



5. Organization and Management

DARE

The Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) was established in the Ministry of Agriculture in December, 1973. Subjects allotted to the DARE as per the Government of India (Allocation of Rules) are specified in Appendix I of DARE.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is an autonomous body under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education. The Secretary to the Government of India in the DARE functions as the Director-General of the ICAR. The Financial Adviser of the DARE is the Financial Adviser of the ICAR. Generally, single-file system is followed between DARE and ICAR.

The DARE has 11 Group A, 13 Group B, 14 Group C, and 6 Group D employees. The recruitment to the post in Group A, B, C is made centrally, either through the Department of Personnel and Training or through the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, depending on the level of the post. The DARE makes direct recruitment only to Group D posts. Such recruitments are being made in accordance with the orders of the Government of India regarding reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. Presently, DARE has 7 Scheduled Caste employees.

A detailed break-up of the posts and names of the important functionaries is given in Appendix II of DARE. The financial requirement (Grant No. 2) includes budget estimates (BE) and revised estimates (RE) of DARE and ICAR (Plan and Non-Plan) 2002-03, respectively. The detailed break-up of these financial figures is given in Appendix III of DARE.

ICAR

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is the apex organization at the national level for promoting Science and Technology Programmes in the agricultural research and education.

The ICAR was set up on the 16 July 1929 as the Registered Society under the Societies Registration Act 1860, on the recommendations of the Royal Commission of Agriculture. It was reorganized twice, in 1965 and 1973. The headquarters of the ICAR is located at the Krishi Bhavan, and its other buildings are Krishi Anusandhan Bhavans I and II, New Delhi.

The Minister for Agriculture is the President of the ICAR, and the State Minister for Agriculture is the Vice-

President. The principal executive officer of the ICAR is Director-General, who is also the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Agricultural Research and Education.

The General Body of the ICAR Society is the supreme authority of the ICAR, and the Minister for Agriculture, Central/State Governments representatives of India, heads it. The members for this are the Ministers for Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, and the senior officers of various state governments, representatives of Parliament, industries, educational institutes, scientific organizations, and farmers (Appendix 1).

The Governing Body (Appendix 2) is the chief executive and decision-making authority of the ICAR. It is headed by the Director-General. It consists of eminent agricultural scientists, educationists, legislators and representatives of the farmers. It is assisted by the Standing Finance Committee, Accreditation Board, Regional Committees, Policy Planning Committee, several Scientific Panels and Publications Committee. In the scientific matters, the Director-General is assisted by 8 Deputy Directors-General, one each for (i) Crop Science, (ii) Horticulture, (iii) Natural Resource Management, (iv) Agricultural Engineering, (v) Animal Sciences, (vi) Fisheries, (vii) Agricultural Education, and (viii) Agricultural Extension. The DDGs are responsible for the Institutes, National Research Centres and Project Directorates in their respective fields. The members for Standing Finance Committee are Director-General (ICAR), Secretary (Agriculture), Scientists, Senior Officers, Farmers, and Members of Parliament (Appendix 3). The senior officers posted at the ICAR (headquarters) are listed in Appendix 4 of the ICAR.

The ICAR receives funds from the Government of India and from the proceeds of the Agricultural Produce Cess.

The ICAR develops technologies and disseminates knowledge to farming community not only for increasing yields of crops and maintaining natural resources but also for elevating community's economic status.

The Directorate of Information and Publications of Agriculture is working independently with the approval of the competent authority and brings out 1 title on every third day.

The Research set-up of the ICAR includes 47 Central Institutes (Appendix 5), 5 National Bureaux (Appendix 6), 12 Project Directorates (Appendix 7), 32 National

Research Centres (Appendix 8), and 93 All-India Co-ordinated Research Projects (Appendix 9) are also in operation through the United States-India Fund.

The ICAR promotes research, education and extension education in 37 state agricultural universities, 5 deemed-to-be-Universities and 1 Central Agricultural University for the north-eastern hills region by giving financial assistance in different forms (Appendix 10).

For effective communication of research findings among farmers, the ICAR maintains an effective network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras, and Trainers' Training Centres along with Zonal Co-ordinating Units.

The total sanctioned as well as existing strength of the employees of the ICAR system, including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, is given in Appendix 11.

Thus with an extensive network of research infrastructure, backed by the excellent team of scientists, technicians and other employees, the ICAR is making rapid strides in agricultural research, and provides support to the national efforts towards achieving food security and self-sufficiency.

- A meeting was held to discuss the implementation/operationalization of recommendations on 9 September 2003 in the presence of Chairperson who is an Additional Secretary (DARE) and Secretary to the ICAR.
- Significant achievements have been made in the adjustment of outstanding advances, compliance of Audit Paras, Reconciliation of Bank Account and Maintenance of Assists Registers at the ICAR institutes.
- In DARE several activities, viz. Hindi translation of budget, Annual Reports, Hindi Workshops, meetings, reports, organizing Hindi *Pakhwada* were done for the progressive use of Hindi.
- In ICAR (headquarters) and institutes major break-through for the progressive use of Hindi includes workshops (3), *Rajbhasha Alok* (sixth issue), *Dharti 2001* of NBSS&LUP and *Shwet Swarnima* of CCRI, Nagpur which fetched award for their corresponding institutes; and many awards, viz. 'Munshi Prem Chand Award' for *Rajnigandha ki Mahak*, 'Indira Gandhi Official Language Award' etc. were given away.
- The ICAR's International Training Programme 2004 is also being brought out.
- Council has announced 44 awards in 12 different categories to honour 33 scientists and their 9 associates from our NARS, 4 extension workers, innovative farmers, innovative agricultural journalists, and 3 institutions for outstanding contribution in agriculture and allied sciences.
- Council has given financial assistance of Rs 3.430 million to 47 scientific societies for publication of journals; Rs 1.775 million to 11 societies and academic universities for holding National Seminars/Symposia/Conferences.
- The Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates of DARE and ICAR (Plan/Non-Plan) for 2002-03 are Rs 14,988.00 million and Rs 14,488.00 million, respectively, and Budget estimates for 2003-04 (Plan and Non-Plan) are Rs 15,109.2 million.
- The *Purchase Manual* is finalized and is in editing stage.

ADMINISTRATION

Recruitment rules: Recruitment rules for the post of Deputy-Director (OL)/UDCs/PAs/Stenographers were framed/revised.

Filling-up of vacant posts: A good number of vacant posts like Deputy Secretaries, Under Secretaries, Senior Administrative Officers, Senior Finance and Accounts Officers, Finance and Accounts Officers/Section Officers/Private Secretaries/UDCs/PAs and Group D posts were filled-up. One post of Section Officer and 18 posts of Assistants were also filled-up through Limited Departmental Competitive Examination.

Financial upgradation granted under ACP Scheme: As per the Government of India instructions financial upgradation was granted to many eligible employees in various grades during this period, viz. Section Officers/PAs/Assistants/UDCs/LDCs and Group D employees.

Meeting of the ICAR Headquarter's Staff Welfare Fund Committee was convened on 9 September 2003. As per the recommendations of the Committee financial assistance of Rs 20,000 each was extended to two employees of the Council on medical grounds.

Total 32 scholarships were awarded to the meritorious wards of the Council's employees under Staff Welfare Fund Scheme.

Probation/Confirmation: Cases of clearance of probation period of eligible Assistants/PAs have been done during the period.

POLICY AND PERSPECTIVE PLANNING

ICAR took a number of initiative constituting 'O and M Task force' under the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP). The important activities organized under O&M component and outcomes of recommendations include 'Operationalization of the recommendation of the sub-committee on Administrative Matters' (Mehta Committee of the ICAR) which has been finalized. To discuss the implementation/operationalization of recommendation a meeting was held on 9 September 2003 in the presence of Additional Secretary (DARE) and Secretary (ICAR). Almost recommendations were implemented in the ICAR system. All the concerned and Divisional Heads have been requested to take action for implementation of the recommendations.

Report of the ICAR Institute: The report of the Consultant was accepted. The recommendations of the report were sorted out and, with the approval of the Competent Authority sent to the concerned Heads of Subject Matter Division for necessary process and implementation.

Report of the Finance and Audit Budget and Procurement System: A meeting was held on 25 October 2003 in the presence of the Chairperson who is an



Gazetted posts sanctioned/filled/vacant in the ICAR as on 31.12.2003

Posts	Scale of Pay (Rs)	No. of posts sanctioned	Filled	Vacant	No. of SC	No. of ST	No. of OBC
Director(P)	Rs 14300-400-18300	01	01	–	–	–	–
Director(F)	Rs 14300-400-18300	02	02	–	–	–	–
Director(OL)	Rs 12000-375-16500	01	–	01	–	–	–
Dy. Secretary	Rs 12000-375-16500	09	09	–	01	01	–
Dy. Director(F)	Rs 12000-375-16500	02	02	–	–	–	–
Dy. Director(OL)	Rs 12000-375-16500	01	–	01	–	–	–
Under-Secretary	Rs 10000-325-15200	14	13	01	01	01	–
SA to Chairman, ASRB	Rs 10000-325-15200	01	01	–	–	–	–
Senior Finance & Accounts Officer	Rs 10000-325-15200	02	02	–	–	–	–
Legal Advisor	Rs 10000-325-15200	01	01	–	–	–	–
Finance & Accounts Officer	Rs 8000-275-13500	06	06	–	–	–	01
Asst. Legal Advisor	Rs 6500-200-10500	02	01	01	–	–	–
Assistant Director (OL)	Rs 6500-200-10500	02	02	–	–	–	–
Junior Analyst	Rs 6500-200-10500+ Spl. Allowances	02	01	01	–	–	–
Desk Officer	Rs 6500-200-10500	06	05	01	01	–	–
Protocol Officer	Rs 6500-10500	01	01	–	01	–	–
Asst. Finance & Accounts Officer	Rs 6500-10500	06	04	02	–	–	–
Section Officer	Rs 6500-200-10500	78	71	07	11	06	01
Private Secretary	Rs 6500-200-10500	30	30	–	04	–	–

Total number of employees and number of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes at ICAR Headquarters

Posts	Total no. of posts sanctioned	Total no. of employee in position	Total no. of SC among them	Percentage of total employees	Total no. of ST among them	Percentage of total employees	Total no. of OBC among them	Percentage of total employees	Remarks
Assistant	173	139	25	17.98%	10	7.19%	05	3.59%	–
PA (Gr.II)	56	47	06	12.76%	01	2.12%	03	6.38%	–
UDC	188	186	36	19.35%	09	4.83%	–	–	–
Steno Gr. III	53	40	06	15.00%	01	2.5%	–	–	–



On the occasion of World Food Day, Dr Daniel Gustafson, FAO Representative in India, read the message of DG, FAO on 16 October 2003. Others in picture are Shri P. Chaturvedi, representative from an NGO, Shri D. Gangrade, Vice-Chairman, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Shri R.C.A. Jain, Secretary (A&C) and Dr Savita Singh, Director of the Samiti.



The ICAR organized 'Hindi Chetna Mass' and on 25 November 2003 Prize Distribution Function was held in which prizes were awarded to winners of competitions



A 3-day conference of the Directors of the ICAR Institutes/Research Centres/Project Directorates and Chairmen of Research Advisory Committees, held during 29-31 July 2003



Shri Rajnath Singh, Agriculture Minister, presenting the Jagjivan Ram Kisan Puraskar 2002 to Shri Kushal Pal Sirohi, a farmer from Haryana



Total Number of employees at ICAR (HQ) including and number of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes

Posts	Total posts sanctioned	Total employees in position	Total scheduled castes among them	Percentage of total employees	Total scheduled tribes among them	Percentage of total employees	Total OBC	Percentage of total employees
Administrative Posts								
LDC	139	106	23	22%	3	3%	9	8%
Supporting staff								
Group C (non-ministerial) and Group D	198	134	48	36%	10	7%	9	7%
Supporting staff (Safaiwala)	15	14	14	100%	–	–	–	–

Budget estimates and revised estimates of DARE and ICAR

(Rs in million)

Items	Budget estimates 2002-03		Revised estimates 2002-03		Budget estimates 2003-04	
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
Major Head 3451						
090 Secretariat	–	10.5	–	10.5	–	12.0
Major Head 2415						
80 General						
798 International Co-operation						
(010032) India's membership contribution to Commonwealth	–	1.0	–	1.0	–	1.0
Agricultural Bureau International						
(020032) India's membership contribution to Consultative Group on International	5.0	34.3	5.0	34.3	5.0	35.8
Agricultural Research						
(030032) Other Programmes	–	1.0	–	1.0	–	1.0
(040032) India's contribution to Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Institution	–	0.5	–	0.5	–	0.5
(050032) India's contribution to NACA	–	0.1	–	0.1	–	0.1
(060032) India contribution to CGPRT	–	0.5	–	0.5	–	0.5
(070032) India contribution to Seed Testing Association	–	0.5	–	0.5	–	0.5
(080032) ISHS Belgium						

Additional Secretary (DARE) and Secretary (ICAR), and Financial Adviser (DARE) and it was decided that National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM) would further revise the report as discussed and suggested. The issue of *Purchase Manual* has already been finalized and it is under editing stage.

Senior Officers Committee (SOC Meeting): The forum of the SOC has been activated. The SOC meetings were held on the first Tuesday of every month. The feedback on various issues is obtained and decision were taken.

Significant achievements were made in the area of adjustment of outstanding advances, compliance of Audit Paras, Reconciliation of Bank Account and Maintenance of Asset Registers at ICAR Institutes.

PROGRESSIVE USE OF HINDI

DARE

The Department of Agricultural Research and Education has an Official Language Section for the compliance and implementation of the Official Language

Policy of the Government of India. It consists of one post each of Assistant Director (Official Language), and Junior Hindi translator and Hindi typist. Besides the Hindi Translation of the Budget, compilation and preparation of the Annual Report of the Department etc. also take place. The functioning of this Section also includes holding Hindi workshops, meetings, reports, organizing Hindi *Pakhwada* to encourage the employees for doing their official work in Hindi.

ICAR

The major achievements pertaining to the progressive use of Hindi in the ICAR for 2002-03 are enumerated here.

- During 2002-03 twelve Institutes/Centres of the Council were notified in the Gazette of the Government of India under Rule 10 (4) of the Official Language Rule 1976. Thus now there are 89 offices of the Council which have been notified in the Gazette of the Government of India.
- Joint Official Language Implementation Committee of DARE and ICAR working under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary, DARE/Secretary, ICAR met regularly. Similarly, Official Language Implementation Committees constituted at 94 Institutes/Centres etc. of the ICAR held their meetings regularly.
- Proceedings of the Official Language Implementation Committee meetings held by the Institutes etc. as well as the quarterly progress reports regarding the use of Official Language Hindi received from various institutes at the ICAR (Headquarters) were reviewed and remedial steps were suggested to overcome the shortcomings found in the proceedings and the reports.
- Rosters have been maintained for imparting training in Hindi, Hindi typing and Hindi Stenography and officials were accordingly deputed for training during the year. This year, 10 stenographers and 10 typists were nominated for Hindi Stenography and Typing, respectively.
- ICAR (Headquarters) and its institutes celebrated *Hindi Chetna Mass* from 14 September 2003 and organized various programmes and competitions during this month; and winners were awarded during the prize distribution function held on 25 November, 2003. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture issued a message on the occasion and DG, ICAR also issued an appeal requesting the officers/staff to do their maximum official work in Hindi.
- During 2003, Hindi workshops (3) were organized for officers/staff regularly.
- The cash awards were given to 9 officials at the headquarters for doing their maximum official work in Hindi during 2002-03.
- Under the 'Rajarsi Tandon Rajbhasha Purskar' scheme, launched in 1998-99, Indian Veterinary Research Institute (Izatnagar) received first prize,

Central Institute for Fisheries Education (Mumbai) received second prize under the category of large Institutes. Under Category of other Institutes, National Soybean Research Centre (Indore) received the first prize, and the Central Agricultural Research Institute (Port Blair) received the second prize while under the Category of 'C' region Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (Hyderabad) received first prize, and Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (Cochin) received second prize.

- In accordance with the recommendations made by the Department of Official Language and the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language, to assess the progressive use of Hindi at ICAR (Headquarters) as well as its institutes during 2003, offices were inspected and suggestions were given to improve the shortcoming. Second sub-committee of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language inspected 7 Institutes/Centres of the Council during this year.
- The *Rajbhasha Alok* (sixth issue) was published which covered the progress made in Hindi at the Council and its institutes. Other institutes of the Council also brought out Hindi publications.
- The ICAR (Headquarters) has bilingual computers and cent per cent work is being done in Hindi on some computers.
- The Council and its institutes organized regular training programmes for farmers in Hindi and in other regional languages and remarkable progress was made at Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the use of Hindi and in the other regional languages in their day-to-day official work.
- Town Official Language Implementation Committee (Nagpur) awarded National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur for *Dharti-2001*, its magazine in Hindi, and Central Cotton Research Institute, Nagpur for *Shwet Swarnima* with citation and consolation prize. Similarly, Town Official Language Implementation Committee (Jodhpur) was awarded Central Arid Zone Research Institute (Jodhpur) with Rolling Shield as a second winner for doing their maximum work in Hindi during 2001-02.
- Dr Kumudini Nautiyal [Assistant Director (OL)], Central Cotton Research Institute, Nagpur was awarded with 'Munshi Premchand Award' by Maharashtra State Hindi Sahitya Academy for her Hindi book *Rajnigandha Ki Mahak*. Similarly, Dr Satish Kaushik, Principal Scientist, Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur was awarded with 'Indira Gandhi Official Language Award' to be given by Department of Official Language for his book in Hindi. Central Institute Fisheries Education, Mumbai has included one new course '*Hindi Jalwani*' as a subject for the students of M.FSc. from this year onwards.
- Besides the material pertaining to Parliament, Annual



Plan, Annual Report, Review of demands for grants, General Body, Standing Finance Committee, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Annual General Meeting of the ICAR Society and many other meetings were prepared bilingual. The hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and other higher officials delivered their speeches in Hindi. The drafts of speeches of Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister, and other higher officials of the ICAR were prepared originally in Hindi also.

FINANCE AND AUDIT

The Budget Estimate (BE) and Revised Estimate (RE) of DARE and ICAR (Plan, Non-Plan) for 2002-03 are Rs 14,988.0 million, and Rs 14,488.0 million, respectively and BE for 2003-04 (Plan and Non-Plan) is Rs 15,109.2 million. The detailed break-up of these financial figures are given in Table 1.

The detail of Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) in respect of BE and RE for 2002-03 and BE for 2003-04 are given in Table 1. This excludes the payment to the ICAR.

ICAR AWARD CEREMONY, 2003

This year the Council has announced 44 awards in 12 different categories to honour 33 scientists and their 9 associates from our National Agricultural Research System, 4 extension workers, innovative farmers, agricultural journalists, and 3 institutions for their outstanding contribution in agriculture and allied sciences (Appendix 12).

Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri has been awarded 'Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institution Award' for region-specific agricultural research, education and extension, and Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod has received the award for its pioneering research in coconut, arecanut and cocoa.

The All-India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP) form an important component of our research system based on inter-institutional co-operation. The AICRP on Vegetable Crops, Varanasi has been selected for 'Choudhary Devi Lal Outstanding AICRP Award'. The improved varieties/hybrids and supporting production technologies developed have significantly contributed to make India a leading producer of vegetables at the global level.

The 'Jawaharlal Nehru Award' for outstanding doctoral thesis in agricultural research were given to 11 scientists. One of the 'Panjabrao Deshmukh Women Agricultural Scientist Award' has gone for developing reference standards of many pesticides and preparation of protocols and the other for development and popularization of synthetic twines as fishing gear materials for gill nets that revolutionized deep sea fishing in the country. The 'Vasant Rao Naik Award' for Research Applications in Dryland Agriculture has gone for outstanding research and

extension contribution in soil and water conservation and rainfed farming in the tribal dominant Eastern Ghats in Orissa.

The 'Lal Bahadur Shastri Young Scientist Awards' for the biennium 2001-02 have been given to five young scientists for their high quality research efforts in frontier areas of agriculture and allied sciences. 'The Hari Om Ashram Trust Awards' for 2001-02 have gone for development of salt-tolerant rice varieties and the low cost crop production technology for sodic soils; development of superfine grain aromatic rice hybrid and basmati rice varieties; developing suitable post-harvest technologies for citrus fruits; on conjunctive use of otherwise unusable highly saline and sodic waters for successful crop production, and development of a power-operated machine for the urea ammonization of crop residues.

The 'Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Awards' for 2001-02 have gone for commendable contributions in molecular characterization and evaluation of plant genetic resources; generation of systematic information on judicious use of mineral fertilizers integrated with organic sources; developing greenhouse enclosures with controlled environments for vegetable cultivation in the tropical conditions of north Indian plains; for development of several varieties and hybrids of vegetables along with screening techniques for disease resistance; developing practical and reliable immunodiagnosics and immunoprophylactics against important existing and emerging poultry diseases; developing technologies for rapid and precise diagnosis of several dreaded viral infections of livestock; diagnosis and vaccine development for poultry diseases; transgenesis and reconstitution of poultry species; and for pioneering work in fisheries biology, population dynamics, stock assessment and sustainability of several groups of marine fishes.

'Swami Sahajanand Saraswati Extension Scientist/Workers Awards' for 2001-02 have gone for development of inner potentialities of fruit growers to utilize the recommended practices for sound orchard management for better yield and higher income; innovative extension programme adopting improved methodologies for significant impact of dairying; refining and transferring the intensive aquaculture technology in the northern states and for developing appropriate and sustainable small-scale integrated aquaculture systems mobilizing local resources in Assam.

The 'Jagjivan Ram Kisan Puruskar' was awarded to distinguished farmer from village Chandana, District Kaithal of Haryana for his innovative farming practices that blend traditional and modern technologies to make agriculture a sustainable and higher income providing profession. The 'NG Ranga Farmer Award' for Diversified Agriculture was conferred on an innovative farmer of village Gomchi of district Raipur of Chattisgarh for his outstanding contribution in fruit and vegetable cultivation.

The Council has recognized the important role that the

Press plays between the research institutions and the public at large and farmers in particular and instituted 'Chaudhary Charan Singh Award' for excellence in journalism in agricultural research and development. The recipients of the award this year have made valuable contribution towards information dissemination and transfer of improved technologies and also for writing analytical articles on agriculture and rural development covering policy issues and issues relating to WTO and GATT.

Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, gave away the ICAR Awards to the scientists/ research scholars/journalists etc.

TECHNICAL CO-ORDINATION

Financial support to scientific societies: With the approval of the Standing Committee, financial assistance of Rs 3.430 million was provided to 47 scientific societies for publication of journals; Rs 1.775 million to 11 societies and academic universities for holding National Seminars/Symposia/Conferences.

Publication of DARE/ICAR Annual Report 2003-04 and Highlights of Achievements of A.P. Cess Fund Supported Schemes: Manuscripts pertaining to *DARE/ICAR Annual Report 2003-04 and Highlights of Achievements of A.P. Cess Fund Supported Schemes* were co-ordinated between the corresponding Heads of Subject Matter Divisions, and the Directorate of Information and Publications of Agriculture.

Monthly summary: Compiled monthly summary on major breakthroughs of exports, import, research and other related matters of all the Institutes/Project Directorates and was submitted to Cabinet, Government of India, and other related departments.

Support to DSIR: Evaluated, processed and provided comments on various proposals submitted by the private and public funded organizations related to agriculture for recognition of their Research and Development Units to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Government of India.

Best Annual Report Awards: Applications for the 'Best Annual Report Awards' for 2001-02 to the ICAR Institutes were processed.

ICAR's International Training Programme: Material for 'ICAR's International Training Programme 2004' was collected from all the ICAR Institutes and State Agricultural Universities and compiled. Co-ordination is being done with the Directorate of Information and Publications of Agriculture for its publication.

Technical backstopping: Provided technical input like co-ordination and preparation of Memoranda of Understandings and Work Plans, preparation of technical briefs, attending to related queries and monitoring deputation reports.

Parliament questions, VIP references and material for papers/talks/replies and preparation of technical notes: Collected and compiled information for reply of Parliament questions and VIP references, and prepared papers/talks/replies and technical notes on various issues which concerned more than one Subject Matter Division of the ICAR.

Regional committee meeting: To review the status of agricultural research, extension and education in the respective regions and to identify the action points and strategies for the next 2 years, meeting of the Regional Committee No. 2 comprising Assam and West Bengal; Regional Committee No. 5 comprising Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Chattisgarh; Regional Committee No. 6 comprising Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Union Territory of Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu; Regional Committee No. 7 comprising Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Goa; and Regional Committee No. 8 comprising Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Union Territories of Pondicherry and Lakshadweep were convened.

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