

Shri Sharad Pawar Inaugurates 85th Annual General Meeting of the ICAR Society
15th January 2014, New Delhi

Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries and President of the ICAR Society said that the proactive initiatives taken by the ICAR will help us to achieve a robust agriculture to ensure food, nutritional and livelihood security for millions of our countrymen. He was addressing 85th Annual General Meeting of the ICAR Society at NASC complex here today.



While highlighting and appreciating the growth and development of agriculture during the decade, Shri Pawar said, "In the last ten years, our foodgrain production increased from 198 million tonnes in 2004-05 to 259 million tonnes estimated currently." Overall it is important to note that the foodgrain production has continuously increased despite a virtual ceiling on cultivable area, he added. He identified critical areas in agriculture that need urgent attention and expected a quick action by ICAR through enhancement in synergy and partnership with farmers and industries.



Shri Tariq Anwar, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Government of India emphasized upon the important role of extension and said that the extension has to be a

combination of strategies for augmenting workforce to support delivery of extension services to the farmers, together with adopting innovative approaches. He also informed the gathering that the ICAR has now 637 KVKs spread across the country to showcase production potential of different technologies.



While expressing concern over migration of rural youth to the urban areas and rural poverty, Shri Charan Das Mahant, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Government of India hoped that agricultural research will help in these areas for bringing rural prosperity.

Dignitaries released various ICAR publications on commercialized and ready to commercialize technologies and other topics of current interest.

Earlier, Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR presented a glimpse of key achievements of ICAR during the last decade. He also informed the gathering about the new initiatives and goals of ICAR during the XIIth Plan period.



Agriculture and Animal husbandry Ministers of various States, Members of the Governing Body of the ICAR, representatives from national organizations, senior officials and scientists of ICAR participated in the AGM. Shri Arvind R. Kaushal, Additional Secretary, DARE and Secretary, ICAR proposed the vote of thanks.

(Source: NAIP Mass Media Project, DKMA, ICAR)