



त्रिलोचन महापात्र, पीएच.डी.

सचिव, एवं महानिदेशक

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Dear Colleagues,

GREETINGS for the New Year 2020! I wish you and your families a very happy, prosperous and fruitful year ahead.

Year 2019 has been yet another productive year for all of us by our collective efforts in all spheres of our activities, be it research, education or extension. More than 400 varieties of field and horticultural crops have been developed by ICAR during this year, which also include 20 biofortified varieties that stand testimony to our commitment to food and nutritional security of the country. Another important milestone is the gazette notification of all the 184 registered indigenous breeds of livestock and poultry. Taking advantage of the digital platforms, we launched AqGRISI (Aquatic Genetic Information System of India) covering different aspects of native fishes of India. Special focus was on animal health with the development of highly sensitive diagnostic methods for bluetongue virus, Japanese encephalitis and food-borne pathogens. Whole genome sequencing of highly valued *hilsa* fish is a milestone in our research endeavour.

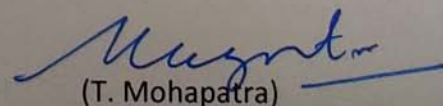
While we steer our efforts for doubling of farmers' income by enabling climate resilience, we did convene several rounds of meetings with line Ministries, States and other stakeholders for taking our technologies to the farmers in different agro-climatic zones. Significantly, our KVKs trained 17.98 lakh farmers and other stakeholders through 64,620 training programs. Recently, we did achieve to connect 3.36 lakh common service centres with the KVKs for enhanced farmers' outreach. Our Happy Seeder machine penetrated deeper with wider acceptance for direct seeding of wheat under rice straw mulch, thereby reducing active straw burning events by 52% compared to 2016. The country witnessed our successful mission when we rolled out the ICAR Tableau (Theme: Kisan Gandhi) for the second consecutive year in Rajpath, winning the Best Tableaux Award 2019.

National agricultural higher education project (NAHEP) was effectively implemented in 44 agricultural universities with 285 students mostly in gradation visiting centres of excellence abroad. DARE/ICAR hosted the International Statistics Conference during November 2019, which drew over 200 foreign delegates from more than 100 countries. We also organized an exclusive seminar on Climate Smart Farming System in December 2019 for the BIMSTEC countries. In order to strengthen our linkages, we did bond with national agencies such as CSIR, DBT, NABARD, and MANAGE, and with international organisations such as AVRDC and INBAR, through signing of MoUs. A world class Convention Centre with multi-conferencing facilities was inaugurated and put to use, enabling deliberations with thousands of farmers from various states.

I am sure, the year 2020 would drive us to new horizons, technologies and innovations in agricultural research to come up with momentous growth in Indian agriculture, serving thereby the Indian farmers with renewed commitment.

My best wishes for the New Year 2020. May you stay fit, happy and healthy!

Yours sincerely,


(T. Mohapatra)