

Director's New Year message



I wish you and your families a very happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year. I wish that year 2008 brings more happiness, joy and prosperity for you and your families. Celebrating New Year is an occasion to retrospect our performance and plan for the future. On

the New Year Day, we need to go beyond extending greetings and best wishes among friends and relatives. We need to draw lessons from our past to make a better personal and professional life. I hope you do it and set new targets and goals for growing professionally and making a happy family life.

You are aware that our activities are expanding both vertically and horizontally. This can not be undertaken by one or few staff members. All of you are responsible for such an accomplishment. I wish to thank each and every one of you for your great contribution (in your own way) in taking NCAP to new heights. I also take this opportunity to thank your families for their understanding and contributing in meeting our common objectives.

I am happy that the Center is emerging as a strong team. I can see enthusiasm and zeal in every one of you to contribute more and better than the past. I assure you for my full cooperation in accomplishing NCAP's vision and achieving your goals.

On the eve of New Year, I would like to reiterate for enhancing your productivity in your own area. You must excel in your own fields and play a leadership role. I repeat that 'successful people do not do different things, they do things differently'. Therefore, your every action should be such that it makes an indelible mark on your stakeholders. Work on your strengths and alleviate weaknesses by taking help from friends and colleagues. You also need to combine your intelligence and knowledge for action and quality outputs.

Finally, I wish you always smile and keep others happy.

P K Joshi

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Linking smallholder livestock producers to markets: issues and approaches

Dairying in India is concentrated among small landholders. They comprise 77 per cent of the total dairy producers and contribute 70 per cent to the total milk production. However, the scale of production of a majority of them is too small to generate sufficient surpluses for the market, and have easy

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access to markets due to high marketing and transaction costs. Nonetheless, with unfolding of market liberalization and globalization the agri-food marketing system is under transition, from the traditional systems dominated by adhoc transactions towards coordinated systems such as cooperatives and contract farming. The new marketing systems reduce marketing and transaction costs and are beneficial to the producers, and need to be scaled up.

Income diversification among farm households

Raising farmers' income has emerged as a major concern in recent discussions on agricultural and rural development policy. A study was undertaken to look into the potential of different income sources in raising farmers' income and their impact on income distribution and social welfare. The results indicate that although agriculture is the main income source for farm households, the income portfolio of farm households is quite diversified. Non-farm sources account for closer to half of their total income, and are more important to the households at lower end of land distribution. Their effects on income distribution and social welfare are mixed. Wage income is concentrated among small landholders and has a strong equalizing effect on income distribution, while non-farm business income has an unequalizing effect due to its concentration among a small proportion of households. The study concludes that diversification of rural economy towards non-farm activities has potential to augment incomes of the farm households, provided they are facilitated to overcome some of the barriers to their entry into non-farm sector.

Role of government in agricultural insurance

If crop insurance is to be successful, it requires public support. This could be done by first, providing information on weather patterns and historical crop yields. Second, by meeting the costs of the research needed before any agricultural insurance programme can be started. Third, by subsidy on premium, meeting part of administrative expenditure, and reinsurance etc. Global experiences show that due to special nature of agriculture production, in several countries, premiums payable by farmers is subsidized by government. Subsidy on insurance premium in the recent years was estimated to be 60% in USA, 70% in Canada, 50-60% in Philippines and 58% in Spain. In case farmers are asked to pay full premium themselves then chances of adoption of insurance are bleak. There is a need for some subsidisation by government.

Classifying technology savvy farmers using decision tree

A study involving identification of farmers' households adopting pesticides, insecticides and fungicides for crop protection was done using NSSO 54th round. Method of induction of decision tree using Artificial Intelligence was employed for discovering the model for classification. It has been observed in the resulting model that adoption of pesticides for crop protection is dependent on the type of crop, use of weedicide and use of fertilizers. For paddy, the pesticides are unconditionally adopted by the farmers while for vegetables the adoption depends on the availability and adoption of fertilizers for the crop.

PUBLICATIONS

Research Papers

Birthal PS and PK Joshi. 2007. Smallholder farmers' access to markets for high-value agricultural commodities in India. In: Pinstруп-Anderson, P., Fuzhi, Cheng, S. E. Frandsen, Arie Kuyvenhoven and Joachim von Braun (eds): *Food Policy for Developing Countries: The Role of Government in Global, National and Local Food Systems*. Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Kumar, Anjani, Dhiraj K. Singh and Prabhat Kumar. 2007. Performance of Rural Credit and Factors Affecting the Choice of Credit Sources. *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 62(3): 297-313.

Kumar, Anjani, Steven J. Stall, N. P. Singh and Dhiraj K. Singh. 2007. Livestock Sector Trade of India: Surging Momentum in the New Liberalised Regime. *Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 62(3): 395-410.

Kumar, Anjani, Steven J. Staal, K. Elumalai and Dhiraj K. Singh. 2007. Livestock Sector in North-Eastern Region of India: An Appraisal of

Performance. *Agricultural Economics Research Review*, 20(2):255-72.

Singh, Harbir. 2007. Reorientation of agricultural research for addressing food security issues through agricultural biotechnology, *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, Vol. 9, No.3: 83-93.

Jain, Rajni. 2007. Approximate core based RDT model for classifying technology savvy farmers. In: Bhanu Prasad (ed.) *Proceedings of 3rd Indian International Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, USA: IICAI, 1669-1683.

Jain, Rajni and Sona Minz. 2007. Intelligent data analysis for identifying rich: The rough set way. In: S Minz, D K Lobiyal (eds.) *Methods and Models in Computing*. New Delhi: Allied Publishers Pvt. Ltd.117-130.

Raju, S S and Ramesh Chand. 2007. Agricultural insurance in India: problems and prospects. In: Prasad BVS and Suchitra Mohanty(eds). *Agricultural risks management—challenges and strategies*. Hyderabad : ICFAI University Press 143-161.

Popular Articles

Joshi, P K. 2007. Technology provide a sustainable higher growth rate in agriculture. The Monday Interview; The Financial Express,

Paper Presented

Presentations in Conferences/ Workshops/ Symposia

'Linking smallholder livestock producers to markets: Issues and approaches' in the 67th annual conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics at Bankers Institute of Rural Development, Lucknow (India), 5-7 November 2007. (P S Birthal)

PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOP/ SEMINAR /SYMPOSIUM

NCDEX Institutes of Commodity Markets and Research Launch Workshop, India International Centre, New Delhi, 10 October 2007. (S S Raju)

World Food Day Celebrations 2007, NASC, New Delhi, 16 October 2007. (NCAP Scientists)

Brainstorming workshop on "Networking for agricultural economics and policy research", organized by NCAP and UAS at Dharwad, 24 October 2007. (PK Joshi, Suresh Pal, Harbir Singh and Rashi Mittal)

XV Annual conference of the Agricultural Economics Research Association on "Agribusiness opportunities: requirements and roadmaps" at UAS, Dharwad, 25-26 October 2007. (P K Joshi, Suresh Pal, Harbir Singh and Rashi Mittal)

Second I.G. Patel Lecture on "Economics of Climate Change", British Council, New Delhi, 26 October 2007. (S S Raju)

Conference on "India and Japan in the globalised economy" ICRIER at hotel Shangri-La, New Delhi, 4 December 2007. (P Shinoj)

National conference on "Methods and models in computing", Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi 13-14 December 2007. (Rajni Jain)

Inception Workshop on "FAO Regional Programme on Pro-poor Policy Formulation Dialogue and Implementation at the Country Level" NCAP, New Delhi, 14-15 December 2007. (NCAP Scientists)

Third Indian International Conference on "Artificial intelligence", National Insurance Academy, Pune, 17-19 December 2007. (Rajni Jain)

National seminar on "Appropriate extension strategies for management of rural resources", UAS, Dharwad, 18-20 December 2007. (P Adhiguru)

South Asian Conference on "Harnessing gains from trade: domestic challenges and beyond" organised by CENTAD at hotel Claridges, 20 December 2007. (P. Shinoj)

LECTURES DELIVERED

Priorities in Computer Applications in Agricultural Research. In: XV National Conference of Agricultural Research Statisticians, Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi, 4 December 2007. (Rajni Jain)

Gravity Model of Trade: Theory and Applications. In: Winter school on Recent Advances in Quantitative Techniques, IASRI, New Delhi. 10 December 2007. (P Shinoj)

Shared FOCARS experience at the Inauguration ceremony of 82nd Foundation Course for Agricultural Research Service (FOCARS) at NAARM, Hyderabad. 7 January 2008. (P Shinoj)

VISITS ABROAD

FAO, Bangkok, Thailand to identify key issues and countries of interest for policy analytical work and for policy networking during 23 September to 6 October 2007. (Ramesh Chand)

SAC, Dhaka, Bangladesh to attend the first SAARC Governing Board Meeting & Selection Committee Meeting during 4 – 8 November 2007. (P K Joshi)

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Sonia Chauhan attended a training programme on "Senior Certificate Course in Agricultural Statistics and Computing" organized by Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi during 3 July to 29 December 2007.

PERSONNEL

Awards/Recognitions

Ramesh Chand, ICAR National Professor was inducted as NAAS Fellow; and Anjani Kumar, Senior Scientist as Associate Fellow of NAAS. NCAP staff congratulate to both of them.

P K Joshi, Laxmi Tewari and PS Birthal: Awarded RT Doshi Prize by the Agricultural Economics Research Association (India) for their paper "Diversification towards High-Value Crops and Its Impact on Smallholders" published in the Agricultural Economics Research Review, Vol. 19, July-December 2006.

P S Birthal and Anjani Kumar served as rapporteur for the session on "Trading in Livestock and livestock products" in the 67th annual conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics at Bankers Institute of Rural Development, Lucknow (India), November 5-7, 2007.

New Joining

Dr P Shinoj joined as Scientist with effect from 20 October 2007.

Dr Shiv Kumar joined as Senior Scientist with effect from 8 November 2007.

Dr Smita Sirohi joined as Principal Scientist with effect from 20 December 2007.

POLICY ADVOCACY

Networking for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research in NARS

NCAP in collaboration with University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad organized a Brainstorming Workshop on "Networking for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research" on 24 October 2007. The primary objective of the workshop was to evolve a networking framework for enhancing impact of agricultural economics and policy research in the NARS. Eminent policy advisors and research managers from NARS deliberated on:

(a). identification of priorities for agricultural economics and policy research, (b). HRD need assessment for enhancing impact, and (c). modalities for networking mode of agricultural economics and policy research.

Development of national and regional networks, 'matrix of network research', capacity development for application of quantitative methods and policy communication, and resource sharing are some of the major recommendations. About 50 participants from ICAR and SAUs, including policy makers and research managers attended the workshop.

Pro-poor Policy Formulation Dialogue

An international seminar on 'pro-poor policy formulation dialogue' was organized jointly by the

NCAP, and Agricultural Economics Research Association (India), on 14-15 December 2007, at New Delhi. The seminar was sponsored by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of United Nations (Rome) and Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. Eminent personalities, policymakers and researchers participated and provided valuable inputs.

Dr. Mangala Rai, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, in his inaugural address emphasized that the road map should be evolved on holistic approach rather than piecemeal approach.

The seminar evolved and re-emphasized that development of agriculture continues to be important for containing poverty. Therefore, multi pronged strategy is needed to enhance entitlement and access through innovative methods to promote rural non-farm enterprises. The need for measurement of poverty from different angles and infrastructure is emphasized for better understanding the growth in agriculture and development dynamics in rural areas. There is a need to have comprehensive policy review of infrastructure with pro-poor orientation including ICT coverage of required scale.



DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Dr. N. S. Johda, Senior Consultant, ICAMOD, Nepal visited the Centre on 5 October 2007 and made a presentation on "Hill and Mountain Agriculture".

ARIS

NCAP Website Access

NCAP website was updated more than 20 times during the quarter. Browsing of NCAP website for accessing relevant information has shown a growing trend in the year 2007 (Table 1). During the year, the site was viewed by more than 50,000 different visitors in 119 countries as compared to nearly 23,000 different visitors in the year 2006.

Table 1: Year-wise performance comparison of NCAP website.

Website Parameters	2006	2007
Total sessions	47,248	1,52,037
Total hits	3,98,805	9,02,513
Total Different pages viewed	67,523	1,69,207
Total different visitors	22,957	51,186
Average visitors at one moment	0.27	0.71

The effect has been observed on the access to the Centre's publications namely Policy Papers, Policy Briefs, PME Notes, Workshop Proceedings and Annual Reports through the website. The publications have been fetched 3-4 times more in the year 2007 as compared to the year 2006 (Table 2).

Table 2: Yearly growth in access to NCAP publications

Publication	2006	2007	% Increase
Policy Paper	3766	14750	292
Policy Brief	3706	10513	184
PME Notes	1189	4030	239
Working Paper	7398	19293	161
Annual Report	2933	10449	256

HINDI NEWS

A training program on "Computerization of Rajbhasha using MS-Office" was organized by ARIS and Hindi Committee at ARIS lab for the benefit of the in-house staff. The training was well received by the participants as evident by their overwhelming response during the practical session. The training will be useful to promote the use of Hindi at the Centre. Besides, a new Hindi word is written daily for use by all to increase familiarity with the Rajbhasha.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Inception Workshop on NFDB sponsored Research Study on 'Exploring Market Opportunities for Fisheries Sector in India' on 3rd January, 2008.
- Fourth Meeting of the Technical Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (TCARD), on January 8-9, 2008.
- Stakeholders' Workshop on 'Basic and Strategic Research in Social Sciences' on January 28-29, 2008.
- National Workshop on 'Impact Assessment of New Agricultural Technologies', on January 30-31, 2008.
- Consultation Workshop on 'Accelerating Agricultural Growth in India' on 9 February 2008 (NCAP, FAO, MOA and AERA).