



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

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## ARICARE NEWS

Vol. 8 No. 1, January, 2024

### Governing Body

#### Office Bearers

Dr. K.K. Satapathy - President

Dr. M. Datta - Vice President

Dr. D.C. Nayak - Secretary

Dr. G. Bose - Asstt. Secretary,

Mr. S. Ranjan Sarkar - Treasurer,

Mr. B.K. Saha - Asstt. Treasurer

#### Editorial Board

Dr. M. Datta,

Dr. A. Biswas,

Mr K.L. Ahirwar

### Executive Committee Members

Dr. B.K. Bandopadhyay, Dr. S. S. Pal, Dr. (Ms) S. Chakrabarti, Dr. K. Das, Dr. D. Pal, Dr. A. Biswas,

Mrs. J. Nath, Dr. (Ms) M. Das, Dr. S. Mahapatra, Dr. B. K. Mahapatra, Mr. S. K. Pal

Dedicated to the Memory of Late Professor ( Dr.) M.S. Swaminathan

## Who Killed the Swaminathan Committee Report?

Professor M S Swaminathan, widely recognized as the chief architect of green revolution in India passed away on September 2023 at the age of 98 years. Condolences poured in from different corners of the world remembering him as the most distinguished scientist and visionary who worked for the food security in India and also for his role in creation of the National Agricultural Research System in the country. In prof Swaminathan's passing away, India lost a great champion of the cause of agricultural development and farmers welfare. However, what is not properly highlighted is that Prof Swaminathan not only worked for increasing productivity by leveraging technology but also as chairman of the National Commission of Farmers – known as Swaminathan Commission – provided a detailed analysis of agrarian crisis and ways to overcome them. Professor Swaminathan firmly believed that agricultural and national development can not happen without protecting the rights and welfare of farmers. The National Commission on farmers headed by Professor Swaminathan submitted five volume reports during 2004-2006 which made incisive analysis of agrarian crises resulting in rise of farmers suicides and provided a comprehensive road map for all round development of agriculture and farmers welfare. The commission strongly advocated the need to combine agricultural growth with sustainable use of resources. The Swaminathan commission had advised the Government to raise the MSP (minimum support price) of agricultural produce to about 50% above the weighted cost of production to make it remunerative for farmers. Known as C2+50% formula it includes the input cost of capital and rent on the land (called C2) to give farmers 50% return. The report aimed to make agriculture a source of income and employment besides bringing about a comprehensive and sustainable shift in agriculture. The Swaminathan report was widely discussed in different forums throughout the country and was accepted on all hands that it is essential for imparting dynamism to agriculture, which will bring huge relief to the farmers as well as people who are related to agriculture.

The report became immensely popular among the farmers. The farmers, coordinated under numerous organizations demanded the implementation of recommendation of Swaminathan Commission report with immediate effect. If millions of farmers in India know only one English word, then it is 'Swaminathan Committee report'. Unfortunately, successive Governments sat on the report for many years and finally sent to cold storage. It was never discussed in the Parliament. Consecutive Governments promised that they would implement the report after coming to power; but after coming to power, they informed that these recommendations cannot be implemented as it would create distortion in the market. Lakhs of farmers were on the road demanding the execution of the report. Dr Swaminathan and other committee members prepared the report with hard labor and sincerity. Prof Swaminathan was apparently saddened seeing the fate of the report. Dr Swaminathan's vision of making the country self-sufficient in food grain production has been realized; but his wish to usher in stability in the livelihood of farmers remains a dream. Implementation of the Swaminathan commission would be the real tribute to the Agricultural Scientist's labour and achievement.

*“The Future Belongs to Nations  
with Grains and not Guns.”*

- M. S. Swaminathan

The ARICARE news is a unique half yearly publication of the Association since January, 2017 and it has gained name and fame among the retired and serving employees of ICAR. I am very much glad to inform that the Editorial Board members have tried their best for the publication of Volume 8 (1), 2024 of ARICARE news in time. During this period, the different Sub-Committee of ARICARE have performed significant activities with the cooperation of all members and the inspiration received from the President. All the meetings of the Governing Body and different Sub-Committee were held physically at different ICAR Institutes in Kolkata. One Governing Body meeting was held on 29.8.2023 at ICAR-IVRI, Eastern Regional Station, 37 Belgachia Road, Kolkata- 700037; several meetings of all Sub-Committee were held also during the period. Various important administrative issues, tour programmes at National and Inter-national level, social activities, amendment of bye-laws, celebration of Vijaya Sammeloni, Picnic, membership drive etc were discussed and some programmes were performed successfully. Important events performed during the period are: (1) 9 th Annual General Meeting of ARICARE for the year 2022-23 held on 21.07.2023 in the Kennedy Hall of Department of Jute and Fibre Technology, University of Calcutta, 35, Ballygunge Circular Road, Kolkata- 700019, (2) the e-publication of the Sharadia Issue of "ANWESHA" in October,2023, (3) the celebration of Vijaya Sammeloni at ICAR- NBSS & LUP, Regional Centre, Salt Lake, Kolkata on 01.11.2023, (4) National tour in Nagaland; Darigbari and Gopalnagar, Odisha; Ghatshila, Jharkhand (5) Picnic held on 27.12.2023 at Matsya Samanay Samity Jheel side near Fortis Hospital, EM ByPass, Kolkata and (6) the fund was raised for social activities by great effort of Community Service Subcommittee

All members are very much thankful to the members of the Governing Body; 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. During the period, a good number of retired ICAR employees have joined in the ARICARE and the Association will be enriched with their new ideas and active role in various activities of ARICARE.

Wishing all members and their family a Very Happy, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year, 2024.

## Editorial

It is a great pleasure for the Editorial Board of ARICARE to bring out the publication of January issue of **ARICARE News** in 2024 involving all our activities from August, 2023 to January , 2024 with the inclusion of Meeting and Events, list of life members enrolled in the recent past , Our Achievements/Engagements, Research Thoughts , News/Technology Summary and Obituary. We do welcome 3 more ICAR retirees who have come under the umbrella of ARICARE. We all know that Our Tour Committee is very active always thinking to make ourselves busy in enjoyable Tours. There is no doubt to express our feelings that such enjoyable Tours arranged and organized by active members of Tour Committee can make ourselves away from monotony/boredom of retired life, although someone even after superannuation, can have a lot of engagements thus enriching Institutions /or other establishments in the light of Agri and Allied activities. Such engagements as reported by our valued members are also illustrated in this January issue of ARICARE News. Research Thoughts and News /Technology Summary are also useful and many of our readers may find valuable information in it.

We do remember Late Professor ( Dr.) M.S. Swaminathan as an outstanding Scientist and visionary leader in the domain of Agriculture not only in our country but also in the entire Globe and this January issue of ARICARE News is dedicated in the memory of this man who had dedicated his life to address the paradox of persistent hunger in the midst of impressive technological marvels to grow food. Rightly he had said and I quote " Science can only show the way – It is only synergy between Science and Public Policy than can help to make hunger history " .

We do receive help/support from all members to prepare this manuscript of January issue and for this , we express our gratitude to everyone in the Aricare family. May we wish an active and healthy life with energetic mind to all Members of this Association in the time to come. Regards.

### Governing Body Meeting

The 1st Governing Body Meeting of Aricare ( 2023 -2024) was held at ICAR-IVRI, Belgachia , Kolkata on 29th August , 2023. Out of 17 members , 12 members were present in the meeting. Meeting was attended by Drs K .K Satapathy, M.Datta, D.C. Nayak, B.K. Bandopadhyay, G. Bose , A. Biswas , Shri S.R. Sarkar and Shri B.K. Saha , Mrs J. Nath and Shri S. Pal. The President, Dr.K.K. Satapathy welcomed the members of newly formed GB for the year 2023-24. The meeting started as per agenda.

### Agenda-1: Formation of Different Sub-Committee

The chairman, Convener and members of different Sub-Committee, viz. (1) Pension, administration and medical sub- committee, (2) Tour Sub- committee, (3) Social and cultural Sub-committee, (4) Digital Media Sub-committee, (5) Community Service Subcommittee was formed after the discussions among the members.

Besides, (1) Editorial Board "ARICARE" Newsletter; (2) Editorial Board "ANWESHA", (3) Administrators 'WhatsApp'; (4) Administrators 'Face book' and (5) Administrator 'ARICARE Website' was formed. The President, Secretary, Treasurer will be ex- officio member of all the committees. The chairman of the different Sub-committees is authorized to induct any other member in their committee as they deem fit. The list of the above Sub-Committee and Editorial Boards and Administrators 'WhatsApp'; Administrators 'Face book' and Administrator 'ARICARE Website' was circulated in ARICARE Official WhatsApp.

### ARICARE Sub- Committee (2023-24)

#### A. Pension, Administration and Medical sub-Committee

- Dr. Mrinmoy Datta (chairman)
- Mr. Subrata Kumar Pal (convener)
- Dr. B. K. Bandyopadhyay
- Dr. Sankar Mahapatra
- Mr. Ujjal Kumar Ghosh
- Mrs. Jayashree Nath
- Mr. Subhas Sheet
- Mr. B. D. Mandal

#### B. Tour Sub-Committee

- Dr. (Ms). Syamali Chakrabarti (chairman)
- Mr. Binay Kr. Saha (convener)
- Dr. Madhumita Das
- Dr. D K Kundu
- Dr. Mrinmoy Datta
- Dr. Subrata Biswas
- Mr. Ratan Das
- Dr. Sankar Mahapatra
- Mr. Subrata Pal
- Dr. Krishnendu Das
- Dr. Anil Kumar Sahu
- Dr. K. K. Datta

### **C. Social and Cultural -Sub committee**

- Dr. Krishnendu Das (chairman)
- Dr. S. S. Pal (convener)
- Dr. Debasis Pal
- Dr. (Ms). Syamali Chakrabarti
- Dr. Goutam Roy
- Mr. Swapan Kumar Sinha
- Mrs. Jayashee Nath
- Mrs. Rina Nayya
- Mr. Binay Kr. Saha
- Mr. Subrata Pal

### **D. Digital Media Sub-committee**

- Dr. Goutam Bose (Chairman)
- Dr. Ashok Biswas (Convener)
- Mr. K. L. Ahirwar
- Dr. Krishnendu Das
- Dr. B K Mahapatra
- Dr. Mrinmoy Datta
- Mr. Binay Kr. Saha
- Mrs. Jayashree Nath
- Dr. S. S. Pal

### **E. Community Service Sub-committee**

- Dr. Mrinmoy Datta (chairman)
- Dr. Krishnendu Das (convener)
- Dr. Shyamali Chakrabarti
- Dr. B K Mahapatra
- Dr. Ashok Bishwas
- Dr. B K Bandyopadhyay
- Mr. Prasenjit Sanyal
- Dr. Pratap Mukhopadhyay

### **F. Editorial Board ' ARICARE Newsletter'**

- Dr. Mrinmoy Datta
- Dr. Ashok Bishwas
- Mr. K L Ahirwar

### **G. Editorial Board 'ANWESHA'**

- Dr. Sudhangshu Shekhar Pal
- Dr. Ashok Bishwas

### **H. Administrators 'WhatsApp'**

- Dr. Goutam Basu
- Mr. Sumitranjan Sarkar

### **I. Administrators 'Facebook'**

- Dr. Krishnendu Das
- Mr. Binay Kr. Saha

### **G. Administrator 'ARICARE website'**

- Mrs. Jayashree Nath
- Mr. Sumitranjan Sarkar

## Agenda-2: Discussion of the submission of modified Bye-Laws of the Association

The President briefed the history of the online submission of the modified Bye-Laws in last year to the State Cooperative office at Salt Lake and the attempt was failed. Again, he requested the Secretary, D C Nayak, Mr. Sumit Sarkar (Treasurer) and Mr. B.K.Saha (Asstt. Treasurer) for this work with the help of the agency.

## Agenda-3: Discussion on the activities of ARICARE during 2023-24

The President mentioned that the different sub-committee will take care its activities throughout the year. He emphasized the social welfare activities should be the active involvement of the members of our Association instead of handing over some fund to other NGO's/ Social Welfare Organizations. He requested the Community Service Subcommittee to look into this matter and also proposed to raise a fund of about Rs. 50000/- in this year for welfare activities as the previous fund exhausted. For this purpose, a separate circular may be issued by the Secretary later on.

The President requested all GB members to take initiatives to strengthen our association by New Members from the retired ICAR personnels and the meeting came to an end with thanks to the chair.



GB Meeting held on 29th August, 2023

## Pension, Administration and Medical Sub- Committee

Meeting of the said committee of Aricare , Kolkata was held at ICAR-Atari , Kolkata on 29th September, 2023. Meeting was attended by Drs K.K. Satapathy , M.Datta , S. Mahapatra, K.Das , S. Chakraborti, Shri S. Sheet, Shri S.R. Sarkar and Shri. B. K. Saha . Incidentally, Dr P.Das , Former DDG ( Agril.Extension), ICAR, New Delhi who is also a member of ARICARE , was also present in ICAR- ATARI , Kolkata . In the meeting , one minute silence in the memory of Late Dr M. S. Swaminathan , Former DG , ICAR and Father of Green Revolution in India ,who expired on 28th September , 2023 , was observed. In addition to felicitation to Dr P.Das , Former DDG , Dr P.Dey, Director, ICAR-Atari had also felicitated our Preseident Dr K.K. Satapathy.

Considering the importance of Medical facilities to ICAR Pensioners and their family members, this committee have played an important role in ARICARE and the discussion was held regarding various issues. **There is a disparity existing in the nos of empanelled Hospitals and the accepted payment options among the 3 ICAR Institutes, ICAR – NINFET , ICAR-CRIJAF and ICAR- CIFRI situtated in Kolkata and such disparity should be resolved after discussion with ICAR Directors / respective Administrative Officers.** There are anamolies of Ph.D increments due to Scientists and provision of notional increment of the employees retiring on 1st June /31st December. Letter may be written to DG, ICAR in these matters. Shri S.Pal, Former AAO, ICAR- CRIJAF who raised an issue of not

getting transfer allowance for his return transfer from Pratpgarh to Barrackpur , was asked to write to Director, ICAR –CRIJAF with a copt to ARICARE.



**Sub-Committee Meeting held in ICAR- ATARI Meeting with Dr P. Das, Former DDG, ICAR**

### **Tour Sub-Committee**

Tour Sub- Committee Meeting of Aricare was held at ICAR-NBSS & LUP Guest House , Kolkata on 9th September , 2023 at 3 PM and the meeting was attended by Drs K.K.Satapathy , S. Chakraborti,K. Das, K.K. Datta ,D.K. Kundu,S. Biswas, Sri R.K. Das and Shri B.K. Saha to propose possible Tour during 2023-2024 . Tour planned out of the detailed discussion was 1) Domestic Tour to Kerala ( 11 nights/12 days) 2) Tour to Gopalpur- Daringbadi- Berhampur-Chilka ( 4 nights/3 days) 3) Tour to Ghatshila-Galudi-Dalma Forest- Tatanagar ( 4 nights/3 days) 4 ) Besides domestic Tours , one International Tour to Indonesia ( 8-9 days) 5) Short Tour for 1-2 days to nearby places. Respective Tour Co-ordinators were requested to finalise the Tour giving wide circulation through our Whatsapp .



**Tour Sub-Committee Meeting for 2023-2024 held on 9th September , 2023**

**1st Tour to Daringbadi – Gopalpur** Sea Beach, Odisha was organized on 20th November, 2023 and 2 members of Aricare along with family members /friends had participated in this tour.

**2nd Tour to Daringbadi - Gopalpur** was organized from 5th to 9th December, 2023 and 10 persons had participated. Visit to Jeerang Monastery, Chandragiri, Gajapati district, Surada Dam and Chilka Lake, Berhampur, Ganjam district of Odisha was also arranged.



**1st Tour to Daringbadi ( Kashmir of Odisha)**



**2nd Tour to Daringbadi**

**Tour to Ghatshila - Tatanagar - Galudi - Dalma** was organized with 9 persons from 14th to 17th December, 2023. Places visited were Suhasita Resort, Ghatshila, Jharkhand, Dalma Wild life Sanctuary, Chandil Dam in Subarnarekha Reservoir Project and Tatanagar.



**Tour to Ghatshila – Tatanagar – Galudi- Dalma**

**2nd Meeting of Tour Sub-Committee** of Aricare was held at Dunes Café, Patuli, Kolkata on 16th January, 2024 to finalise the International Tour to Indonesia in this financial year of 2023-2024 and the meeting was attended by Drs K.K. Satapathy, M. Datta, S. Biswas, K.Das, S. Chakraborti, Shri B.K. Saha and Shri R. Das.



**Meeting of Tour Sub-Committee held on 16th January , 2024.**



## Social and Cultural Sub-Committee

Meeting of Aricare was held on 5th October,2023 at ICAR- CIFE, Kolkata and the meeting was attended by Drs K.K. Satapathy ,M. Datta , K.Das ,S.S. Pal, ( Ms) S.Chakraborti , Shri B.K. Saha , Mrs J.Nath, Shri S.Sinha and Shri S. Pal. Our President Dr K.K. Satapathy was felicitated by Dr Tapas Ghoshal , Head,ICAR-CIFE , Kolkata.Discussion was held to finalise Vijaya Sanmelani and Annual Picnic of Aricare and the tentative dates were 1st November and 27th December,2023 for the two events, respectively.



**Social and Cultural Sub-Committee Meeting of Aricare held on 5th October, 2023**

## Vijaya Sanmelani

Suva Bijoya (শুভ বিজয়া) Sanmelani of Aricare was organized on 1st November ,2023 in the Seminar Hall of NBSS & LUP, Kolkata Centre and 60 persons including family members were present in the get together. There were performances of Songs,Recitation, Shruti Natak( Drama) and Aricare Members present there had enjoyed the afternoon with the exchange of good wishes and happiness among all .



**Programme Inauguration**



**Members/Families present in the programme**



**Shruti Drama , Songs and Recitation**



**A view of persons present in the get together**

### **Annual Picnic**

Annual Picnic of Aricare was held on 27th December , 2023 in the aquatic environment in the eastern fringes of of Kolkata having an area of 125 km<sup>2</sup>, included in the Ramsar list of wetlands of International importance maintained by Purba Kolikata Matsyajibi Samabaya Samity Ltd. Total persons from our Association present in the event was 77 and all have had enjoyment of bountiful gossips , songs , delicious refreshment / food throughout a day in the pollution free surroundings .



**All enjoying the day in gossips along with food / refreshments**



**A view of all persons present in the Annual Picnic**

## Digital Media Sub-committee

Meeting of Digital Media Sub-Committee of Aricare was held on 10th October, 2023 at ICAR-CIFE, Kolkata. The meeting was attended by Drs K.K. Satapathy, M. Datta, G. Bose, K. Das, S.S. Pal, A. Biswas, Mr. K.L. Ahirwar, Mrs Jayashree Nath and MR B.K. Saha. Salient points of discussion along with resolutions are as follows. a) **Website Maintenance and Development** : Considering the capacity of Aricare Website, an attempt will be made to increase the capacity of the website to accommodate photos of our events along with other relevant information. b) **WhatsApp** : An appeal will be made to stop the sharing of Political posts and Good Morning/Night messages c) **Digital Magazine and Aricare News** : Members had expressed their satisfaction for the publication of Annews and ARICARE News regularly and also in time.



Digital Media Sub-Committee Meeting at ICAR-CIFE

## Community Service Sub-Committee Meeting

Meeting of Community Service Sub-Committee of Aricare was held on 13th October, 2023 at ICAR-NBSS & LUP Guest House. Meeting was attended by Drs K.K. Satapathy, M. Datta, K. Das, B.K. Bandyopadhyay, Ms S. Chakraborti, Mr P. Sanyal and Mr B.K. Saha. Members had expressed their opinion about the future probable activities in the domain of Community Services, poverty elimination/reduction, livelihood enhancement and environmental protection. Activities may be in the area of Blood donation, Tree Plantation, Distribution of Computers/ Cloths/Blankets, Care of School Dropouts, Supply of inputs for Agri and allied areas for Integrated Farming Systems and Training of Artisans. **All our proposed activities to be undertaken in future should have direct involvement of our Association without any sort of political interference.** An appeal would be made by the Secretary, ARICARE for raising a fund of Rs 50,000- 1,00,000/ for voluntary donation by our Members.



Community Service Sub-Committee meeting held on 13th October, 2023

We have received donation for Community Service from the following members of ARICARE upto 16th January , 2024 .Out of 125 members , 63 members ( 50.4 %) as stated below , had donated for our Community Services of ARICARE and total donation is Rs 1,11,000/- ( Rupees one lakh and eleven thousand only).

1. Shri B. K. Saha -₹. 1000/-
2. Dr. Mrinmoy Datta -₹.5000/-
3. Dr. Subrata Biswas -₹.1000/-
4. Dr. Gautam Bose -₹.4000/-
5. Smt.Jayashree Nath - Rs 1500/-
6. Dr.Asok Biswas -Rs.1000/-
7. Dr.Buddheswar Maji -Rs.1000/-
8. Mrs. Priti Rekha Ghatak -₹.1000/-
9. Dr. K. K. Sathpathy -₹.5000/-
- 10.Sh.Swapan Sinha -₹.1000/-
- 11.Dr. K. Das -₹. 2000/-
- 12.Dr.N.C.Pan -₹.1000/-
- 13.Dr.S.K.Gangopadhyay -₹.1000/-
14. Dr. Mantu Kr. Basak -₹.2000/-
15. Dr. Suprokash Saha -₹.1000/-
16. Shri B. D. Mondal -₹.1000/-
17. Dr. D.P. Sinhababu -₹.1000/-
18. Mrs. Sukla Mukherjee -₹.1000/-
19. Dr. Gautam Roy -₹. 2000/-
20. Dr. Satyajit Roy -₹. 2500/
21. Dr. Debanjan Sur -₹. 2000/-
22. Dr. Sajal Kumar Chattopadhyay -₹. 1000/-
23. Dr. Swarup Kr. Chakraborti -₹.5000/-
24. Dr. Sachidulal Roychaudhuri -₹.2000/-
25. Dr. D. C. Nayak -₹. 3000/-
26. Dr. Pratap Mukhopadhyay -₹. 2000/-
27. Dr. B. K. Mahapatra -₹. 1000/-
28. Dr. Asim Roy -₹. 2000/-
29. Dr. Uttam Kr. Bandyopadhyay -₹.1000/-
30. Shri Prosenjit Sanyal -₹. 1000/-
31. Shri Sumit Ranjan Sarkar -₹.1000/-
32. Dr. Satyabrata Maiti -₹. 5000/-
33. Dr. Mukti Sadhan Basu -₹. 5000/-
34. Shri Ujjwal Kumar Ghosh -₹.1000/-
35. Dr. Banku Bihari Das -₹.5000/-
36. Dr. (Mrs.) Utpala Parthasarathy -₹.1000/-
37. Shri Lilamoy Patra -₹. 1000/-
38. Dr. Narayan Chandra Choudhuri -₹.1000/-
39. Shri Ratan Das -₹.1000/-
40. Dr. B. K. Bandyopadhyay -₹.2000/-
41. Shri Sanat Kumar Dutt -₹.1000/-
42. Dr. Samir Naskar -₹.1000/-
43. Dr. Sankar Kumar Mahapatra -₹.2000/-
44. Dr. Dilip Kumar Kundu -₹. 1000/-
45. Dr. Sushomoy Chatterjee -₹.2000/-
46. Dr. Asit B Mandal -₹. 2000/-
47. Shri Subhas Chandra Sheet -₹.1000/-
48. Dr. Sudhansu Sekhar Pal -₹. 1000/-
49. Dr. Subrata Mukhopadhyay -₹. 2000/-
50. Dr. Monoranjan Saha -₹.1000/-
51. Dr. A. K. Sahoo -₹. 1000/-
52. Dr. Tarit Chottapadhyay -₹. 1000/-
53. Dr. R. K. Mandal -₹. 1000/-
54. Dr. T. H. Das -₹.2000/-
55. Dr. K. K. Dutta -₹. 1000/-
56. Dr. Arunava Pattanayak -₹.1000/-
57. Dr. Ramani Kr. Sarkar -₹. 3000/-
58. Shri Sujit Kumar Mitra -₹. 1000/-
59. Dr. Madhumita Das -₹.1000/-
60. Dr. Asok Kr. Deb Roy -₹. 2000/-
61. Dr. Dinobandhu Kumar -₹. 1000/-
62. Sh. Subhash Chakravarti -₹. 1000/-
63. Dr. P. Das -₹.2000/-

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the Service of others.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

## ARICARE website

Meeting for ARICARE Website ([www.aricare.in](http://www.aricare.in)) was held on 10th November ,2023 at Metropolis Mall , Kolkata regarding updating of Aricare website and Meeting was attended by Dr. K. K. Satapathy ,Mr. S.R. Sarkar , Mr.B.K. Saha and Mrs J.Nath. Representative of Lead Co. was also present in the meeting.



### ARICARE Website Meeting

## Meeting with ICAR North East Retirees

Dr. K. K. Sathpathy and Dr. Mrinmoy Datta met ICAR North East retirees to discuss the formalities for formation of a Society of Retirees of ICAR North East at Guwahati on 12th November ,2023. Dr K.M. Bujarbaruah , Former DDG ( AS) , ICAR , New Delhi and Former Vice Chancellor , Assam Agricultural University , Jorhat was also present along with other ICAR retirees.



## Life Member

The following persons ( 3 ) from different ICAR Institutes have become the Life Members of ARICARE, Kolkata recently. The names and designation held by them in their Institutes last served are mentioned below.

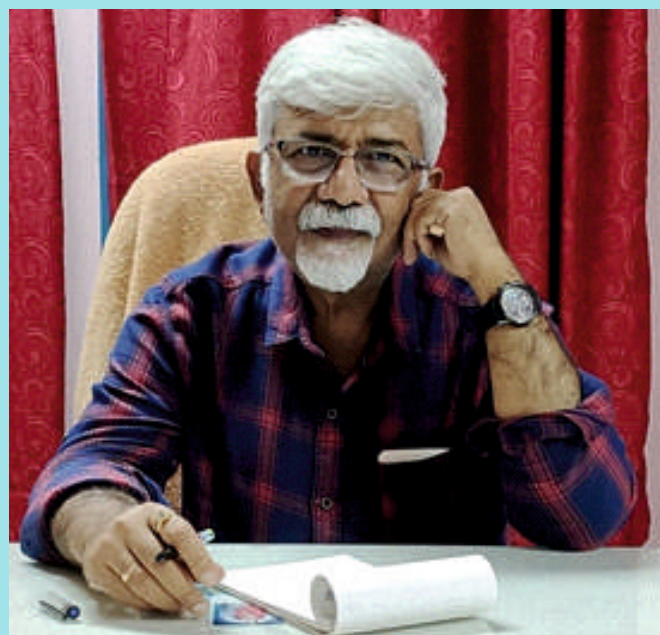
- Shri Gopal Chandra Day, Former Asstt. Admn. Officer, ICAR-CRIJAF, West Bengal
- Shri Shyamapada Das, Former Assistant, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata
- Dr. Subrata Mukhopadhyay, Former Principal Scientist, ICAR-NBSS&LUP, Kolkata



**Shri Gopal Chandra Day**



**Shri Shyamapada Das**



**Dr. Subrata Mukhopadhyay**

## Our Achievements / Engagements

Brief of Engagements of **Dr. P. Das**, Former Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension), ICAR, New Delhi:

- Chaired the meeting of the Research Advisory Committee of 11 ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes (ATARI), held at Bangalore on 4-6 August, 2023.
- Presentation made a) Research and Extension in Climate Resilient Technology ,b) Bridging Agriculture and Human Nutrition through Nutrition-Sensitive Extension Research and Advisory Services. in the Annual Zonal Workshop of KVKs of MP & Chhattishgarh, Bhopal on 19-21 August, 2023.
- Attended the 'Foundation Day' of OUAT, Bhubaneswar on 24 August, 2023.
- Participated in the Workshop on "Reinventing Extension System for Agricultural Transformation" and presented an interacted talk on 'Frontier Areas of Extension Methodology' to the Extension Scientists and the Project Coordinators of the KVKs, OUAT, Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 25 August, 2023.
- Participated in IDP-NAHEP-sponsored training on "Natural Farming: Present Status and Future Prospects", for the faculties and scientists working in AAU, Jorhat (Assam), BCKV, Mohanpur (West Bengal), OUAT, Bhubaneswar (Odisha), UBKV, Cooch Behar (West Bengal), and CAU, Imphal (Manipur). College of Agriculture, Kyrdemkulai, Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya and presented the following topics on a) Balancing Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity through Nature -based Food Systems b) Indigenous Technical Knowledge and its Experimental Validation for Natural Farming during August 28 to September 10, 2023.
- Visit to Central Agricultural University, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh and KVK , Demaji, Assam, KVK , Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh, Laying the Foundation Stone of Tribal Girls Hostel , Delivered 6 Lectures under NAHEP on a) Evolution of the Concept and Properties of Natural Farming b) Process of Implementation of Natural Farming c) Research and Extension in Climate Resilient Technology d) Identification of Subject Matter Specific Priorities for On-Farm Research e) Methodology of Conducting Demonstration f) Methodology of Impact Study , -Attended the Inaugural Session of 3-Day Training programme on "Cultivation and Marketing of High Valued Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh during 19-23 September, 2023.
- Lectures on a) -Paradigm shift in extension to support sustainable agricultural development b) Challenges of extension to combat climate vulnerability delivered through Webinars to the ATTARI Directors and KVKs of West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, and Jharkhand on 29 September, 2023.
- Attended XVI Agricultural Science Congress & ASC Expo on the Theme, 'Transformation of Agri-Food Systems for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals' at Cochin , Kerala on Oct. 10-13.
- Attended the Online meeting on Formulation of Research proposal on Water Footprint of ATTARI Ludhiana, and ATTARI Kolkata on 20 October, 2023.
- Participated in National Symposium on R&D Strategies for Sustainable Production of Pulses, Oilseeds and Millets for Food Security in Central India during November 19-21, 2023.
- Member, Award Committee, Extension Professional Award, CAU, Imphal on 25 November, 2023.
- Participated in CAU Regional Agri Fair, 2023-24 during December 12-14, 2023.
- Participated in the Selection Committee Meeting of ASRB on 18 December, 2023.

**Dr. K.K. Satapathy**, Former Director, ICAR-NINFET , Kolkata had the following engagements.

- Member, Selection committee for the faculty of Agricultural engg. and related disciplines under different colleges of Central Agriculture University, Imphal
- Visited Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire) as a member of the expert group on low land rice production during 12-22nd December '23 sponsored by Pentashiva Infraventures , New Delhi

**Dr. M. Datta** , Former Joint Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Tripura and Former OSD/Principal, College of Agriculture, Tripura Central University, Tripura had the following engagements during the reported period.

- Visited Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire) as a member of the expert group on low land rice production during 12-22nd December '23 sponsored by Pentashiva Infraventures , New Delhi and TFC, Agro ,Abidjan.
- Member of Committee for faculty positions in the discipline of Agricultural Sciences (Soil Science/NRM) under different Colleges of CAU , Imphal , Manipur and Chairman , NRM, CPGS , CAU, Meghalaya on 3rd January , 2024.



**Meeting of ARICARE Members with Indian Ambassador at Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire)**

**Dr. B.K. Mahapatra**, Former Principal Scientist and Scientist In-charge, ICAR-CIFE, Kolkata had the following engagements /achievements during the reported period.

- Acted as a Jt. Guide for M.F.Sc Thesis work of Sourav Halder , of Arijit Karan , of Chirantan Jana , of Dhruvajyoti Panja and Suraj Biswas under SAGE University Bhopal during 2023-24.
- Delivered lecture on 'Freshwater Aquaculture' under the Skill Training of Rural Youth (STRY) scheme on Sasya Shyamala Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Narendrapuron 12 November ,2023.
- Acted as an Expert-member for Selection of Project Scientist for the project “Fish Conservation and Stock Enhancement of Fishery of Ganga River Basin( Phase -III)”Namami Gange Mission -II at ICAR-CIFRI, West Bengal.
- Attended Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting of Department of Fishery Science at Vidyasagar University on 24 November ,2023.
- Delivered lectures and practical classes in the training programme on "Entrepreneurship Development in Ornamental Fish Breeding & Culture" at CIFE Kolkata on 5 December ,2023.
- Delivered lectured in Training program on “Exports by Fisheries Co-operatives”at NCD, Delhi on 13 December, 2023.
- Attended as judge on 6th Regional Science and Technology Congress 2023-24 [Region 6 (KMC area)] at Calcutta University on 22 December ,2023.
- Evaluation of Ph.D thesis under Raiganj and Burdwan University, West Bengal during 28-29 December, 2023.
- Attended as Expert in the selection committee for the selection of SRF in the WB-DSTBT sponsored Research Project at University of Burdwan, West Bengal on 10th January ,2024.
- Published a Book on **Complete Handbook on Breeding Fish, Prawn, Crab (in Bengali)** published by Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Sargachi, Murshidabad in October,2023.



**Dr. M. Das**, Former Director ( Incharge ) , ICAR-IIWM , Bhubaneswar ,Odisha had published the following research papers during the reported period.

- **Das Madhumita**, Nayak, A.K. Verma O.P. and Sethi (2023). Assessment and processing of groundwater quality from various land uses - a case study in Odisha. Indian Journal of Soil Conservation Vol. 51(1): 1-10.

- Saha Madhumonti, Sarkar Abhijit, **Das Madhumita**, Ghosh Avijit, Yadav Dinesh Kumar and Biswas Siddhartha Sankar (2023). Crop Diversification in Rice-Based Agroecosystem: Medium-Term Effects on Soil Properties, Carbon and Other Nutrients' Stoichiometry, and System Productivity. Journal of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42729-023-01461-7>, published on 12 Sept 2023.

**Dr D.K. Kundu** , Former Principal Scientist , ICAR-CRIJAF attended the 1st Meeting of RAC of ICAR-MGIFRI at Motihari, Bihar during 27-29 October ,2023.

**Dr. S. K. Gangopadhyay** , Former Head , ICAR-NBSS & LUP, Kolkata had received Fellow of Indian Society of Soil Science, New Delhi in 87th Annual Convention of ISSS held at Bhopal during 3-6 Oct, 2023.

## Research Thoughts

### Genetically Modified Mustard - Who Gains? Neither Farmers, Nor Consumers

M.S.Basu, Former Director, ICAR- DGR and Presently MD SBSF Consultancy and Tata Trusts

It's not my intention to kick start a controversy on GM Mustard but to disagree on the statement: "Ban on commercial release of GM crops against national interest". Most of us should believe, it may not. The 'national interest' in an agricultural country revolves round nurturing ecology, promoting biodiversity, maintaining pollinators, managing natural resources, improving crop productivity, **empowering farmers economically** and finally developing sustainable models using integrated farming systems, regenerative agriculture, organic farming in the line of present policy of the Government. That is what exactly being done, jointly by Tata Trusts, Gramin Development Services and Trust Community Livelihood in Uttar Pradesh and I am proud of being associated with such ground breaking Agricultural activities. The height of misguiding the Union Govt as well as Apex Court by stating that GM mustard will reduce the import of edible oil, that it is safe for the environment and human health, and is also safe for honeybees are worrying. It appears that policy makers have not been told about the irreversible threat to the environment, the farming community and public health from the release of GM mustard.

The fact remains, promotion of GM mustard in question is either at par or even lower yielding than present day normal hybrids. How come, India is likely to have self sufficiency in edible oil by cultivating GM mustard! Forget about other issues like irreversible threat to the environment, the farming community and public health from the release of GM mustard. The question: Do Indian farmers really need GM Mustard?

To answer it logically one has to examine the abiotic/biotic stress factors limiting mustard yields, the level of fluctuating production/productivity on yearly basis and finally how often the farmers are affected, economically. The facts and figures as available in public domain suggest that: The Global Rapeseeds-Mustard (R &M) output has almost become double from 36.0 million tonnes in 2001-02 to 70.0 million tonnes in 2013-14 and India contributed 11% of the total production ranking 4th largest producer in the world. Production trends over the past two decades indicated that there was a significant shift in production levels from about 5.0-6.0 million tonnes until 2002-03 to around 7.0-8.0 million tonnes during the past one decade. The jump in production was primarily on account of sharp

rise in yields besides significant expansion in area under R&M during the same period. The average productivity of R&M in India increased significantly from 850 kg/ha (2002-03) to the level of 1150 kg/ha (2012-13) which was unique among all oilseeds. This was possible due to excellent varietal developments through conventional breeding incorporating resistance/tolerance against frost, white rust, salinity, high temp., besides earliness, high oil and low erucic acid/glucosinolate. So, where is the pressing need to introduce GM Mustard, particularly when realizing higher productivity never posed much problem to farmers except under aberrant crop-weather condition? The ICAR/SAU and other NARS Scientists have successfully demonstrated the strength of good agronomic practices (GAP) that includes integrated pest management (IPM) technologies across major R&M growing states over years and showed the way to mop up additional 2.48 million tonnes of production annually with yield increase anywhere between 12-110% and appreciable cost benefit ratio (CBR). The average R&M productivity in the State like Gujarat has already touched around 1400 kg/ha. The problem in realizing much higher yields is the Zn deficiency that ranges from 21% (Rajasthan) to 60% (Haryana). A revolutionary increase in R&M production can be made simply by addressing micronutrient deficiencies, in the State namely Rajasthan which alone contributes 45% of the total production. Necessarily, the plea to introduce GM Mustard is certainly not in the interest of Indian farmers but to the best interest of influential business group backed by selected intellectuals. The hidden agenda could be to open the floodgate of GM in other food crops once the GM Mustard is approved!

Finally, the lobbyists for GM Mustard have not touched about consequences of direct uses of such mustard seeds in Indian curries as practiced widely; oil extracted in 'Kacchi Ghani' for original aroma/pungency and its traditional uses as massage oil to millions of babies in the countryside besides uses as bath oil in rural India. Apart from that, the consequences on the consumption of GM Mustard oil cake as feed and likely impact on fish, meat and milk are hardly known. India produces around 37.0 lakh tonnes mustard oil cake annually of which close to 28.0 lakh tonnes are consumed locally and 9.0 lakh tonnes are exported. No doubt, export of GM oil cake may be in jeopardy, particularly in European destinations. Thus, Indian interest is overshadowed while pushing GM Mustard backed by vested interest.



**ARICARE Member , Dr. M.S. Basu in Blooming Mustard plot**

### Commercial Release of GM Crops

Hon'ble Supreme Court Of India has said that the issue of genetically modified crops is a technical and Scientific matter and the Top Court will decide the plea against environmental release of GM Mustard, keeping in mind what is good for the country. It may be pertinent to mention that Government has approved only one GM crop Bt Cotton for commercial cultivation in 2002.

(Source : Millennium Post, Kolkata Edition, 19 Jan,2024.)

### Alarming Loss of Nutrients with a rise in Heavy Metals in Rice and Wheat

The Nutritional quality of Rice and Wheat , being the common Staples in Indian Households , has dipped alarmingly ( 19 to 33 %) over the past five decades with the rise in As , Ba , Cr , Sr and Al contents (37 to 1500%) ,as revealed by a study conducted at BCKV, Mohanpur , West Bengal

(Source : The Times of India , Kolkata Edition,25 Jan, 2024).

### Feeding the World's Livestock

In the realm of Global Agricultural trades, Oilmeal which is an important component of **livestock feed** , is an unsung hero. Oilmeal export from India saw a 103 % increase in value and an 83% increase in tonnage in 2022-23.

( Source: Economic Times, 06 Jan,2024).

### High Import Duties : Resisting Pressure to open Agri Sector Import

Maintaining high Import duties on sensitive Agri- Commodities and resisting pressure to open up the domestic sector to low tarrifs will be crucial for preserving India's self sufficiency and ensuring food security for its burgeoning population. India needs to cut its reliance on imported vegetable oils to promote better health outcomes and reduce import bill , according to report by Global Trade Research Initiatives ( GTRI).

( Source : Economic Times,01 Jan, 2024 ).

### Mission Millets

Millets are for all due to Chef's favourite , Farmers' choice ,Dietician recommends , Must-have for Women ,Cherished by Children and Elders Delight.

( Source : The Times of India , Kolkata Edition , 21 Jan, 2024).

### Indigenous Cattle

Cattle is the most prominent species of Indian Livestock with 36.04% share in Indian Livestock population. India possesses large repository of cattle genetic resource diversity with a population of 193.46 million as per 20th Livestock census, whereas Crossbred / exotic purebred cattle constitute around 51.36 million. The Annual milk yield in India in 2018-19 was 187.75 million tonnes (Mt), of which 48% is contributed by the cattle (**21% by the Indigenous cattle**). Annual yield per cow in India is 1642.9 kg against the global average of 2430.2 kg (FAO 2017). The per capita availability of milk is 394 g day-1 and Punjab is at the top with an average availability of more than 1100 g. Apart from milk, Indian cattle also contribute towards draft power (30.77 million bullocks), and production of bio-manure, fuel, medicines and leather. Considering the importance of Indian breeds, continuous efforts are being made by Govt. of India and ICAR for the genetic improvement of Indigenous cattle breeds through

various breed improvement programmes. In 2009, cattle genome was fully mapped.  
( Source : <https://icar.org.in/sites/default/files/2023-08/Gandhiji-and-ICAR-Oct-2020.pdf> )

### **Fish Breeding and Seed Production**

Successful induced breeding of the Indian major carps in 1957 is considered as a revolutionary technology that has transformed the entire aquaculture sector to a vibrant enterprise, followed by the development of a sequel of activities, namely different hatchery technologies and models, beginning from earthen pits to the latest circular eco-hatchery model, ampouling of pituitary extract, refinement of breeding protocol, use of synthetic inducing agents, better broodstock management techniques, etc. With recent trends of species diversification, more specialized hatchery systems have been developed for seed production on a commercial-scale for different species of minor carps & barbs, catfishes (magur, striped catfish, pabda), freshwater prawn, murrels, climbing perch, etc.  
(Source : <https://icar.org.in/sites/default/files/2023-08/Gandhiji-and-ICAR-Oct-2020.pdf>)

### **EL Nino Impact : A Signal for Scorching Summer across India**

Weather Experts have indicated a possibility of a Scorching Summer this year with a strong EL Nino currently underway. Conditions of EL Nino, being a naturally occurring climate pattern associated with warming the Ocean surface temperature in the Central and Eastern tropical Pacific Ocean , which may start weaking after February ,are still expected to continue till June, followed by ENSO neutral conditions ( No EL Nino of La Nina). Monsoon after El Nino year is likely to be stronger tah a normal rainy season. As per latest projections , 2024 could even be the warmest year Globally.  
(Source : Times of India, Kolkata Edition , 21 Jan, 2024)

### **Obituary**

We do express our deep condolences to the bereaved family for the demise of our members, Dr. Prasanta Kumar Ganguly, Former Principal Scientist, ICAR-NINFET, Kolkata and Dr. Abhindra Day, Former Principal Scientist , ICAR –NINFET, Kolkata on 07.10.2023 and 18.11.2023, respectively .They left behind an indelible mark in our memory with our prayer for eternal peace of the departed soul and revival of strength to their close ones. Om Shanti .



**Late Dr Prasant Kumar Ganguly**



**Late Dr. Abhindra Day**

