

Independence Day message from the Director

Dear Colleagues:



I extend my heartiest greetings to all of you on the eve of our Independence Day. This day reminds us the strong determination and unparalleled sacrifice of our freedom fighters. The independent movement was led by none other than Mahatma Gandhi, who in his own unique way forced British Empire to leave this country. A large

section of population, irrespective of caste, religion, region, sex and age, followed him and offered their lives for an independent India. We must remember and pay our homage to all of them.

On this sacrosanct day, we must commit ourselves towards our own profession, so as to realize the dreams of those who sacrificed their lives for our great country. Our little effort will contribute in a big way to this great country. We have wonderful opportunity to provide policy options for the welfare of poor, deprived and marginalized agrarian population. I am sure that you are clear in your vision and goal. It will help you to be more focused and target oriented in addressing many of the emerging agrarian problems.

I am very well convinced that we have the best talent in NCAP. All of you are expert and specialize in your own areas. Specialization in diversity is the strength of any organization. Diversity of talent and thought adds flavor to life and opens the way for teamwork and synergy. You will agree with me that we have diversity of talent and specialization. We must harness this opportunity for the growth of the Centre.

I am delighted that there is considerable demand for NCAP and its staff. I feel proud and elevated when NCAP scientists and other staff members are overwhelmingly recognized by national and international organizations. Our scientists and other staff members are getting invaluable recognition and awards at various forums. We got a number of research and capacity strengthening projects from important organizations such as NAIP, NFDB, NAFED, NABARD, the World Bank, FAO and a few CGIAR centers. There are many proposals in the pipeline from other reputed organizations for our active participations. Such a great demand for our participation in various national and international programs is the outcome of your serious and concerted efforts. Our sustained and accelerated growth would rely on how individually and collectively, all of you quickly and sincerely respond to new challenges and opportunities.

I am trying to provide you the best facilities and create unique academic environment to accomplish your professional goals and center's mission. Though we have reasonably good facilities, there may be some deficiencies on my part to meet your expectations. Under such a circumstance please recall an ancient Persian saying that is worth quoting as, "I wept because I had no shoes, until I

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saw a man who had no feet". You will agree with me that there are many institutions which have limited facilities than we have. I urge upon all of you to make best use of the existing facilities and help me to create better academic environment and services.

Dear friends, we need to develop a different culture, which is unique and innovative. Your invaluable contribution in this endeavor would strengthen NCAP and its programs. For this I remind you that we need to do things differently. Make all possible efforts to grow on your strengths and overcome weaknesses by harnessing synergies.

Finally, as usual, I would like to see a smiling NCAP. On this I would like to quote Denis Waitley, "a smile is the light in your window that tells others that there is a caring and sharing person inside". There is another quote on smile by George Eliot, which states, "wear a smile and have friends; wear a scowl and have wrinkles".

Lastly, but not the least, I would like to thank you very much for all your efforts and contribution, in your own way, for extending your invaluable cooperation in taking NCAP to new heights.

P K Joshi

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Status of Compliance with Food Safety Measures

A study on compliance with food safety measures has shown that the compliance with food safety measures at dairy farm level has not been encouraging and lot of efforts are needed to bridge this gap. The drivers for ensuring greater compliance with food safety measures have been identified. The

higher price incentives along with greater awareness and skills upgradation are the keys for improvement in the compliance with food safety measures at farm level. Encouragement of vertical integration particularly with formal organizations will also improve the compliance status of food safety measures. The cost of compliance may erode the competitiveness of dairy farmers if not duly compensated with the incentives in terms of higher producer price. However, the positive and significant relationship between food safety status and producer price brings a ray of hope for greater compliance with food safety measures at the farm level. The technological and policy intervention may further hasten the speed of compliance at farm level, which is crucial for ensuring quality and safety of the produce at the end chain.

Global Food Crisis: Causes, Severity and Outlook

Global food prices have witnessed unprecedented surge after mid 2007. The main factors for escalation in food prices are found to be (a) increase in price of crude oil, (b) supplies not keeping pace with demand for many years and (c) diversion of grains for bio-fuels production. Shift in dietary pattern towards meat products particularly in China and population growth in India and in other countries are also contributing to surge in prices of staple food. Precautionary measures like export, bans and rationing in various countries exacerbate the price increase. Global cereal harvest is forecasted to increase by more than 3.8 per cent in 2008-09 and this has already started showing some impact but there are no signs of prices reverting back to pre 2007 trend. Long term trends indicate high and rising prices in future. High food prices are seen as an opportunity in some quarters to improve income of farmers and to stimulate food production. Such increase in production is contingent upon high prices, population. Therefore, to deal with the harsh reality of high food prices and its effects on poverty, and nutrition, global community has to work out coping up strategy.

Fertilizer Growth, Imbalances and Subsidies

Imbalance in fertilizer use, accompanied by serious slowdown after 1991-92 and growth and structure of fertilizer subsidies are the major concerns of fertilizer sector in the country. Empirical evidence shows that imbalance in use of N, P and K has persisted for a long time at country level and it shows different patterns at state level. Prices of all the three major fertilizers relative to price index of crop sector followed a big decline during 1983-84 to 1990-91. There was no significant decline in real prices of fertiliser after this. Subsidies on fertiliser have shown very steep increase in the recent years but this has not helped in raising domestic production of fertilizer. Among states, fertiliser subsidy per hectare of net cultivated area varies in the range of Rs. 393 in Rajasthan to Rs. 3167 in Punjab. Fertiliser subsidy as

per cent of value of crop output show that Punjab and Haryana receives highest benefit from fertiliser subsidy closely followed by Andhra Pradesh. Share of imported fertiliser in total fertiliser consumption in the country in the recent years mainly on account of increase in import of urea has risen sharply. These imports are turning costlier than domestic production. It is thus important to expand domestic production and to improve pricing environment for fertiliser to attract investments in fertiliser production.

PUBLICATIONS

Research Papers

Chand, Ramesh. 2008. The Global food crisis: causes, severity and outlook, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 43(26-27):115-122.

Chand, Ramesh and S S Raju. 2008. Instability in Andhra Pradesh agriculture – A disaggregate analysis. *Agricultural Economics Research Review*, 21(2):283-288.

Kumar, Sarvesh and Smita Sirohi. 2008. Economic performance of emerging private sector in Indian dairy industry: evidence from farm level data. *Finance India*. 22 (2): 467-486.

Upadhyaya, Shuchita, Alka Arora and Rajni Jain. 2008. Deriving cluster knowledge using rough set theory, *Journal of Theoretical and Applied Information Technology*, 4(8):688-696.

Research Reports/ Working Papers

Chand, Ramesh. 2008. *India's agricultural challenges and their implications for growth of its economy*. In: "Economic Integration in Asia and India", Edited by Masahisa Fujita. Palgrave MacMillan, New York, 145-171.

Chand, Ramesh. 2008. *Domestic policy measures and challenges in Indian agriculture*, In: Reforming Indian Agriculture: Essays in Honour of G. K. Chadha, Edited by Shankar Kumar Bhaumik, Sage Publications, New Delhi, 42-66.

Papers Presented in Conferences/ Seminars

An overview of Indian agriculture and WTO. In: Training programme on strengthening skills on commercial and economic diplomacy, organized by CUTS International, Jaipur, 16-19 July 2008 (Ramesh Chand).

Sustainable livestock production index: development lessons from inter-zonal variations in drought prone Rajasthan. In: International livestock and dairy expo 2008, Pragati Maidan, 22-24 August 2008 (Prem Chand and Smita Sirohi).

Driving forces in agriculture: uncertainties and opportunities in hill region. In: Workshop on exploring

future of Indian agriculture for strategic planning on NCAP, New Delhi, 1-2 September 2008 (Ramesh Chand).

Economic, social and ecological dimensions of sustainable dairy farming in India. In: 14th Annual international sustainable development research conference, India Habitat Centre, 21-23 September 2008 (Prem Chand and Smita Sirohi).

Current state of WTO negotiations on agreement of agriculture: implications for India. In: Conference on the future of Indian agriculture: technology and institutions, organized by Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, 23-24 September 2008 (Ramesh Chand).

Status and cost of compliance of food safety measures in milk production at farm-level. In: First annual conference of the Indian society of agribusiness management at GKVK, UAS, Bangalore, 25-27 September, 2008 (Anjani Kumar, Iain A Wright and Dhiraj K Singh).

PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES/ SEMINARS

Workshop on exploring alternative futures for agricultural knowledge, science and technology, organized by NCAER and IFPRI, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 1 July 2008 (Ramesh Chand).

Seminar on global food crisis and its implications for India at University of Hyderabad, 14 July 2008 (Ramesh Chand).

Seminar on formulating integrated energy policy: importance of technology, NISTADS, 15 July 2008 (M B Dastagiri).

Seminar on export potentials of horticultural products in the US and EU, India Habitat Center, TERI, 22 July 2008 (M B Dastagiri).

Workshop on modern open-source intermediaries in agricultural markets, IFPRI, NASC Complex, New Delhi, 20 August 2008 (Ramesh Chand).

International livestock and dairy expo 2008, Pragati Maidan, 22-24 August 2008 (Smita Sirohi).

Workshop on exploring future of Indian agriculture for strategic planning, NCAP, New Delhi, 1-2 September 2008 (All NCAP Scientists).

International seminar on national rural employment guarantee scheme in India: impact and implementation experiences organized by Institute of Human Development, India International Centre, 16-17 September 2008 (Smita Sirohi).

Consultation meeting on operationalisation of SAARC milk grid, Kolkatta, 17-18 September 2008 (Anjani Kumar and P K Joshi).

Workshop on climate change and Indian livestock, NDRI, Karnal, 20-21 September 2008 (Smita Sirohi).

14th Annual international sustainable development research conference, India Habitat Centre, 21-23 September 2008 (Smita Sirohi).

Workshop on writing of winning proposals under Component-II of NAIP, NAARM, Hyderabad, 26-27 September 2008 (Ramesh Chand).

Launching program on the 2008 global hunger index. In: IFPRI, NASC Complex, New Delhi, 14 October 2008 (M B Dastagiri).

Seminar on high food prices and development challenges in India, jointly-organized by Oxfarm India, Centre for Trade and Development and NACDOR, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 16 October 2008 (M B Dastagiri).

LECTURES DELIVERED

Intellectual property rights in Indian agriculture context. In: Training programme on world trade agreement and its implications on Indian agriculture, organized by MANAGE, Hyderabad and SAMETI, Shimla at Mashobra, 18 August 2008 (Smita Sirohi).

Bridging the gender gap through ICT, In: Training program on gender issues and employment in agriculture, IARI, New Delhi, 1 September 2008 (P Adhiguru).

Global food prices and its implication for India and challenges and prospects of agricultural growth in XI Plan, In: 37th Refresher course in economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 2 September 2008 (Ramesh Chand).

India's agricultural challenges and prospects of achieving 4 per cent agriculture growth in XI Plan, In: XXIX batch IES probationers training, Institute of Economic Growth, 15 September 2008 (Ramesh Chand).

TV TALKS

Rain gain, Public Forum, Lok Sabha TV, 28 August 2008 (P K Joshi).

Food security: sansand se sarak tak (recorded, Lok Sabha TV, 28 August 2008 (P K Joshi).

VISITS ABROAD

7th Asia Pacific Policy Forum at Seoul, Republic of Korea, 9-11 September 2008 (Ramesh Chand).

Regional Consultation on the IFAD Rural Poverty Report 2009, Manila, Philippines during 22-24 July 2008 (P K Joshi).

NEW INITIATIVES

Smallholders in Indian agriculture: past, current status and future (P A Lakshmi Prasanna, Rajni Jain, P. Adhiguru and Shiv Kumar).

Infrastructural development for agricultural growth and poverty alleviation (Smita Sirohi).

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Trainings Organized

Training on WTO issues, Codex standards and SPS measures: Implications for agricultural producers and exporters. UAS Bangalore, 1-2 July 2008; CSAU&T, Kanpur, 8-9 July, 2008; Drishti (NGO), Thrissur, Kerala, 22-23 July, 2008; ICAR Research complex for NEH region, Barapani, 29-30 July, 2008; NIAM, Jaipur, 21-22 August, 2008 (Anjani Kumar and P Shinoj).

V-PAGE training programme on agricultural policy research jointly organized by NCAP and Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, 15-20 September 2008 (Suresh Pal).



Training attended

V-PAGE training programme on agricultural policy research jointly organized by NCAP and Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, 15-20 September 2008 (P A Laxmi Prasanna, Harbir Singh, Shiv Kumar and P Shinoj).

PERSONNEL

Awards/Recognitions

Nominated as a member of the Apex Committee on technology Vision 2020 of the Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council, New Delhi (P K Joshi).

Panel member in the conference on future of Indian agriculture: technology and institution, Institute of Economic Growth, 24 September 2008 (P K Joshi).

POLICY ADVOCACY

V-PAGE Workshop on Exploring Future of Indian Agriculture for Strategic Planning

The NCAP organized a workshop on 1-2 September 2008 to explore the future of Indian agriculture by means of scenario planning. Four scenarios viz., in the valley, along the edge, over the mountains and through the hills were developed for Indian agriculture in 2030.

These scenarios were presented and discussed in detail. The participants came up with some broad sketches of the scenarios and it was suggested to improve them further, and therefore teams for rainfed, hill and dairy sector were constituted and work plan for next six months was lined up.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

EPMR Panel members from International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, Patancheru, Andhra Pradesh, 26 August 2008.

HINDI PAKHWARA

Rajbhasha Samiti organized a workshop on 25 August 2008 on *Badhati mahngaai ki samasya: karan avam nivanan*.

The official language committee of NCAP organized a series of events to celebrate "Hindi Pakhwara" in September 2008 to create awareness among the staff about use of Hindi. Essay writing (*Prakritik apdao ka krishi par prabhav and arthik vikas ke nam par prakritik sansadhamo ka atyadhik dohan*). Competition programme on objective type general awareness in Rajbhasha, poem recitation, debates on Indo-US nuclear deal: boon or bane to India, dictation of administrative word in Hindi were organized. The participation was overwhelming.



The poem recitation and prize distribution function was chaired by Dr P K Joshi, Director NCAP. Dr T P Trivedi, Director, Directorate of Agricultural Information and Publication, ICAR, New Delhi was the chief guest. Dr Ranjana Agrawal and Dr A K Vashisht, Principal Scientists, IASRI, New Delhi were the judges to decide the winners. The prizes were distributed to the winners by the chief guest.

NCAP WEBSITE

In the quarter July-September 2008, NCAP website was updated on an average twice in a week. In this quarter, average hits per session increased remarkably by more than 360 per cent (Table 1). Browsing of NCAP e-news has gone up by 123 per cent. The performance of the website shows upward trends in viewership of different pages (16.3 %) and also in total number of hits (1.22 %).

Table 1: Comparison of some important parameters for accessing NCAP Website

Parameter	Apr-Jun 08	Jul-Sep 08	% increase
E-news	284	633	123
Total Hits	275491	278866	1
Average Hits per session	2.15	9.90	360
Total different page viewed	40007	46452	16

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Special session of the technical committee on agriculture and rural development, NASC Complex, New Delhi, 3 November 2008
- Senior official meeting, NASC Complex, New Delhi, 4 November 2008
- Extraordinary meeting of SAARC agriculture ministers, NASC Complex, New Delhi, 5 November 2008
- 16th AERA Conference, Amity University, Lucknow, 21-23 November 2008
- Workshop of networking of agricultural economists, Amity University, Lucknow, 23 November 2008
- Research advisory committee meeting, NCAP, New Delhi, 4 December 2008
- National seminar on current agrarian issues: response of agricultural information system, NCAP, New Delhi, 5-6 December 2008