



ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH EMPLOYEES (ARICARE)

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CONTENTS

- President's Desk
- Secretary's Desk
- Editorial
- Meeting and Events
- Life Member
- Our Achievements
- Research Thoughts
- News/Technology Summary



ARICARE NEWS

Vol. 7 No. 1, January, 2023

Governing Body

Dr. K. K. Satapathy - President
Dr. M. Datta - Vice President
Dr. D. C. Nayak - Secretary
Dr. G. Bose - Asstt. Secretary,
Mr. S. R. Sarkar - Treasurer
Mr. B. K. Saha - Asstt. Treasurer
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Dr. A. K. Sahoo
Dr. D. Pal
Dr. A. Biswas
Mr. S. K. Sinha
Mr. U. K. Ghosh
Mr. S. K. Pal

Editorial Board

Dr. M. Datta
Dr. A. Biswas
Dr. M. S. Basu

Let no one go to bed hungry

Nobody should remain unfed and go to bed empty stomach, opined the supreme court in a recent verdict on a public interest litigation. The apex court said that a democratically elected Govt of a welfare state like ours should honour our culture of not letting anyone go to sleep hungry and must target elimination of starvation in the country. As per UN world food programme, starvation deaths are common in some parts of India and each minute five persons die of hunger in the country. The International food policy research institute categorizes situation in India as alarming. The covid 19 pandemic exposed the weakness of food system in the country. During the pandemic, lakhs of migrant people experienced loss of their livelihood and were made food and shelter less. They could not return home and remained unfed and half-fed for quite some time. Even after the lockdown, majority of them could not get back the job which is directly affecting their food security. As per the article 21 of the Indian constitution, right to food is the fundamental right of the people. In 2013, Govt of India enacted food security law to be implemented in the whole country.

The national food security act aims to provide food and nutritional security by ensuring access to adequate quantity of food at affordable prices to the people. It was expected that because of this act, poor and very poor people shall not be deprived of their minimum food. But contrary to the expectation, even after the lapse of 9 years, a big section of the poor people remained deprived of this act and rationing system. The Govt claims that internal production as well as per capita income in the country has gone up several fold and there should not be any poverty. But during the same period, India also has gone down several step in the international hunger index going behind even Nepal and Bangladesh. It is a fact that even though total income is increased, real income of the people is decreased. So, poverty and hunger are inevitable. Malnutrition is extremely high in all section of the population especially pronounced for SC, ST and women. India is home to nearly a third of all under nourished children globally. Ironically, India's undernutrition problem coexists with overflowing food stocks and the country is among the leading exporters of agricultural products. The reasons often attributed for India's high levels of hunger: are declining relative incomes, low produce of small and marginal farmers and the absence of a universal public distribution system (PDS).

Our agriculture growth should also respond to food security needs of ever burgeoning population. A key challenge for India is to make agricultural sector more productive and more sustainable. The agrarian sector which provides livelihood to 65 percent of Indian population is in a crisis. The slowdown of agriculture growth is a major concern. In 2003, 40 percent of India's farmers wanted to abandon agriculture, because it was an unviable occupation. By 2014, the situation had worsened. About 10281 persons involved in the farm sector ended their lives in 2019, accounting for roughly 7.4 percent of all suicides in India.

OECD-FAO agricultural outlook 2014-23 suggest that India's agricultural production growth will likely slow from the rapid pace of the previous decade. The farmers continue to harvest less than potential. In this context, the role of research and development along with minimum support price and robust public distribution system is crucial as it can offer long term solutions for Indian agriculture, improvements in farm income and food security.

Given the rapidly growing population and resource constraints, it is imperative for India to make food security a core policy priority. Also, in the context of the poor nutritional status of the majority of the Indian people, and particularly the poor, women and children, which has been well documented different international reports and studies, it is necessary to have nutrition programme that will reach out to largest majority of them. There is, therefore, a pressing need to universalize these avenues and provide necessary financial and administrative support.



From Secretary's Desk

The ARICARE news started its journey in January, 2017 and it has gained name and fame among the retired and serving employees of ICAR. Being extremely delighted, I am to inform that the Editorial Board members have tried their best for the publication of Volume 7 (1) of ARICARE news in time. During this period, the different Sub-Committee of ARICARE have performed significant activities with the help of great inspiration of our President and the cooperation of all members. Most of the meetings of the Governing Body and different Sub-Committee were held physically at different ICAR Institutes in Kolkata. With two Governing Body meetings held on 26.9.2022 and 17.01.2023, several meetings of all Sub-Committee were held during the period.

Various important issues like medical treatment facilities, tour programmes at National and International level, social activities, amendment of bye-laws, celebration of Vijaya Sanmeloni, Picnic, Membership drive etc were discussed in details and some programmes were performed successfully. Important events performed during the period are: (1) International tour in Bangladesh during 5-16 September, 2022, (2) the e-publication of the Sharada Issue of "ANWESHA", (3) the celebration of Vijaya Sammeloni at ICAR- NBSS & LUP, Regional Centre, Kolkata on 28.10.2022, (4) National tour in Manipur and Nagaland during 29.11.2022 to 05.12.2022, (5) Organising Picnic at Ramkrishna Kuthir, near Rarikhal Co-operative society Ltd, S.N. Ghosh Avenue, Narendrapur, Kolkata 700103 on 23.12.2022, and (6) Sunderban trip during 19-21 January, 2023.

We are very much thankful to the Chairman, Convener and members of all Sub-committee for organising the above events successfully and also thankful to the all participants for their active participation to make the events more enjoyable and memorial to us. During the period, a good number of retired ICAR employees have enrolled in the ARICARE association and we hope, the society will be enriched and vibrant with their new ideas and active role in various activities of ARICARE.

I wish good physical and mental health for all members of ARICARE and the members of their family in the New Year, 2023.

Editorial

'ARICARE NEWS' elaborating the details of our activities for the period from August, 2022 to January, 2023 is now accessible in its issue, Vol 7 No 1 and released as PDF version. Editorial Board of 'ARICARE NEWS' is expressing a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude to all in ARICARE including President, Secretary, Treasurer and Asstt. Treasurer (Ex- Officio members) and Digital Subcommittee for thoughtful suggestions received for the preparation of the manuscript and bringing it in this present format.

Quoting an important saying " **Storms make trees take deeper roots** ", over the years, ARICARE established in Kolkata in the year of 2014 by some enthusiastic ICAR Retirees has, unequivocally, taken a deep roots in the minds of all of us who had worked for a long period in Indian Council of Agricultural Research and now are in retired phase of our life. The journey of establishing an organization and thereafter nurturing it to grow uninterrupted, is a great task accomplished by all of us in an atmosphere of cohesiveness and many more miles we are to walk together with our eyes on this Pensioners' Association. As tranquility, serenity and beauty of Nature use to teach us how to find happiness in life, walking together in our Association will also help us to touch the door of cheerfulness in the time to come. **Life is not about finding yourself, Life's about creating yourself --- Said George Bernard Shaw.** We, ourselves can live alone but loneliness will gradually grapple us. We, in retired phase of our life, is in need to do some relevant activities in order to unearth something hidden in ourselves for ecstatic moments. So, Association is unraveling such avenues in the form of Tours/ Cultural activity / Writing etc. so as to either engage or create ourselves in a manner giving us contentment.

Lastly, Aricare News Editorial Board strongly feels that this issue of News may have some shortfalls which will be addressed in the coming issues as any work, even an activity for the better is always accompanied by sorts of imperfection. Closing with Regards and best wishes to all for a happy and healthy time in this year of 2023.

Meeting and Events

Governing Body Meeting

During 2022-23, the Governing Body Meeting (GB) of ARICARE was held at 2.30 P.M. on 26.9.2022 (Monday) in a meeting room of ICAR-IVRI, Eastern Regional Station, Kolkata. Total 14 members were present except Dr. B K Bandyopadhyay and Dr. Asok Biswas. The President, Dr. K.K. Satapathy, welcomed the members. The meeting was started as per agenda.

Agenda-1: Confirmation of the minutes of the Last GB meeting held on 25th July, 2022. The Secretary mentioned that the last GB meeting was held on 25.7.2022 at ICAR-NINFET, Kolkata.. The minutes of the meeting was circulated to the all members through e-mail/ WhatsApp. Again, the highlights of the minutes were read out and confirmed by the members.

Agenda-2: Discussion of the Bye-Laws of the Association The President requested the Secretary, Dr. D. C. Nayak the latest status for the online submission of the modified Bye-Laws to the State Cooperative office at Salt Lake. For this work, Dr. K. K. Satapathy, Dr. D. C. Nayak and Mr. Sumit Ranjan Sarkar contacted and met an agent in the campus of Salt Lake office and discussed the matter. He assured us for the work. As per his guidance, Dr. Nayak went to his Garia office with all documents. There were main five changes namely title of the membership, the tenure of the office bearers, details of election procedure, inclusion of Chapters and inclusion of the Mode of Bank operation. After observing the documents, he said that these were minor changes and as such, there was no need for submission. Then it was requested to Mr. Sumit Ranjan Sarkar to contact again with that person and pursue the matter as early as possible.

Agenda-3: Discussion on the activities of ARICARE during 2022-23. (a) The President mentioned that some activities are now running smoothly after Covid pandemic. The other pending and new activities may be taken up and strengthened as we have some active members. He mentioned that about Rs. 56000/- was raised for welfare fund during the Covid period. Out of this, Rs. 20000/- was donated to Nimpeeth Ramakrishna Ashram, Kultali block, South 24 Parganas for their social activities. The balance amount with some more fund may be utilized for different social works in presence of ARICARE members. In this context, the president proposed to form a separate Sub-committee for various social activities and after discussion, the name would be **"Community Service Sub-committee"**. The Sub-committee consists of the following members: Dr. Mrinmoy Datta- Chairman Dr. K. Das – Convener, Members, Dr. (Ms) Syamali Chakrabarty, Dr. B.K. Mahapatra and Dr. Asok Biswas. The committee will decide the different social activities and fund requirements to carry out the particular activities involving the members of the association. (b) The President also proposed that the "Social Media Sub-committee" may be renamed as **"Digital Media Sub-committee"** to look after all electronic media activities. The Sub-committee consists of the following members: Dr. Gautam Bose- Chairman Dr. Asok Biswas - Convener, Members, Dr. Mrinmoy Datta, Dr. Mukti Sadan Basu, Dr. S.S. Pal, Dr. K. Das and Mr. Sumitranjan Sarkar. (c) The membership card of the Association may be prepared as the issue was discussed in the AGM. The President requested to Mr. Sumitranjan Sarkar to make a design with the consultation of the experts. (d) Membership drive: The President requested to all GB members to take initiative to include new members from different Institutes of ICAR. It is requested specially to Mr. Ujjwal Ghosh for the new members of ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore and he informed the House that he was trying his best. (e) Hard copy of Register for recording the circular and the minutes of different meetings of the association is necessary for future uses. It is requested to Mr. Sumitranjan Sarkar to take initiatives. The meeting came to an end with vote of thanks to the Chair.



A view of 1st GB Meeting held at ICAR – IVRI, Kolkata

The Governing Body Meeting (GB)of ARICARE was held at 2.30 P.M. on 17.01.2023 (Tuesday) at ICAR-NINFET, Kolkata. Total eight members were present namely Drs. K. K. Satapathy, D. C. Nayak, S. S. Pal, Syamali Chakrabarti, Krishnendu Das, Asok Biswas, Mr. Sumitranjan Sarkar and Mr. Subrata Kumar Pal. Welcoming the members by President , ARICARE, the meeting was started as per agenda. Minutes of the meeting are narrated below.

Agenda-1: Confirmation of the minutes of the Last GB meeting, the Secretary mentioned that the last GB meeting was held on 26.9.2022 at ICAR-IVRI, Eastern Regional Station,Kolkata.. The minutes of the meeting was circulated to the all members through e-mail/WhatsApp. The minutes of the last GB was confirmed by the members. **Agenda-2:** Discussion of the Bye-Laws of the Association The President informed the house in brief the latest position of online submission of the modified Bye-Laws to the State Cooperative office at Salt Lake. After that, the Secretary, Dr. D. C. Nayak told that the modified Bye-laws could not be submitted online as it was too lengthy for the inclusion of the new chapter and election procedure. Only the main items and brief write up of the changes may be included. Mr. Sumitranjan Sarkar also added that before submission the modified Bye-Laws, it may be approved by the Special or Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of the ARICARE. The matter was discussed in the meeting that it would be difficult to gather the major members in the Special or Extra-Ordinary General Meeting. Then it was unanimously decided that it will be done in the next Annual General Meeting where majority of the members will be present and only three items namely (1) Type of members, (2) the term of the office bearers (3) Mode of bank operation, which point were absent in the present Bye-law will be included in the modified Bye-Laws for online submission. **Agenda-3:** Discussion on the utilization of Community Welfare fund. Dr. K. Das, the Convener of the Community Service Sub-committee informed that in the last meeting of the Sub-committee held at ICAR-ATARI, Salt Lake, it was decided that some fund will be donated for the students of Calcutta Orphanage, Bagbazar, 12/1 Balaram Street, Kolkata700008 for school bags, notebooks, drawing pencils etc of lower classes. In this context, Drs. K K Satapathy, Mrinmoy Datta and K Das visited the office of Orphane house on 18th December, 2022 and met the president of the Organisation. The Authority requested to provide some fund to purchase the reference books for the classes IX to XII. Mr. Sumitranjan Sarkar, the treasurer informed that about Rs. 36000/- was in balance in welfare fund. In the meeting, Rs.25000/- (Rupees Twenty five thousand only) was approved by the members for the said purpose. Some members mentioned that the list of books required may be collected from the Organisation before handing over the cheque. The President requested the members to take the initiatives for adopting some backward areas/tribal village for overall development by the ARICARE members and the necessary fund may be raised. Mr. Sumitranjan Sarkar said that the provision of 80G for income tax rebate of the donator may be included in ARICARE and for that purpose about Rs. 20000/-is necessary for its registration. **Agenda-4:** Any other issues (a) Some members suggested that the election of the office bearers may be held in this year and the necessary action may be taken in the next Governing body meeting. (b) Membership drive: The President requested to all GB members to take initiative to include new members from different Institutes of ICAR. (c) Web-site update: Mr. Sumitranjan Sarkar informed that the update of the web-site is in process and requested all members to visit the site and informed him the necessary suggestions. The meeting came to an end with vote of thanks to the Chair.



2nd GB Meeting at ICAR – NINFET , Kolkata

Pension , Administration and Medical Sub- Committee

Meeting was held on 24th August , 2022 at ICAR – NINFET , Kolkata for a period of 3 hours from 3 PM to 5.45 PM. Meeting was attended by Dr K.K. Satapathy, President , Dr D.C. Nayak, Secretary , Mr. B.K. Saha , Asstt. Treasurer (Ex- officio Members), Dr M. Datta , Chairman of the Sub – committee, Mr. S.K. Pal , Convener , Members , Dr . B. K. Bandopadhyay, Mr. B.D Mandal , Mr. B. Kabi , Mr. U.K. Ghosh and Mrs J. Nath. Welcoming the members attending the meeting , Dr K.K. Satapathy , President of ARICARE had initiated the discussion with the mention of progress or performances of the Sub – Committee in the preceeding years to solve Pension /Medical related problems of ICAR Pensioners. In the 1st meeting of the sub – committee constituted during 2022-23, Dr M. Datta, Charirman had started the discussion regarding the Pension , Medical and Administrative points of various issues of ICAR Pensioners taking into views expressed by members present and agenda items mentioned by other Pensioners . The outcome of the meeting is mentioned below.

- Some Pensioners are drawing Pension being deposited in their respective Bank Branches through CPCC, whereas some are getting Pension disbursed from their respective Bank Branches not through CPCC.
- Inclusion of Tata Medical Centre, DH Block , New Town for comprehensive Cancer care with modern facilities available in the centre. **Action was undertaken as President wrote letters to Directors , ICAR –NINFET , ICAR – CRIJAF and ICAR – CIFRI for inclusion of Tata Centre as one of empanelled hospitals.**
- On being admitted in Hospitals empanelled by ICAR – NINFET for an emergency tratment under Medical reimbursement, information along with photocopy of Indoor Medical Card may be sent to Dr Suman Chattopadhyay (M- 9433383596) through Whatsapp. For planned Medical tratment , prior information or cantact with the Doctor of ICAR – NINFET by himself or herself or any other representative of the Pensioner along with Indoor Medical Card may be made.
- ICAR – CIFRI has less no. of Hospitals under its empanellement and is not providing cashless benefit to the Pensioners but employees are getting cashless facility. Action was undertaken by Preseident through writing letters to Director , ICAR – CIFRI to solve the problems as described by Pensioner from ICAR – CIFRI.
- Mr.Brundaban Kabi , Former AAO , ICAR – NINFET,Kolkata had got steeping up of pay while in service but after his retirement , two of his increments had been deducted by Pension Disbursing Unit , ICAR – CIFRI, West Bengal with a recovery. Mr. Kabi was advised to write a representation to Director , ICAR – NINFET with all documents and a copy of the representation may also be endorsed to ARICARE for follow up action.

Meeting came to an end thanking the chair and all the members of ARICARE attending the discussion actively.



Pension , Administration and Medical Sub – Committee Metting at ICAR - NINFET

Community Service Sub –Committee

Community Service subcommittee as constituted had its first meeting held on 19.10.2022 at ICAR - Atari, Kolkata. Committee members present in the meeting were Drs Mrinmoy Datta (Chairman), Krishnendu Das (Convener) and Shyamali Chakraborty along with Ex-officio members, President (Dr KK Satapathy) and Secretary (Dr Dulal Chandra Nayak). Under the COVID Welfare Fund, ARICARE members had donated Rs 56,000/ and out of which, Rs 36,000/ remains unspent ,as Rs 20,000/ were donated to Ramakrishna Ashram, Nimpith for help to Yaas and Covid victims. Salient points as emerged out of the meeting, are outlined hereunder.

- In order to utilise the unspent amount as donated by Members of ARICARE,community service programme would be initiated at Calcutta Orphanage (Total students-189) located at Baghbazar through providing school bag along with stationary articles needed for the students. Some refreshments could also be made to the orphan students (30- 40 nos) on the day of programme.
- It is decided that members of Community service committee along with Ex-officio members would visit Orphanage at Baghbazar by fixing the date of visit with Dr (Ms) Sumitra Choudhary, President of the Orphanage for final arrangements of the programme.
- Convener (Dr Krishnendu Das) had been assigned with the responsibility to arrange the visit to the orphanage and buy school bag with logo of ARICARE etc.
- It is also decided in the meeting that Community service activities would continue in our ARICARE , obviously through voluntary donations from respected members. The meeting came to an end with vote of thanks to all. Afterwards on 18th December , 2022 a visit to Calcutta Orphanage was made by President , ARICARE , Chairman and Convener of the Sub-Committee to assess the need of the orphanage. It was learnt that students of the orphanage need text books as well as made easy (Guide) Books for Classes IX , X, XI and XII and TV set (49 or 55 inch) for the Dining Hall.



Community Service Sub- Committee meeting at ICAR – Atari, Kolkata

Digital Media Sub-Committee

Digital Media sub- Committee meeting was held on 7th November , 2022 at ICAR-CIFE, Kolkata Centre, Kolkata .Members present: Drs. K. K. Satapathy, President, M. Datta, Vice-President, D. C. Nayak, Secretary (Ex-officio Members) , Drs. G. Bose, Chairman, A. Biswas, Convener , Digital Media Sub-Committee, Members , Drs. S. S. Pal and K. Das. The meeting started under Chairmanship of Dr. G. Bose, Chairman Digital Media Sub-Committee of ARICARE. Dr. K. K. Satapathy explained the jurisdiction of activity of the Sub-Committee and stated

that the Committee will co-ordinate activities of editorial board of ARICARE News and Anneshwa Digital Magazine, ARICARE Official Whatsapp Group, ARICARE Facebook and ARICARE Website. Following resolutions were taken.

- Attempts will be made to publish print edition of Anneshwa Digital Magazine in future on demand basis of members of ARICARE.
- Dr. M. Datta requested the members to provide specific information of various activities of ARICARE for publishing in the ARICARE News.
- Attempts will be made to upload information of scientific and other areas of interest in ARICARE Facebook. Members are requested to avoid political, communal and hatred Posts in ARICARE WhatsApp.
- The members unanimously decided that political and communal posts will be discouraged to avoid complications in future. Promotion and hatred speech of political ideology and politicians should be avoided.
- Initiatives will be taken to resolve existing shortcomings of website of ARICARE.



Digital Sub –Committee Meeting at ICAR – CIFE, Kolkata

Tour Sub – Committee

A meeting of the Tour Sub – Committee of ARICARE was held on 16th November, 2022 at a roof top café, Patuli, Kolkata and attended by Drs K.K. Satapathy, Mrinmoy Datta, Dulal Chandra Nayak, Krishnendu Das, B.K. Mahapatra, Shyamali Chakraborti and Mr B.K. Saha to conduct the National and International Tour in the ongoing year. In the past, Tour Committee had organized two (2) domestic Tour programme in Dooars, Gangasagar and one International programme in Bangladesh with a good no. of participants and it was decided in the meeting to conduct two tour programme, one domestic and another International programme in near future. Domestic programme will have a visit to Sunderban with 3 days and 2 nights tour and International programme will be in Nepal for a duration of 12- 14 days.



Tour Committee Meeting

International Tour to Bangladesh

Some of the enthusiastic ICAR Retirees and their family members had shown keen interest to visit Bangladesh as many of us had their origin in erstwhile East Bengal now Bangladesh and a tour was planned with 14 persons along with family members for a period of 10 days from 5th September to 15th September, 2022. Our complete journey was in a Bus routed through Kolkata – Benapole, Kushtia – Jessore, Jessore – Barisal, Barisal – Dhaka, Dhaka- Chittagong, Chittagong – Rangamati, Rangamati- Cox's Bazar, Cox's Bazar- Coomilla, Coomilla – Chandpur – Dhaka and Dhaka – Kolkata.



Tagore Kuthi Bari at Shelaiddaha, Kushtia



Lalon Maajar, Kushtia



Ancestral House of Michael Madhusudhan Dutt at Sagardari village, Jessore



Poet Jibananda Das House, Barisal



Back water Boat Journey, Barisal

দাঁড়াও, পথিক-বর, জন্ম যদি তব
বঙ্গে! তিষ্ঠ ক্ষণকাল! এ সমাধিস্থলে
(জননীর কোলে শিশু লভয়ে যেমতি
বিরাম) মহীর পদে মহানিদ্রাবৃত
দত্তকুলোদ্ভব কবি শ্রীমধুসূদন!

- Michael Madhusudhan Dutt

আবার আসিব ফিরে খানসিড়িটির তীরে-এই বাংলায়
হয়তো মানুষ নয়-হয়তো বা শঙ্খচিল শালিখের বেশে;
হয়তো ভোরের কাক হয়ে এই কার্তিকের নবাত্তের দেশে
কুয়াশার বুকে ভেসে একদিন আসিব এ কাঁঠাল-ছায়ায়;

- Jibananda Das



Dhakeshwari Temple , Dhaka



Dhaka University



Central Shaheed Minar , Dhaka



Patenga Beach, Chittagong



Kaptai Lake Hanging Bridge , Rangamati



Sea Beach , Cox's Bazar



Himchari , Maheshkhali Island , Cox's Bazar Chandpur Confluence (Padma, Meghna and Dakatiya) famous as Ilisher Bari , Coomilla

Domestic Tour to North East

ICAR retirees and their family members (5 persons) had participated in the domestic tour (29th to 5th December , 2022) to North East India covering Manipur and Nagaland mainly to see Hornbill festival , celebrated annually to encourage inter- tribal interaction and to preserve , protect and revive the uniqueness and richness of the Naga heritage.



Keibul Lambjao National Park, Imphal



Loktak Lake, Imphal



— FESTIVAL IS NAMED AFTER THE INDIAN COLOURFUL FOREST BIRD ' HORNBILL' WHICH IS DISPLAYED IN THE FOLKLORE OF MOST OF STATE'S ETHNIC GROUPS---



Hornbill Festival , Kohima , Nagaland



Enjoying the Hornbill festival show

Domestic Tour to Sunderbans

Members of ARICARE along with family members (16 persons) were present in tour to Sunderbans from 19th to 21st January , 2023 in the Mangrove – River – Mammals –Bird ecosystems.Places visited wer Sonakhali , Gosaba Rabindranath Tagore Bunglow , Pakhiralaya, Sajnekhali ,Sudhanyakhali and Pirkhali etc.



Jhorkhali – Gateway to Sunderbans



Sajnekhali Wildlife Sanctuary



Bacon Bunglow at Gosaba



Royal Bengal Tiger – Pride of Sunderbans

— THE SUNDERBANS – UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE ---

Social and Cultural Sub – Committee

It is one of the vibrant committee of ARICARE, being made functional with Drs Krishnendu Das and Debasish Pal as Chairman and Convener, respectively along with six (6) members of ICAR retirees. Vijaya Sanmelani and Annual Picnic were organized on October 28th and December 23rd, 2022, respectively with participation of enthusiastic ICAR retirees in large numbers.

Vijaya Sanmelani

Vijaya Sanmelani was organized on October 29, 2022 at NBSS & LUP, Kolkata Centre and ICAR Pensioners along with family members (54 persons) had participated to extent Suvo Vijaya greetings to all present in the gathering. Various melodious songs were sung and recitation of poem was also made by some of the participants and all the members of ARICARE, present in the gathering, were enthralled by the melody echoed through the deliberations of songs. Felicitation was given to Dr M. S. Basu, Former Director, ICAR –DGR by Dr S.K. Roy, presently Head of NBSS & LUP, Kolkata Centre on attainment of 75 years of age.



Programme Inauguration



A View of Participants



Songs by Dr Gautam Roy



Mrs Sikha Satapathy



Recitation by Shri B. D. Mandal



Felicitation to Dr M. S. Basu



A Huge presence of ICAR Retirees and their family members in Vijaya Sanmelani

Annual Picnic

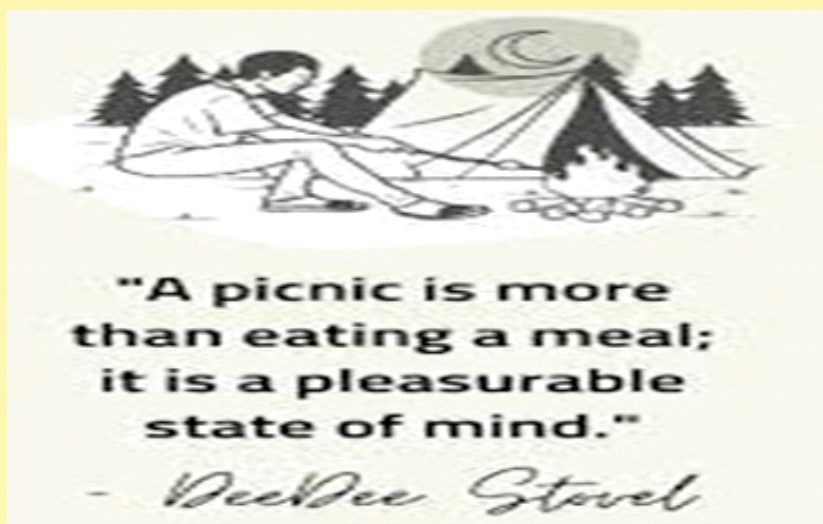
The much awaited annual picnic of ARICARE was held on December 23rd, 2022 at a spacious bungalow, complete with 2 adjacent lawns and pathway located near Narendrapur at Ramakrishna Kutir, Rarhikhal Cooperative Society, S N Ghosh Avenue, Calcutta-700103. Three members of the Social and Cultural Sub-committee which included Drs Krishnendu Das, Chairman; Debashis Pal, Convener and Syamali Chakraborty, Member made the initial visit and confirmed the location for the picnic. A contributory payment of Rs 600 per head was fixed as contribution from the members for attending the picnic which covered all the expenses including food catering and other logistics which included spot booking, decorator items etc. A total of 64 members which included members and their family participated in the picnic. Dr Pal took the arduous task of sharing the regular updated enrolled members list as well as collection of the subscription in his personal account which helped to make this program so successful. The members were greeted to a mouth watering breakfast of Korai Shutir Kochuri, Alur dom and sweets along with tea coffee on arrival at about 10 to 10:30 hours. This was followed by a hot plate of chilli chicken after about an hour or two. Some members participated in Antakshari music competition and poetry recitation splitting in different groups which made the occasion really memorable and resounding success. Some members also visited the nearby Chintamani Kar Bird Sanctuary and enjoyed the stroll in the unique silent mini forest ecosystem within the walled space surrounded by the busy urban landscape in all sides. Some new members acquainted themselves with the group and shared their past reminiscences. The sumptuous lunch consisting of fried rice, beguni, dal, fish, mutton, chutney papad sweets, dahi was the icing in the cake in the picnic party. Out of our house, we all spent the day with gossips, antakshri, singing and food. A group photo for members also arranged before the members dispersed at about 4:30 p.m after a memorable day. Out of our house, we all spent the day with gossips, antakshri, singing and food.



Participants engaged in Antakshari in Picnic



Enjoying with Gossips





Relishing with food at Lunch



Group photo in Annual Picnic

Life Member

7 (Seven) persons retired from different Institutes of ICAR have become member of ARICARE recently. Names and designation held by them in the ICAR Institute last served are mentioned below :

- Mr. Rash Behari Sasmal Former Sr. Technical Assistant ICAR-NINFET, Kolkata
- Dr. Uttam Kumar Bandyopadhyay Former Station In-Charge ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata
- Dr. Satyajit Roy, Former Director (Actg) ICAR-DMAPR, Anand
- Dr. Manas Kumar Das, Former Principal Scientist (HOD) ICAR-CIFRI
- Dr. Dipak Kumar Dutta, Former Principal Scientist ICAR-NBSS&LUP Kolkata
- Dr. Arunava Pattanayak, Former Director, ICAR – IIAB, Ranchi
- Dr. Sachidulal Raychaudhuri, Former Principal Scientist, ICAR – IIWM, Bhubaneswar





Mr. Rash Behari Sasmal



Dr. Uttam Kumar Bandyopadhyay



Dr. Satyajit Roy



Dr. Manas Kumar Das



Dr. Dipak Kumar Dutta



Dr Arunava Pattanayak



Dr Sachidulal Raychaudhuri



Our Achievements

Achievements / Engagements of our valued members of ARICARE during the period from August , 2022 to January , 2023 stand for mention hereunder

- **Dr. P. Das** , Former Deputy Director General (Agri. Extension), ICAR, New Delhi has the following engagements.

Date	Brief Achievements
17 - 19 Aug	Delivered Lecture Series in College of Agriculture, Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extension Programme Planning - Extension project Management and Impact Analysis - Role and Functions of Primary Producers' Organizations in Extension - Role of Extension in Global Perspectives
12 Sept	Chairman, Panel Discussion , Session-I and II, Scaling Up Innovative Agricultural Extension Models. NAAS Committee Room I, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), New Delhi
16 - 17 Sept	Delivered Lecture Series in College of Community Sciences, Tura , South Garo Hills, Meghalaya: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Gender and Extension Programme Planning -Extension project Management and Impact Analysis -Role and Functions of Primary Producers' Organizations in Extension -Role of Extension in Global Perspectives - Visit to Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tura, South Garo Hills, Meghalaya
28 - 30 Sept	Chairman , Technical and Plenary Sessions, Interface with Award Winning KVKs-Building Upon the Success. College of Post Graduate Studies in Agricultural Sciences, CAU, Umiam, Meghalaya and Visited College of Agriculture. Kyrdumkulai, CAU , Meghalaya
31 Oct & 30 Nov	Advisor, Selection Committee Meeting , ASRB, New Delhi
13 - 15 Dec	Guest of Honour , Inaugural Session in International Conference on Responsible Acquaculture and Sustainable Fisheries Interact , Chairman, Farmers-Scientist and Delivered Keynote Address on Appropriateness of System Approach in Extension for Small Scale Fisheries in India in International Conference held at , College of Fisheries, CAU, Tripura.
17 - 19 Dec	Guest of Honour , Inaugural Session of 12 th Research and 8 th Extension Council Meeting, College of PG Studies in Agricultural Sciences , CAU, Barapani

- **Dr. K. K. Satapathy**, Former Director, ICAR – NINFET, Kolkata **Delivered special lecture** on 'spring shed management and development in Indian Himalayan region' in the symposium cum workshop on springshed management held during 18-19 November '22 at Tejpur (Assam) and **Attended Research advisory council meeting** of Central Agricultural University, Pusa (Bihar) during 21-23 November '22.
- **Dr D.P. Sinhababu**, Former Principal Scientist, ICAR – NRRI, Cuttack completed the three years tenure of the **assignment of 'Member' of the First RAC** (Research Advisory Committee) of ICAR- Mahatma Gandhi Integrated Farming Research Institute (MGIFRI), Piparkothi, Motihari, Bihar.
- **Dr D. K. Kundu**, Former Head, Crop Production Division, ICAR – CRIJAF, Barrackpur, West Bengal nominated as a Member of the **Research Advisory Committee (RAC)** of ICAR-Mahatma Gandhi Integrated Farming Research Institute (MGIFRI), Piparkothi-845429, Motihari, Bihar for a period of three years with effect from 25.11.2022 to 24.11.2025
- **Dr Madhumita Das**, Former Director (Acting), ICAR-IIWM, Bhubaneswar published **Research paper** on Prospect of phytoremediating hexavalent from contaminated water in chromite mining areas of Odisha, India, *Journal of Natural Resource Conservation and Management*, 53(1): 43-48. doi:10.51396/ANRCM.3.1.2022 and **Extension Bulletin** on In – Situ application of phytoremediation technique to remove hexavalent Chromium for safe irrigation in 2022.
- **Dr Utpala Parthasarathy**, Former Chief Technical Officer, ICAR- IISR, Calicut **delivered an invited talk** at the TECHNICAL SESSION 4 :Climate Change Challenges: Effects and Mitigation at the National Conference on “Enhancing competitiveness of Horticultural Crops through technology innovation” on 17-18th Nov. 2022 at ICAR- CPCRI, Kasaragod.
- **Dr M. Datta**, Former Joint Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Tripura attended an **International Conference on Sustainable Agriculture**, organized by PG Department of Geography, Govt. Degree College, Kathua, J&K in collaboration with Global forum for Sustainable Rural Development (GFSRD) & Global Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security(GCSAFS) during 10-11 October, 2022 and **delivered a talk** on Integrated Farming System models for terrace farming and Jhum ecosystem on virtual mode. A **Ph. D Thesis** on “Fidelity of Biofertilizers in Vegetable Cropping Sequence” was **evaluated for the award of doctoral degree programme** in Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam.
- **Dr. P. K. Mukhopadhyaya** Former Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar is nominated as the **Member of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC)** of ICAR-CIFE, Mumbai for a period of three years with effect from 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2025. **Participated 15 days online Training cum Workshop Programme** on “the Future of Farming Technology and Agripreneurship Development from 1st to 15th November, 2022, organised by Just Agriculture Magazine, Hoshiarpur, Punjab.
- **Dr. B.K. Mahapatra**, Former Principal Scientist and Scientist In-charge, ICAR-CIFE, Kolkata has been **assigned as External Expert Member** of the Department of Fishery Sciences for a period of four year (2022-2026) in Vidyasagar University. Delivered lecture on 'Entrepreneurship Development in Ornamental Fish Breeding & Culture' on 18th October in ICAR-CIFE, Kolkata Centre under Skill development training programme. **Assigned** as member of the Board of Studies Meeting (BOS) Department of Zoology of Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, Belur Math. Attended Board of Studies Meeting (BOS) for the Academic session 2022-23. **Assigned** as facilitator at LINAC-NCDC Fisheries Business Incubation Centre (LIFIC), Gurugram. Delivered lecture in the Topics on Ornamental Fish Farming & Post harvest management on 7.11.2022. **Attended as a facilitator** for taking a session for the community trainer and progressing farm entrepreneur of Jhargram, Paschim Medinipur and Purulia District at B. R. Ambedkar Institute of Panchayats and Rural Development in Kalyani, Nadia on 18.11.2022. **Attended as subject expert** for Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of Raja Narendralal Khan Women's College (Autonomous) for Zoology (Fishery Unit) held on 22.11.2022. **Assigned by ASRB, ICAR, New Delhi** as Chairman of the Assessment Committee for considering assessment/promotion for Category III staff of ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore on 28th November, 2022. **Attended PRASAR BHARATI**, All India Radio/ Door darshan For MAITREE Programme on 16th December, 2022. **Attended sessions** in DST-SEED sponsored training programme on 'Indigenous Fish and Freshwater Ornamental Fish Culture' on 24th December, 2022 organized at Sasya Shyamala Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute.

Food For Thought to Fight Poverty, Hunger and Malnutrition

M. S. Basu, Former Director, ICAR- DGR, Junagadh

The dimension of malnutrition among Indians is alarming as 14% of the population, close to 19 crores are malnourished. According to Global Hunger Index 2022 India ranks 107th out of 121 countries with a score of 29.1 which comes under 'Serious' category of hunger as given in the scale. Without contending on the functional validity of the survey, the model & methodology used and the magnitude of malnutrition in different states, let honestly accept it's a deep-rooted perpetual problem from British India to Independent India irrespective of political parties ruled the Centre and the States.

The malnutrition is food related and Agriculture being State Subject the local government has major role to play in addressing the acute problem mostly confined to economically poorer section, the lower middle class and hand to mouth people below poverty line. Paradoxically, the granaries in India are overflowing since decades but malnutrition stands with high head.

Two factors contributed to such a devastating situation are:

- i) Country does not have Balanced Crop Production Plan and over emphasis on major cereals grossly undermining minor nutri-cereals, the poor-man's crop and resorting to import of pulses making 'Dal' out of reach to the plates of downtrodden.
- ii) Growing economic disparity, widening the gaps between penniless to billionaires; no purchasing power of poor to buy protein and at the same time losing immunity by consuming ration contaminated with toxin distributed through PDS.

The frightening facts:

The share of expenditure on food has declined from 57% to 25% in rural areas and from 36% to 19% in urban areas during last 5 decades. However, the silver line is, the most sensible government in power and the Prime Minister himself has taken initiative to win over the demon of malnutrition by taking measures to improve purchasing powers of poor and dedicating 17 bio-fortified crop varieties to alleviate nutritional security.

No other social problems could be as bigger in dimension than the deaths of malnourished, poverty-stricken people! What needed is the setting up of food fortification units at the state level for blending Nutri-cereals and Food-legumes namely minor millets, oat, quinoa, high quality protein-maize, groundnut, soybean, flax seeds, etc. following WHO standards and using state-of-art technology.

Such nutri-food blend can be packed and supplied to the people living below poverty line through public distribution system (PDS) besides the malnourished and sick through rural health centers and school-children as part of mid-day meal. The question remains, who will prepare the blueprint to intensify food legumes production by fitting various pulses in the existing cropping systems/ sequences in traditional and non-traditional areas?

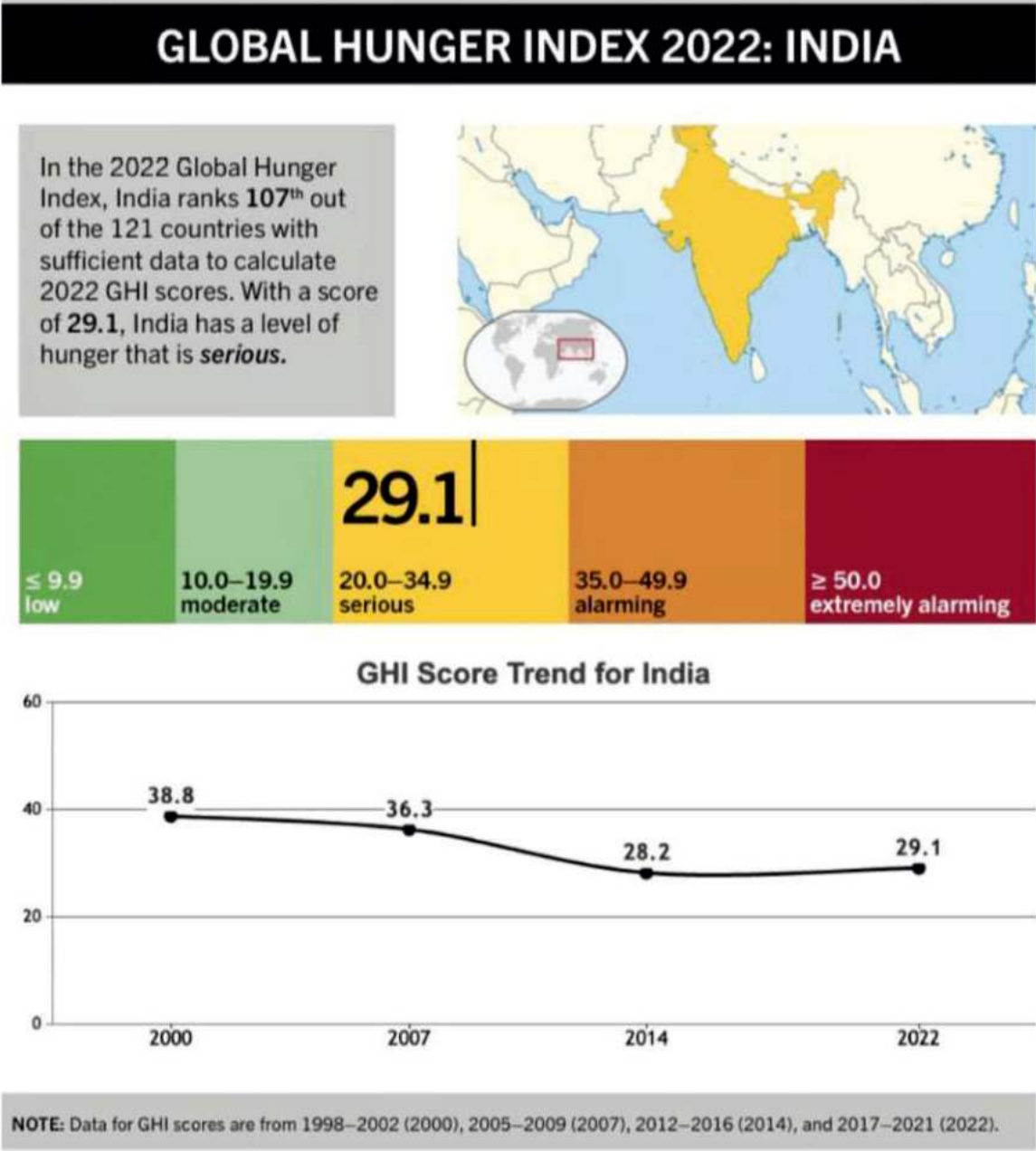
In an agrarian country like India, dominated by resource poor small and marginal farmers confronting with low soil fertility, the practice of importing pulses, the crop known to improve soil fertility, is set to damage livelihood of smallholder farmers. Initiative like rainwater harvesting, watershed developments and devices for judicious use of water should be put in place and make accessible to smallholder farmers in dry lands.

To curb growing menace of poverty and hunger, special package for landless farmers such as cash incentives along with seeds of perennial pigeon pea, moringa, tapioca, elephant foot yam, sweet potato, dolichos, wing-bean, amaranth, etc. for backyard cultivation, besides proving a pair of goat/ sheep, half a dozen poultry birds, and kits for rearing honeybees should go a long way, empowering downtrodden forest dweller, economically. Such initiative should be taken by discontinuing cash dole damaging backbone of farming community.

Apart from the above interventions, there must be a long-term policy support to each landless, forest dwellers in endemic areas by establishing backyard nutri-gardens following well established models. The project to that effect “**Enhancing Nutri-Cereals and Food Legume Production ... to Alleviate Food & Nutritional Security and Empower Economically Backward Resource Poor Farmers ...**” submitted to central govt may be worth funding.

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Global Hunger Index in India



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Grow,
Nourish,
Sustain.
Together.

my
Gov
मेरी सरकार

17 Biofortified Crop Varieties Dedicated to Nation by Hon'ble Prime Minister on World Food Day



Rice: CR Dhan 315



Wheat: HI 1633



Wheat: HD 3298



Wheat: DBW 303



Wheat: DDW 48



Wheat: MACS 4058



Maize: LQMH-1



Maize: LQMH-2



Maize: LQMH-3



Finger Millet: CFMV-1



Finger Millet: CFMV-2



Little Millet: CLMV-1



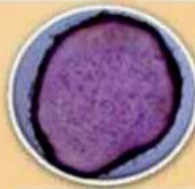
Mustard: PM-32



Ground nut: Girnar-4



Ground nut: Girnar-5



Yam: Da 340 &
SreeNeelima



#SahiPoshanDeshRoshan

Nutri cereals available in India



The Drivers of Agriculture Sector in 2023

When one looks at the factors that contribute to the development of a country, Agriculture forms one of the most significant factors. As we move towards 2023, here is what one can look forward to in the Agriculture and the Agritech sector. Climate change is one of the biggest issues affecting agriculture across the globe and natural farming is proving to be an effective tool to manage its ills. The estimated average monthly income per agricultural household increased from Rs 6426 in 2012-13 to Rs 10,218 in 2018-19. Under the e-NAM initiative, markets across the length and breadth of the nation are now open to farmers, to enable them to get more remunerative prices for their produce. The union government has also realised the importance of Agritech in managing issues of cropping. Government is working on the Digital Agriculture Mission such as availability of drones at subsidised rates so that there is more adoption of drones on a large scale.

(Source: <https://www.businessworld.in/article/The-Drivers-Of-Agriculture-Sector-In-2023/25-12-2022-459394/>)

Genome Editing in Agriculture

There are the potential gaps in the production and productivity of important food and cash crops in India when compared to the global scenario. In a workshop organized by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), it is said to have the benefits of the Nobel Prize-winning gene editing technique CRISPR/Cas9 for generating better crops, keeping in view the lack of desirable but unexplored plant traits as an agricultural challenge. India has restricted GM technology to cotton, a non food crop. India's switch to GM food crops hinges on Court Verdict.

(Source: https://f5check.rediff.com/bn/downloadajax.cgi/SABP_December_2022)

ICAR-IARI develop drought-tolerant, high-yielding chickpea variety 'Pusa JG 16'

ICAR- IARI, in collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya (JNKVV) Jabalpur, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Gwalior and ICRISAT, Patancheru, Hyderabad have developed drought ,hardy and higher yielding chickpea variety 'Pusa JG 16', maturing in 110 days with a yield potential of 2 tonnes /ha). Variety was developed by using genomic assisted breeding techniques that allowed precision transfer of drought tolerant genes from ICC 4958 in the parental variety JG 16.

(Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/icar-iari-develop-drought-tolerant-high-yielding-chickpea-variety-pusa-jg-16/article66266874.ece>)

Innovative Digital Seed System

The seed portal was designed and executed through ICAR-IIWBR, Karnal website to supply recent wheat and barley varieties.. The interested farmers submit the desired information (name, village, mobile number, district and state, upload soft copy of Aadhar card, select variety, quantity of seed) for registration. The farmer gets OTP on mobile to complete the registration process. The farmers are grouped state-wise and district-wise. The registered farmers are informed at least one week in advance about date and time of seed collection through bulk SMS to facilitate hassle free seed distribution. On an average, daily 3000 farmers collect seed as per the schedule. All the payments are made in digital modes viz., QR code, net banking or card swipe.

(Source: <https://icar.org.in/content/innovative-digital-seed-system>)

Rotary Disc Drill for Residue Management Technology

Residue burning is a major issue in northern Indian Plains under rice-wheat and sugarcane-wheat cropping systems. The burning of crop residue causes a huge loss in terms of precious nutrients, soil health deterioration, noxious impact on the environment and global warming. Rotary Disc Drill (RDD) has been developed at ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR), Karnal, for direct seeding of crops under anchored and loose crop residue in different crops for which Patent (202111009839) has been filed.

(Source: <https://icar.org.in/content/innovative-residue-management-technology-rotary-disc-drill-rdd>)

CMFRI's Cadalmin LivCure extract to combat fatty liver to hit market soon

Cadalmin LivCure extract, a patent-protected nutraceutical product developed by the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) from seaweeds to combat non-alcoholic fatty liver disease will hit the market soon. A unique blend of 100 per cent natural bioactive ingredients extracted from select seaweeds, the product is made of an eco-friendly green technology to improve liver health.

(Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/cmfris-cadalmin-livcure-extract-to-combat-fatty-liver-to-hit-market-soon/article66284628.ece>)

Diabetes Predictor App

A team of experts from Kolkata and Technological Institutes from Tamil Nadu has developed a health parameter based model to predict the possible onset of Type II diabetes. The model having the parameters of individuals, such as BMI, diet pattern, blood sugar count, haemoglobin, working hours, sugar intake etc, will be fed into a software and use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to detect a person's extent of risk of getting onset of diabetes and preventive suggestions thereby. Patent has been applied before launching in the market.

(Source: The Times of India, Kolkata, January 17, 2023)

Lumpy Skin Disease causing Cattle Death

Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) is a contagious viral disease identified first in Zambia in 1929, affecting cattle and causes fever and nodules on the skin. It can also lead to death, with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) highlighting a 10% mortality rate among cattle affected by Lumpy Skin Disease. The disease was first identified in Zambia in 1929. It is a vector-borne disease and transmitted by blood feeding insects, such as flies and mosquitoes or ticks. Having infected animals in close proximity to healthy ones aggravates disease spread. Buffalo is also affected by LSD and this disease is not zoonotic in nature. Over 1.55 lakh cattle in the country have died in 2022 due to lumpy skin disease (LSD).



LSDV Infection

As per the data, Rajasthan saw the most cattle deaths at 75,819, followed by Maharashtra(24,430), Punjab (17,932), Karnataka (12,244), Himachal Pradesh (10,681), Gujarat (6,193),Haryana (2,937) and Jammu & Kashmir (2,698).

Vaccination for Lumpy Skin Disease is covered under the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme of India. Number of cases reported in India in 2022 are 29.46 lakh followed by 6.29 crore vaccination. It may be pertinent to mention that cattle population as per 20th Livestock census is 19.34 crores. While preventive care and symptom specific antibiotics are available, no specific antiviral drugs are presently available to cure the illness.

(**Source:** <https://www.outlookindia.com/national/lumpy-skin-disease-caused-over-1-5-lakh-cattle-deaths-in-2022-rajasthan-accounted-for-nearly-half-news-243704>)

