hardly any pesticides being used, the cost for crop management begins to diminish.

Since consuming markets are close to producing centres, the transport miles shrink, leading to a further reduction in costs. As farmers learn to strike deals directly with consumers, and as they learn to space out crop production so that a limited supply is available every day, they can move away from rapacious middlemen as well.

***(RN Bhaskar, moneycontrol.com, 26th. June, 2018)***