

GROUP MEETING OF AINP ON VERTEBRATE PEST MANAGEMENT

Second Group Meeting of All India Network Project on Vertebrate Pest Management was organized from November 9-11 at Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), Thrissur. The Meeting was graced by Dr P.K. Chakrabarty, ADG (Plant Protection & Biosafety), ICAR as Chief Guest. Dr. D.B. Ahuja, Director, ICAR- NRCIPM, New Delhi and Dr Mrs Indira Devi, Director Research, KAU, Thrissur were the Guest of Honour during Inaugural Session. The meeting was attended by about 80 delegates from various parts of country. After a brief welcome address by Dr. C. George Thomas, Associate Dean, KAU, Thrissur, Dr R.S. Tripathi, Network Coordinator presented the highlights of significant achievements of the Project and outlined future lines of research in view of the changing scenario. Dr Indira Devi, in her address deliberated mainly on various issues particularly about the legal issues in evolving technologies for management of vertebrate pests, especially higher vertebrates and stressed upon the integration of various control techniques. In his address, Dr Ahuja appreciated the efforts of the Project in providing effective technologies for management of rodents and predatory birds and highlighted various researchable and social issues while dealing with higher vertebrates like monkeys and blue bull.



Dr. Chakrabarty in his Inaugural address expressed satisfaction with the achievements of the AINP-VPM and appreciated the project scientists in developing suitable management technologies. He desired that the technologies developed by the Project should be documented and circulated to all states for their implementation and also expressed need for stronger collaboration with line state departments. He emphasized the need for close



cooperation among farmers and scientists and called for immediate transfer of viable technologies generated by the Project for Vertebrate Pest Management to field application. The services of extension functionaries may be utilized for effective transfer of technologies. He said that despite encouraging results, especially with the bioacoustics equipment for management of higher vertebrates the AINP needs to strengthen its R&D activities on higher vertebrates. He also highlighted several researchable issues, like use selective rodenticides, sterility techniques, immuno-contraception, bioacoustics etc. On this occasion the four technical bulletins and eight extension folders published by different centers were also released by the dignitaries.

Inaugural function ended with vote of thanks by Prof Mani Chellappan, PI and Head, Deptt of Entomology, KAU, Thrissur.

The Group meeting was conducted in various technical sessions, wherein the progress of research was presented by all the centers. Special lectures on 'Perspectives in vertebrate pest/vector Management' (by Dr AMK Mohan Rao, FAO Expert) and on 'Mitigation of Monkey menace in Himachal Pradesh' (by Dr Sandeep Rattan, Asstt Director, Department of Forests Himachal Pradesh) were delivered. Representatives from National Institute of Plant Health Management, Hyderabad and Indian Grain Storage Management Research Institute, Hapur also presented their achievements on vertebrate pests. In the Plenary Session detailed discussions recommendation emanating out of the achievements and future technical programmes were finalized. The Meeting ended with vote of thanks proposed by Network coordinator.



(Source: Network Coordinator, AINP on Vertebrate Pest Management, ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur)