

**Speech of His Excellency Shri M.O.H. Farook, Governor -cum-  
Chancellor of Universities of Jharkhand on the occasion of XXth  
Meeting of ICAR Regional Committee No. IV held at Birsa  
Agricultural University, Ranchi, on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2010.**

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, Ministers of Agriculture of UP, Bihar and Jharkhand, Deputy Director Generals of ICAR, Vice Chancellors of the Universities, Agricultural Production Commissioners, Secretaries, Directors of Agriculture, officials of the Universities, Departments of Agriculture, ICAR Institutes, Dr. N.N. Singh, Vice Chancellor, BAU, Ranchi, Ladies and Gentleman.

It gives me immense pleasure to inaugurate this important meeting and address you all. As you are all aware “inclusive growth” is the cornerstone of our development strategy in the Eleventh Five Year Plan and the global experience of growth and poverty reduction shows that GDP growth originating in agriculture is at least twice as effective in reducing poverty as GDP growth originating outside agriculture. In this context the importance of agriculture in general and rainfed agriculture in particular that was largely by passed by the green revolution can hardly be over emphasized. Also, to reduce the over-exploitation of the natural resources in north-west region, the resource-rich high-rainfall areas of eastern India should be promoted for enhancing agricultural production as this region receives 2-3 times more rainfall than that of north-west states. Also, eastern region has unexploited good quality ground water aquifers and relative advantage for sustainable production of water requiring crops like rice, banana, sugarcane and aquaculture etc. However, inspite of the adequate availability of natural resources required for higher production in the region the agricultural productivity is very low due to several constraints including technological constraints affecting agricultural production.

To achieve the requirement for food security, more emphasis was given on enhanced production of commodities like rice and wheat to get quick increase in total food production. This resulted in quick depletion of natural resources and crops, such as, maize, millets, cotton, castor, oil seeds and pulses, suitable for rainfed dry areas, and the maximum concentration of resource-poor farmers remained ignored, aggravating problems of inequity and regional imbalances. This also led to high concentration of malnourished people in rainfed low-production areas. Now, without losing time the need to concentrate more in eastern India is critical for sustainability, improved livelihood and income for resource-poor farmers who have no capability for risk management unless the practices for diversified agriculture are adopted.

Role of technologies, policies and infrastructure would be very important in realizing the potential of rainfed agriculture. It has to be ensured that technologies and public policies, the two major drivers of agricultural growth, should have appropriate synergies to move forward. Scientific land use planning had remained a weak link in the past. This gap needs to be bridged for which India has all scientific capability and knowledge. Such an approach is relevant and can yield greater dividends provided adopted on scientific basis, such as, GIS based land use planning for crop diversification with horticulture & vegetable production in addition to dry land crops etc.

Technological innovations for sustainable and equitable use of natural resources should be accorded high priority due to high degree of climatic variability resulting in droughts, flood and other extreme weather events which compels the country to spend over 2% of its GDP on adaptation and this figure is likely to go up significantly. Extreme weather events could be local in nature and their mitigation would require local response by SAUs, ICAR Institutes and Zonal Agricultural Research Stations needing accelerated efforts on capacity building, suitable technological innovations and management, including availability and storage of

critical inputs as a part of mitigation strategy. This calls for more, investment in agricultural research and education.

The importance of livestock, poultry and fisheries for income and rural livelihood options can not be ignored. In absence of breeding policy, local valuable breeds, are getting eroded. There is need to conserve and improve non-descript livestock with better management practices to improve productivity by each SAU to meet greater demand of milk, meat and drought capacity of animals.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras could play very important role in entire supply chain by organizing farmers through formation of producers' associations, self-help groups or co-operatives in a public-private-partnership mode for which ICT offers new opportunities. More investment is required for effective and credible technology assessment and transfer. Extension system should be geared up for evolving appropriate linkages and partnerships with an emphasis on small and marginal farmers, increased rural employment opportunities through agri-based rural agro-processing, agro-industries, improved rural infrastructures, access to information and effective market. More attention should be given to develop technologies suiting to the needs of women farmers for their resource and knowledge empowerment, health care, clean drinking water, safe sanitation in addition to food and nutritional security.

I would like to draw the attention of ICAR to consider establishment of

- (i) A research centre in dry areas like Palamau region for conservation, characterization & improvement of minor millets which are getting extinct very fast for which eastern states have got lot of genetic resources. The researches on these dry land crops must be strengthened to cope up with changing climatic variations.
- (ii) Water management in state like Jharkhand with undulated topography is very difficult. A sub-centre may be provided to develop technologies to help the farmers.
- (iii) About 10 mha. area in this region is in acid soil. Management of acid soil is also very important for which an institute like Soil Acidity Research Institute on the

pattern of Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal can be provided to address this issue for this region. (iv) Regional centers of ICAR institutes dealing with livestock's, particularly goat and cattle should be opened in this state to address regional problems.

I am sure your deliberations will yield some fruitful recommendations for the improvement of agriculture to achieve second green revolution.

I wish this regional committee meeting a grand success.

Jai Hind

Jai Jharkhand