Arnab Goon, BCKV
The Winner of the IWSS Travel Award
in Recognition of an Outstanding Proposed Presentation
Funded by the IWSS, WSSA and EWRS
for the 6th International Weed Science Congress
held in Hangzhou, China, 17-22 June 2012.
Prof A Bhattacharyya and Prof R K Ghosh, BCKV
Participated and Presented Scientific Articles in the Congress

Training Programme on Operation, Service & Maintenance of Power Tiller

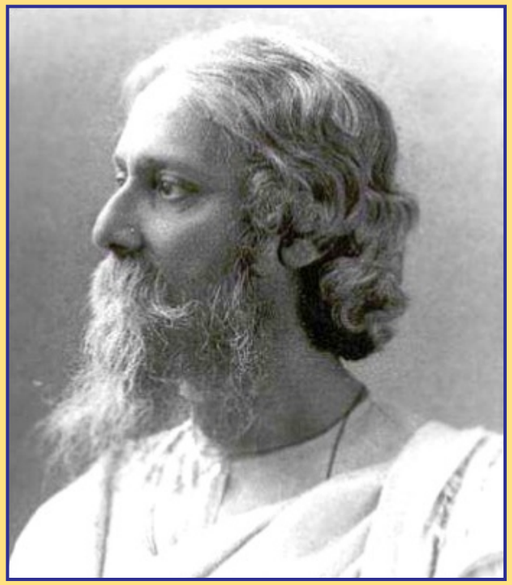
The 'State Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institute-a RKVY Project & Nodal Office of Govt. of West Bengal for testing & training of agricultural machinery implemented in Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya vis-a - vis in the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering conducted a four-week l (16 Aug-13 Sept, 2011) training programme on 'operation, service & maintenance of power tiller'. The objective of this training programme was to train the rural unemployed youths to make them capable of adopting the profession of power tiller mechanics.

The teachers & staffs of the faculty were intimately involved in imparting theroy & practical lessons & very lively & effective demonstrations. The programme concluded with the certificate distribution ceremony & an interactive session on 13 September, 2011 with Prof R K Biswas, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering in chair. The trainees expressed their overwhelming satisfaction & were confident enough to adopt mechanics as a profession. They were so impressed that after the scheduled training programme they continued workshop practicals up to 16 September, 2011. Dr S Kamakar, Associate Professor, Department of Farm Machinery & Power acted as the Coordinator of the training programme.

CHR 6 (IC No 575545) : A Promising Recombinant Inbred Line of Rice

A high yielding new Recombinant Inbred Line of rice, designated as CHR 6 (IC No 575545) has been developed through transgressive breeding followed by disruptive seasonal selection in Boro and Aman seasons at RRS, NAZ, SC : Chakdaha. It is earlier by nearly five weeks (110 – 115 days) than the parents i.e. Sabita and Samba Mahsuri (150 days). It is photoperiod insensitive and can be grown round the year. It showed an average yield performance of around 4.7 t/ha during Aus and Aman seasons while an average grain yield of 6 t/ha is obtained during Boro season for the same. It possesses long slender grain with good cooking and eating qualities as reported by the farmers.

Rabindranath – A Luminous Luminary in the Firmament of Bengali Literature



Rabindranath is a name that ignites mind, unleashes motivation and propels resurrection of glorious past for an illuminating posterity. Humanity to him was renunciation of enchained thoughts and impoverished ideas into a boundless and borderless voyage of universal citizenship, beauty to him had been the splendour of nature and bounty of passion, spirituality came to him as the pristine submission to the magnum opus of God, the tryst with cosmic expansion.

On the occasion of his 150 Birth Anniversary we pay our regards and submission, respect and adoration to this everflourishing personality, the unfading pride beyond time and space.

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2012

Conservation Agriculture : The Key to Natural Resource Management

Nature wombed the civilization and the civilization started sucking the milk of nature. The pristine sucking of milk from the nature by the infant civilization turned into a ruinous practice-ultimately the depletion turned into destruction. Today we are not only polluting nature but also destroying it through an aggressive expansion of urbanization vis-à-vis consumerism.

Agriculture has been the mainstay of human civilization since ancient times. Though the exact origin of present day agriculture remains obscure, it is believed to date back to more than ten thousand years – the first evidence for plant domestication is approximately ten thousand years old. But over the years with the advent of modern agricultural production technology alongwith the increasing human population, there was great concern of sustainable agriculture.

Agriculture today is facing multiple and complex challenges. Demands for food, feed, fibre, fuel and fodder are growing rapidly but the gradually degrading natural resources are constraining the efficiency of production system. The role of conservation agriculture in improving efficiency, equity and environment is well recognized and concerns have been raised at the global level to conserve natural resources for a better quality of life. Conservation agriculture is not "business as usual", based on maximizing yield while exploiting the soil and agro eco-system resources. Rather, it is based on optimizing yield and profits, to achieve a balance in agricultural, economic and environmental benefits. The idea behind conservation agriculture is the blending of ecological management with modern, scientific agricultural production technologies. Conservation agriculture employs all modern technologies that enhance the quality and ecological integrity of the soil, but the application of this is tempered with traditional knowledge of soil husbandry gained from generation of successful farmers. Conservation agriculture can be best achieved through community driven development processes whereby local communities and farmer associations identify and implement the best options for conservation agriculture in their location, but this is all possible only with technical backstopping from conservation professionals who are the main players in the promotion of conservation agriculture.

So, an ideal farming approach should, therefore, aim at increasing the agricultural production, conservation of soils, improving the productivity of water, ensuring livelihood, generating employment and "above all for ensuring much needed 'Sujalam' (clear water), 'Suphalam' (clear food), 'Malayaja sheetalam' (fresh air)".

- Editors

International Symposium on System Intensification towards Food & Environmental Security

The Crop and Weed Science Society (CWSS) with its secretariat at Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV) in collaboration with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Kolkata organized the 'International Symposium on System Intensification towards Food & Environmental Security' during 24-27 February, 2011 at Farmers' Training Centre (Lake Hall), BCKV, Kalyani, West Bengal.

Three days of brainstorming, interactive discussions, knowledge exchange and heart-warming friendship concluded on pleasant and enlightening notes from more than 700 participants of internationally acclaimed agricultural scientists from USA, UK, France, Slovenia, Iran, Australia, Japan, Indonesia, Turkey, Tunisia, Bangladesh etc. besides different parts of India; Stakeholders, Policy makers, Central and State Government executives, Corporate leaders, Farmers, Media persons and enthusiastic students debated, interacted and exchanged views & ideas on the paradigm of 'establishing sustainable and intensified food & environmental security in the face of diminishing natural resources, decreasing factor productivity, increasing input costs and unprecedented climate change'.

There were fifteen sessions altogether in the symposium. Prof S K Sanyal, Vice-Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, inaugurated the symposium. In his remarks he explained the need for such a symposium under the scenario of growing human population, the need of upkeeping the health of livestock and diminishing quality of the natural resource base. Prof A Bhattacharyya and Prof R K Ghosh in their speech opined in the same way. Among the dignitaries, Prof Norman Uphoff, Cornell University, USA; Prof Nimal Chandrasena, ALS Global Environment Division-WRG, Australia; Dr Mario Lesnik, Slovenia and Dr John R Leeper, RiceCo, LLC, USA also spoke about the ever decreasing areas of land suitable for lateral expansion of

agriculture, depleting natural resources such as clean water for irrigation, soil productivity, pre and post-harvest losses due to pests including weeds; use of untreated crop seeds and invasive weed seeds coupled with ineffective weed and other pest management which render make food supplies less reliable and leads to pollution in and by agriculture.

There were sessions on National Invasive Weed Surveillance (NIWS) Programme, Parthenium Awareness Programme, interactive session of scientists, corporate and farmers besides eight technical sessions wherein more than 700 participants presented their research findings in addressing the challenge of food and environmental security. Prof S K Dutta, DDG, Crop Science, ICAR, India emphasized the need for sustainable cropping, utilizing resources judiciously and linkage between agricultural officers of Central & State Government and Scientists of Institutions and Corporate & NGOs. Among the hosts of renowned participants, there were Dr Erika Styger, USA; Prof Najrul Islam, BAU; Prof A M Muazzam Husain, Coordinator, SRI NNB, Bangladesh; Prof S K Mitra, Dean, Post Graduate Studies, BCKV, India; Dr T N Chaudhury, Former ADG (Integrated Water Management), ICAR, New Delhi, India; Dr Jay G Varshney, Director, Directorate of Weed Science Research (DWSR), ICAR, India; Prof N N Angiras, HPKV; T Gohain, Nagaland University, Medziphema; Dr (Ms) Raji Gain, GM, NABARD, Kolkata; Mr S Majumdar, President CCF (E), India, Dr B K Chakraborty, Bangladesh, Dr M Ferichani, D A Prasetya and others.

As part of their continued activity in recognition of commendable work for the development of the society and our mother earth the Crop and Weed Science Society (CWSS) conferred CWSS Felicitation, CWSS Gold Medal, CWSS Fellow, CWSS Young Scientist Award and Best Poster Presentation Award for each Session and INS 11 Felicitation besides felicitating the Chairpersons of this INS 11.On this occasion the journal of the Crop and Weed Science Society, 'Journal of Crop and Weed Vol. 6 No. 2', 'CWSS Newsletter 2011', 'NIWS Final Report 2008-11', 'Dynamics of Anthrophytes in West Bengal', 'Management of Invasive weed Parthenium hysterophorus' were also released.

Winter School on Extension Strategy through Information Communication Technology

Information Communication Technology or the ICT has become the global destination for the evolving agriculture and rural entrepreneurship across the World. With no denial to the exponentially increasing role of ICT in Indian Agriculture for ushering second green revolution, the ICAR funded Winter School on Extension Strategy on Information Communication Technology for Value Added Agriculture, 2 – 22 November, 2011 has well chosen the topic and text to impart education and training to 26 participants covering 11 states and a good score of SAU's and ICAR Institutes. The incredible record for the Department of Agricultural Extension is that this was the 6th Winter School in a row and can be

branded as a rare achievement for the Department as well as for the University under the Directorship of Prof. M M Adhikary. The Winter School was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. S K Sanyal in presence of Prof S K Mitra, Dean, PG Studies, Prof S K Pan, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof G P Sarkar, Director of Research, Prof. A K Bandyopadhyay, Director of Extension Education, Prof S K Acharya, Head, Department of Agricultural Extension, & Course Coordinator, Prof Debabrata Basu, Professor in Agricultural Extension & Course Coordinator. During the entire span of 21 days of the course, 58 lecture-cum-discussions were held. Different areas of ICT concept, present perspective of Indian agriculture, ICT policy and application, present status and future challenges, climate change and ICT intervention, social justice and role of ICT etc were illustriously covered by own University and guest lectures delivered by Dr P Das, Former DDG (AE), ICAR, New Delhi, Dr M Moni, DDG(IT), Govt of India, New Delhi, Prof Madhura Swaminathan, ISI, Kolkata, Prof R C Goel, IASARI, ICAR, New Delhi etc. The participants were indicative of their high level of satisfaction as could be evidenced from the Course Evaluation done on weekly basis. The Winter School concluded with several important recommendations and strategic implications in addition to learning experiences earned by the patricians for their back home application.

Recommendation of "Export of non-Basmati Aromatic Rice (Gobindabhg and Tulaipanji)" by Standing Committee on Commerce, Parliament of India

In response to a notification published by Rajya Sabha Secretariat during October, 2010, Dr M Ghosh, Associate Professor and Principal Investigator, RKVY Project submitted a proposal on "Promotional Strategy for Export of Bengal aromatic Rice ('Gobindabhog' and 'Tulaipanji')" to the Standing Committee on Commerce, Parliament of India on 26 October, 2010.

Later Prof S K Mitra, Dean, PG Studies, made an oral evidence before the Committee on 2 May,

2011. He touched upon various aspects of export prospects for rice, such as: "The University is researching the Gobindabhog and Tulaipanji variety, which is a premium non-Basmati rice. Most aromatic varieties of rice are low on productivity and hence need to fetch almost double the price of normal varieties to be remunerative to farmers."

The Standing Committee prepared its 98th Report on "Export of Foodgrains-Premium non-

Basmati Rice & Wheat", which was presented and adopted in Rajya Sabha on 11 August, 2011. The Committee observed and recommended that "The Committee observes that India produces some fine quality non-Basmati varieties also such as Sona Masuri, Matta and Ponni, Gobindabhog and Tulaipanji etc. These varieties are very good quality rice and are


PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA
98

DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

NINETY EIGHTH REPORT

ON

EXPORT OF FOODGRAINS-PREMIUM NON-BASMATI RICE & WHEAT

(PRESENTED TO THE RAJYA SABHA ON ----- AUGUST, 2011)
(LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA ON ----- AUGUST, 2011)

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

AUGUST, 2011/ SRAVANA, 1933 (SAKA)

bound to be appreciated by international buyers. The Committee recommends that the Government should come out with a planned policy whereby all types of premium rice varieties should be considered for testing and research and those varieties that fulfill international norms may be encouraged for export."

It is a great achievement of the University towards framing the export policy of the Government of India as well as for the betterment of the farming community of West Bengal and India as a whole.

RKVY Project on Climate Change : Performing Successfully in Sundarbans

Achievements : based on identified problems

Adoption of vermicompost through training programme (35), Number of farmers benefited -210; Soil characterization to develop soil map of target region of sundarbans; Domestic fodder cultivation through training, demonstration and supply of planting materials; Integrated livestock development programme through awareness, deworming, nutritional programme (in four identified stations); Seed bank development (Rice and chilli bank) through seed multiplication programme; Water conservation through improved techniques; Integrated farming approaches through raised bed technique; Integrated mangrove management; River water environment study; Characterization of coastal degradation using Remote sensing technique; Measurement of GHG emitted from rice field; Time series coastal climatic data analysis.

Infrastructure development :

Installation of rain gauge in four stations; Three automatic weather stations are yet to be installed to develop agro climatic information system; Four soil testing kits are to be installed very soon in every station; To measure Green house gases, Green house gas analyzer will be used in crop field as well as in atmosphere; Installation of Sprectroradiometer for characterization through remote sensing; Microscope will be used to identify and study the population dynamics of flora and fauna present in the river water; Instruments are used to measure the river water environments; Meteorological instruments are being used to measure microclimatic environment within the crop canopy.