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Chairman, PNASF Speaks

Should we ponder over the statements below?

- During childhood my father taught me that while you are eating and someone appears hungry please share your bread with him or her. I feel happy to do it even today. Could we all do it again and again?
- At present, more than a billion people are asking that we want neither to be rich nor poor, but want bread only, atleast two times a day. Presently, about sixth person is hungry in the world. Is it not possible for the other one to five persons to assist lending food to the sixth person?
- Farming does not recognize any community, religion, language. Let us extend a humble human approach as our ancient farmer's did in nurturing and preserving nature.
- It is clear that food security can not be attained unless economic accessibility is empowered by beneficiaries and economic accessibility cannot be achieved without employment opportunities and income generation. Could we articulate our policies and programmes?
- In India, car manufacturers already empowered with capacity do not need assistance except the license to produce, whereas food producers do not need license but empowerment to produce. Shouldn't government empower farmers with technology and inputs to produce enough from land and become capable of driving own cars?
- Should the developing countries continue to crop about 60 per cent of land for agricultural production? With application of advanced technology and improved resources, per unit area crop yield has been increased tremendously in several countries, including America and Europe resulting in relatively less area devoted to agriculture. Should developing world not gain from this knowledge and devote land to other sectors for progress?
- With the migration of people particularly young people from rural to urban areas, what will happen to rural agriculture? Some villages in Asia are already inhabited by elders only? Who will run rural agriculture? It is a reality that Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (UPA) can not replace rural agriculture and also it seems impossible that urban population could be fed without rural products.
- For protecting its own food security, should one country entrepreneurs erode the food security of another country by allowing own land, food production and export of grains? Why a country should lose its national food sovereignty and give its own land to an international entrepreneur as is happening in Africa? This question needs to be addressed in larger interest.
- Would the vegetarians eat GM crops which have insect gene incorporated in them? Would an individual following a particular religion will eat GM animal containing gene from another animal which is not accepted religion-wise? The breeders as well as consumers may require to address these issues?



Very Happy New Year.

Prem Nath
 Prem Nath
 Chairman, PNASF

Participation in Agtech Global Summit 2012

On invitation by the organizers, Dr. Prem Nath participated in the AgTech Global Summit 2012 organized by the Bejo Sheetal Bio-Science Foundation, Aurangabad, Maharashtra in collaboration with the Michigan State University (USA), Bejo Sheetal Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Aurangabad and Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri. About 100 participants attended from different states of India and abroad from both public and private sectors. During the inaugural session on December 9, 2012 the Chief Guest Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General, ICAR addressed the audience. Prof. Malcolm Elliott was the Guest of Honor and Dr. Kirti Singh presided. The welcome address was read by Mr. Suresh Agrawal. Dr. B. Mazumdar and his team geared the whole technical programme of the Summit.



Inaugural Session of AgTech Global Summit 2012

The Technical Programme was discussed during December 10-13, 2012 and the sessions covered Advances in Breeding Techniques, Abiotic and Biotic Stress Management, Molecular Techniques, Biotic Tools, and Crop Management and Technology Transfer. It included both oral and poster presentations. Dr. Prem Nath chaired the session on *Crop Improvement through Genetic Resource Management-Advances in Breeding Techniques*; he was Co-chaired by Dr. Brahm Singh, New Delhi and Dr. Kulvinder S. Gill, USA and the convener was Dr. Pritam Kalia. Dr. Prem Nath was also requested to Chair the Poster-papers judging committee and the members were Prof. Martin B. Dickman (USA) and Prof. P.P. Kumar (Singapore).

The inaugural lecture was delivered by Prof. Malcolm Elliott, Founding Executive Director, Norman Borlaug Institute for Global Food Security, USA; Special lectures were delivered by Dr. N.K. Krishna Kumar, Deputy Director General (Horti.), ICAR; and Dr.

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Visit to Bejo Sheetal Bio-Science Foundation

Swapan Kumar Dutta, Deputy Director General (Crops), ICAR. The participants were given the opportunity to visit experimental and commercial field plots.

Participation in Seminar on “India’s Development-Current Scenario”, Bangalore

Dr. G.K. Veeresh, Senior Scientific Councillor, PNASF and Dr. K.R.M. Swamy, Technical Advisory Council Member, PNASF participated in Seminar on “India’s Development-Current Scenario” and award presentation on November 25, 2012 at The Citrine Hotel, Bangalore organized by the Integrated Council for Socio-Economic Progress (ICSEP), Thrissur, Kerala. Shri M.V. Rajasekharan, former Union Minister of State, Government of India; Shri A. Krishnappa, former Minister for Sugar and Agriculture, Government of Karnataka were the Chief Guests on this occasion. Dr. G.K. Veeresh former Vice Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore and Dr. Abdul Aziz, former Member, Planning Board, Government of Karnataka were the Guests of Honor during the Seminar. About hundred participants attended this seminar.

On this occasion ICSEP awards were presented to achievers from different sectors and disciplines across the country. Among the awardees, Dr. Prem Nath was presented with a plaque and certificate of MOTHER TERESA EXCELLENCE AWARD in recognition of praiseworthy services, excellent performance and memorable contribution for the overall progress of the society. In absence of Dr. Prem Nath, Dr K.R.M. Swamy received the award.

On behalf of ICSEP, Mr. Thomas Mathew, General Secretary welcomed dignitaries and participants and also extended vote of thanks to all the participants.

Participation in the ASHS Annual Conference (2012), Miami, Florida, USA

Dr. Prem Nath on behalf of PNASF and VEGINET participated in the Annual Conference of the American Society for Horticultural

Science (ASHS-2012) during held July 31 to August 03, 2012 in Miami, Florida, USA. About 2000 participants from different states of the USA, and other countries attended.



Prof. Jules Janick with Dr. Prem Nath

About 46 oral sessions and 51 poster sessions (338 posters) covering all aspects of horticulture were presented at the conference.

Dr. Prem Nath presented the following papers;

- (1) Oral Paper entitled, **“International Horticulture-Food Security Issues”** during the session **International Horticulture**;
- (2) Invited Paper entitled, **“High-Value Vegetables from Eastern Asia” to the Workshop on “Good Genes from Asia: Contributions and Opportunities of Asiatic Origin Crops to US Horticulture”**.
- (3) Poster paper entitled, **“Gourds in Asia”**



Dr. Prem Nath presenting the oral paper on Food Security

The abstract of the three papers as published in the ASHS Abstract Book are reproduced below;

Oral Sessions Presentation

Annual Conference of the American Society for Horticultural Science,
July 31-August 3, 2012, Miami, Florida

Abstract

International Horticulture- Food Security Issues

Prem Nath

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With the increase in production and consumption of fruit and vegetables worldwide, there has been acceleration in movement of fresh and processed products across the nation and across the continents, and from food abundance to food deficit areas. According to FAO, presently one billion people worldwide are suffering from hunger and malnutrition, which demands for both national and international intervention to mitigate food insecurity. The International Conference on Horticulture (ICH-2009) held in Bangalore during Nov. 2009 highlighted the importance of horticulture and recognized that it is (a) a strong supporter to food security, (b) a major contributor to nutrition security, (c) a promoter of health improvement, and (d) an important source of employment and income generation. In this context, the presentation to the ASHS Annual Conference 2012 will discuss the present global scenario,

rising challenges, constraints, and thrust areas to be addressed.

Specified Source(s) of Funding: PNASF

2012 ASHS Annual Conference—Oral Session Abstracts Page No. 101



Presentation of poster at the ASHS 2012 Annual Conference

Poster Presentation

Annual Conference of the American Society for Horticultural Science,
July 31-August 3, 2012, Miami, Florida

Abstract

(338) Gourds in Asia

Prem Nath

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Among the vegetables, the gourd group of crops belonging to family *Cucurbitaceae* formed one of the large groups with its wide adaptation from arid to the humid tropics. In Asia, about 20 edible major and minor gourds are grown and consumed. Although the data on gourds alone are not easily available, they are grown in all Asian countries and are the most common food of a common man. Some of the common gourds are specific to Asia only. Cucurbits demonstrate wide adaptability, allowing the crops to grow in varied agro-climatic conditions. Among food crops, gourds are among the largest producers of biological water and are easily digestible. Gourds contain 80% to 90% water and also contain nutritive elements such as carbohydrates, protein, vitamins A and C, calcium, lycopene, phosphorus, potassium, and other properties, in addition to medicinal values. They are common crops in rural, urban, and peri-urban areas accessible to both rich and poor. Even with the gradual increase in production and consumption, the production of gourds



Dr. Prem Nath presenting the oral paper during the workshop

is plagued by the occurrence of diseases and insect pests, inadequate availability of quality seeds, lack of maintenance of genetic varieties and of naturally occurring bio-diversities, and lack of knowledge on the international standard of quality production

and post-harvest handling. The thrust areas of development as identified are improvement in crop production, diversification in cropping pattern, utilization of available genetic diversities, reversal of post-harvest losses, and value addition in food products. Gourds hold promise as supplementary food for common people.

Poster Presentation ASHS Annual Conference 2012 Page No. 123

Workshop Sessions

Abstract

High-value Vegetables from Eastern Asia

Prem Nath

Vegetable Science International Network (VEGINET), Bangalore;
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The Department of Agriculture (DOA), Thailand; Asian Veg-etable Research and Development Centre (AVRDC), Taiwan; ASEAN-AVRDC Regional Network (AARNET) Vegetable Science International Network (VEGINET) supported by P. N. Agricultural Science Foundation (PNASF); and the Horticultural Science Society of Thailand (HSST), jointly organized the Regional Symposium: High Value of Vegetables in South-east Asia Production, Supply and Demand (SEAVEG-2012), which was held January 24–26, 2012, at Lotus Hotel Pang Suan Keaw, Chiang Mai, Thailand. More than 200 participants from about 25 countries participated. This presentation will highlight the recommendations made by participants during the conference and opportunities for technical cooperation between Asian countries and the United States, leading to exchanges of knowledge, technology, and materials in vegetable crops.

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Apart presentations of papers, Dr. Nath held discussions with some individual Professors and Scientists on the issues of mutual interest.

Also, Dr. Nath had the opportunity to participate in the International Horticulture Breakfast Session and further held discussion with individuals on international horticulture. Dr. Nath attended the International Engagement: Linking to Horticulture CRSP and USAID lecture entitled, "Opportunities in International Agriculture: Perspectives" by Dr. John M. Bowman, USAID Advisor.

American Horticulturists of Indian Origin (AHIO) Meeting

The Group of the American Horticulturists of Indian Origin (AHIO) of ASHS met on August 02, 2012 during the ASHS 2012 Annual Conference, and reviewed the progress of AHIO and discussed the future programme. About 27 members (Professors, Scientists and Post-



Dr. Prem Nath presenting ASHS Award to the recipient of AHIO

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graduate students) from different universities and states of USA participated. Dr. Prem Nath participated in the discussion on collaboration between India and USA and possibilities of future closer collaboration in exchanging knowledge, technology and materials. Dr. Nath was invited to present certificates to the recipients of merit recognitions by the ASHS/AHIO. The national membership of AHIO is open to all Indians, Americans and other who are interested in technical advancements in horticulture in participating countries.

Farmer's Market in USA

The farmer's market has been in existence primarily as once-a-week market since time immemorial in villages, small towns and cities across the globe. With the change of time, increase in population with villages becoming towns and towns becoming large cities, the activities enlarged but as an unorganized sector. These markets either on roads or in open spaces, either in open or under temporary shades got transformed into manual carts, mobile vans and trucks in different countries. But some characters remained the same even today and they are (a) items of daily needs, (b) freshness of vegetables and fruits (c) availability of local foods and (d) location on streets or empty spaces under temporary structures.

Recognizing that he regularly goes to departmental stores, Dr. Nath walked also to buy fresh vegetables from the nearby street vendors. This summer he visited number of Farmer's market in USA, particularly in Minnesota and in California.

In all these markets, (a) almost all items of daily needs were available, (b) mostly local products were exhibited, (c) all fresh vegetables and fruits brought from the field were available, (d) home products like pickles, candies, juices, cheese, snacks were on sale. These markets on streets stretched from 1 to 3 blocks of communities to more than a kilometer depending on the size of the city and the space available, clearly identified for this purpose. In Minneapolis, the major farmer's market was located at a fixed place with open-cum-permanent structure known popularly to most of the residents. The area was divided into vegetables, fruits, flowers, and household materials. Some of the fresh and dry flowers, some varieties of fruits and



Farmer's Market near Los Angeles



Variation in Potatoes



Variation in Peppers



Variation in Chillies



Variation in Solanum and beans



Segregation in Tomatoes

majority of the Asiatic vegetables were uncommon in the regular food chain stores.

In Los Angeles, near Orange County, the large popular farmer's market was held in a permanent parking area during the week end. The whole market was organized under temporary structures, which could be removed by evening to make the space available for parking during the week days. Like in Minneapolis, this market carried almost all kinds of locally grown fruits and vegetables. Locally grown different kind of berries and plums with different colours were very attractive to eyes and to taste. With regard to vegetables, they were plenty in kind but interesting was to see freshly harvested Asiatic vegetables, not available in regular food chain stores of the city.



Segregation in Tomatoes



Variation in Asiatic Gourds

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Variation in Cucurbits



Variation in Carrots



Asiatic Morning Glory



Pumpkin and Mustard Leaves

Apart large farmer's market, Dr. Nath visited also small farmer's market near Minneapolis and Los Angeles, which were spread on streets up to a block or in much smaller space than large markets. These markets were limited to locally grown fruits and vegetables.

A close study of these markets revealed interesting results which may be illustrated as mentioned below;

- (1) Families interest: There was great enthusiasm among the families to visit farmer's market with a hope to get some fresh product or something new and uncommon in regular food stores. It seemed consumers were looking for freedom from market-driven food of regular food chains and felt happy to enjoy consumer-driven food available in farmer's market.
- (2) Products: Among vegetables, several of the ethnic Asiatic vegetables not commonly available in regular markets were available in farmer's market. The Asian crops available in these markets were bottle gourd, bitter gourd, ridge gourd, sponge gourd, pumpkin, brinjal, and among leaves were basella, coriander, mint, pumpkin leaves, bitter gourd leaves, mustard leaves, Coccinea leaves, squash and pumpkin flowers, Chinese cabbage etc. Other common crops were sweet corn, capsicum, tomato, apple, peaches and melons and among fruits, apples, peaches, plums, berries, melons, avocado etc.
- (3) Genetic Resources: It was interesting to see rich collection of germplasm of tropical Asiatic vegetables in USA, where residents of European origin preferred European vegetables which dominated the common food stores, and also because of obvious reasons like climate suitability and ethnicity. With the growing population of Asian or Latin American people in the USA, the production and consumption of tropical vegetables are likely to rise. Some colors and shapes of vegetables and fruit were quite rare as shown in the photos.
- (4) Genetic Variation: It was clear observation that there was hardly genetic uniformity in any of the Asiatic vegetable crops so much so that about one pound of bean basket had not even five beans alike or a chilli basket had not even three chilli fruits alike, which was quite a contrast to a pound of vegetables in regular food chain stores where all fruits of one pound basket were quite uniform. This significant variation could be seen in the photos.

- (5) Food Evolution: About 50 years ago, the foods in Bangalore city was predominantly ethnic of Karnataka, but now with the coming in of population from other states any kind of Indian food is available and it seems there is a growing trend of mixing menus of one state with other states with modified forms of food preparation appearing. There seems a similar evolving trend in large cities of the USA where cocktail of Asian food with American or Latin food is emerging. New forms of pizza or biriyani or Mexican food are available. The ethnic Vietnamese, Thai, Indian, Mexican and other food with typical flavor and taste are available in cities like Chicago or Los Angeles.

- (6) Price: The price of produce in farmer's market is relatively lower than in departmental food stores, which attracts consumers.



Different Berries

The observations made highlight the trend that these independent farmer's markets will soon transform itself from unorganized to organized sector. And in this process the urban and peri-urban agriculture will find its way to organize itself to support the development of growing cities and urban population.

UN Day Celebration

The Association of Former United Nations Personnel in and of India (AFUNPI) observed UN-Day in the Hall of Century Club, Bangalore at 11:30 am on November 25, 2012. About 40 members with their spouse participated. The event was hosted by Dr. Prem Nath and Mrs. Grace Mazumdar. The meeting was presided over by Dr. D.V.S. Narsimhan and the Chief Guest on the occasion was Mr. Saurabh Kumar, former Ambassador of India to different countries and UN Agencies. Other members at the dais were wife of Mrs. Saurabh

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Kumar, Dr. M. Seenappa, Mrs. Sreelakshmi Gururaja and Dr. Prem Nath.

The meeting was introduced by the President Dr. Narsimhan who highlighted the utility and important role of UN. Dr. M. Seenappa, Vice-president read the following message of the **Mr. Ban Ki-moon**, UN Secretary General, on this occasion;

New York, 24 October 2012 – UN Secretary-General's message on United Nations Day

We are living through a period of profound turmoil, transition and transformation. Insecurity, inequality and intolerance are spreading. Global and national institutions are being put to the test. With so much at stake, the United Nations must keep pace across the spectrum of its activities – peace, development, human rights, the rule of law, the empowerment of the world's women and youth.

There has been important progress on many fronts. Extreme poverty has been cut in half since the year 2000. Democratic transitions are under way in many countries. There are encouraging signs of economic growth across the developing world.

Now is the time to raise our collective ambitions. With the 2015 deadline for the Millennium Development Goals fast approaching, we must intensify our efforts to reach all of these lifesaving targets. We must prepare a bold and practical post-2015 development agenda. And we must continue to combat intolerance, save people caught in conflicts and establish lasting peace.

The United Nations is not just a meeting place for diplomats. The United Nations is a peacekeeper disarming fighters, a health worker distributing medicine, a relief team aiding refugees, a human rights expert helping deliver justice.

In carrying out this global mission we rely on countless friends and supporters. Non-governmental organizations, scientists, scholars, philanthropists, religious leaders, business executives and concerned citizens are critical to our success. No single leader, country or institution can do everything. But each of us, in our own way, can do something.

On this UN Day, let us reaffirm our individual commitment and our collective resolve to live up to the ideals of the United Nations Charter and build a better world for all.

On this occasion, the Chief Guest Mr. Kumar gave a vivid picture on the new issues challenging the United Nations. The speaker had a long association with UN Agencies and familiarity with UN activities. He detailed on issues and highlighted the challenges of climate change and cyber space in the global context. He further emphasized on the role of India as an important member of this inter-governmental organization. The presentation was followed by lively discussion on various issues and the role of India in the international scenario.

Based on his long experience serving United Nations Agency (FAO), Dr. Prem Nath emphasized the incomparable role of UN in the interest of all nations and the people. The technical assistance provided by the UN Agencies brought about significant improvement in the development of host countries, he expressed based his own experience. He illustrated that host countries held in high esteem the "neutrality and confidence" in UN Agencies. He gave examples

where host countries requested for small FAO's assistance on food and agriculture policy issues as against large donor projects. He gave practical examples, where UN Agency facilitated finalization of bilateral MOU's between the two member nations and positive results were achieved with the intervention of UN Agency. Further, the existence of UN became more relevant where regional and international issues were involved. In cattle, food and mouth disease prevalent in Asian countries; in fruits, fruit fly pest almost prevalent globally; in poultry and other birds, bird flu emerging globally and others; and climate changes and other international issues, needed to be addressed by a body like UN. Further more, member countries have preferred country-driven UN Projects rather than donor-driven Projects.



The dignitaries on the dias

There were more questions raised and answered. The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Dr. M. Seenappa. The event concluded with a sumptuous lunch.

VISITORS TO THE PNASF

Visitors from Farm Secure Holding, Bethlehem, South Africa

The private organization Farm Secure Holding, Bethlehem, South Africa contacted PNASF to explore the possibilities of collaboration in agriculture on large scale farming, processing and marketing. The representatives Mr. Trevor Francis and Mr. James Moore visited PNASF on July 05, 2012 and held discussion with Dr. Prem Nath obtaining scientific human resources and technical know-how. This organization was engaged in large-scale production of agricultural produce for domestic as well as export in the neighboring African Countries.



Mr. Trevor Francis and Mr. James Moore with Dr. Prem Nath

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

PNASF/SUN/WD-SHG/2005: Promotion of Rural Women Self Help Group through Dairy Development Project

Reported by Dr. O.P. Dutta

Out of 10 beneficiaries who were provided one cow each, the seven beneficiaries were maintaining either the milk yielding cow along with one or two female calves or only young female calves yet to yield milk. Three beneficiaries could not maintain the cows donated to them.

A good progress was made by four beneficiaries namely Mrs. Ashawathamma, Mrs. Rathnamma, Mrs. Gangamma and Mrs. Bhagya who were maintaining the milk yielding mother cows along with one or two young female calves. The mother cows were yielding each 5 to 10 liters of milk per day providing 1 to 2 liters of milk for each family for consumption. The excess milk was sold to the milk co-operative society @Rs.17/liter, thus generating an income of Rs. 68 to Rs 135 per day per family (photos 1,2,3). These beneficiaries grew green fodder on their own land and their animals along with the concentrated feed procured from the milk co-operative society. Both, the family members and the animals were healthy happy and satisfied. The three beneficiaries namely Mrs. Nandhini, Mrs. Mahalakshmi and Mrs. Narasamma were maintaining either one cow or one female calf conceived but yet to yield milk. These members were landless and collected grass from unoccupied land to feed the animals. The village veterinary doctor helped the members when needed.

Proud beneficiaries along with their milching cows



Healthy daughters of Mrs. Gangamma along with milk yielding cow and young calf



Happy Mrs. Ashawathamma and her son along with milching cow and two young female calves

Proud Mrs. Rathnamma along with two milching cows

PNASF/UASCS/2011/Biological Science and Nutrition Project

Reported by Ms. Savitri Byadagi, Ms. Jyothi Kattagoudar and Dr. B.S. Prabhakar

A. The PNASF Ph.D. Fellow, Ms. Savitri Byadagi, Department of Food Science and Nutrition, UAS, Bangalore, had taken up a

study on "Analysis of nutrition status and food security of school children". The study included 431 students of UAS Campus School, Hebbal, Bangalore drawn from 8th to 10th standards in the age group of 12 to 15 years.

- Data were collected on general information of the families of selected students, nutritional status of students and parents, and nutrition knowledge assessment of students. The analysis of data indicated that height and weight of both boys and girls were significantly less compared to NCHS standards, indicating wide spread deficiency in nutrition of the school children.
 - There was no gender difference in Body Mass Index (BMI), Mean Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC), and Triceps. Girls were found to be taller for age, while boys' weight for age was more. The study continued.
- B. The PNASF Ph.D. Fellow, Ms. Jyothi Kattagoudar, Department of Horticulture, UHS, Bagalkot, Bangalore campus, continued her study on the "Inheritance of bacterial wilt resistance in tomato". The parameters under study also included the nutritional qualities of tomato fruits. Screening of germplasm for resistance to bacterial wilt was carried out and crosses were made among the selected parents. Yield and quality parameters of F1 hybrids and parents were recorded. Generations of the selected combinations were being forwarded to select superior hybrids for resistance to disease, yield and quality. The study continued.
- The scholars were teaching the students in managing the nutrition garden in the school and educating them on the practices of gardening.

Thesis Submitted

Research report on "Inheritance of bacterial wilt resistance in tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.)" was submitted by Ms. Jyothi Kattagoudar, PNASF Ph.D. Fellow and "Analysis of nutritional status and food security of school children with and without midday meal programme" was submitted by Ms. Savitri Byadagi, PNASF Ph.D. Fellow.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Participation in the SEAVEG Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand

Dr. Prem Nath attended the Meeting of the SEAVEG (Regional Symposium on Southeast Asian Vegetables) held on November 26, 2012 at 1330 hrs at Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand.

Subsequent to the Search Group and International Organizing



SEAVEG Meeting in session at the Kasetsart University, Bangkok

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Committee Meeting of SEAVEG held on May 29, 2012 held at FAO/RAP premises in Bangkok, a meeting was organized for the implementation of the decisions taken to organize SEAVEG-2014. It was organized at the Golden Jubilee Building of Kasetsart University, Bangkok at 1330 hrs on November 26, 2012. It was attended by seventeen members of Department of Agriculture (Thailand), Kasetsart University, FAO, AVRDC, VEGINET and Horticultural Science Society of Thailand and was presided over by Dr. Prem Nath (VEGINET).

He reminded the members of the decision of the SEAVEG/International Organizing Committee meeting held May 29, 2012 to organize SEAVEG-2014 in Bangkok during **February 25- 28, 2014**. The suggested title of the SEAVEG-2014 was **Regional Symposium on Sustaining Small-Scale Vegetable Production, Food and Nutrition and Marketing Systems (SEAVEG 2014): Families, Farms, Food**. After detailed discussion following committees were made;

1. National Organizing Committee

- **Chairman:** Director General, Department of Agriculture (DOA)
- **Vice-chairmen:** Deputy Director General, DOA; Director, Horticultural Research Institute, DOA; Poonpipope Kasemsap, Kasetsart University (KU)
- **Members:** DOA, KU, AVRDC, FAO, HSST

1.1. Scientific Programme Sub-Committee:

- Jacqueline d' Arros Hughes (AVRDC) – Chair
- Poonpipope Kasemsap (KU) – Vice Chair
- Subash Dasgupta (FAO)
- Om P. Dutta (VEGINET)
- Saichol Ketsa (KU)
- Suwit Chaikiattiyos & Grisana Linwattana (DOA)
- Suraphong Kosiyachinda (HSST)

1.2. Budget and Finance Sub committee:

2. International Advisory Committee

- **Chairman:** Prem Nath (VEGINET)
Members: AARNET Members from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand

3. SEAVEG Coordination Committee

- ❖ Responsible for ensuring action on ongoing and future SEAVEG symposia.
- ❖ To coordinate among and between (a) organizing institutions, e.g. DOA, FAO, VEGINET, KU, HSST. (b) different committees e.g. National Organizing Committee, International Advisory Committee and others (c) participating countries-ASEAN, Asia and Pacific, Africa, Latin America, USA and Canada.
- **Chairman:** Prem Nath (VEGINET)
Members:
 - Hiroyuki Konuma (FAO)
 - Jacqueline d' Arros Hughes (AVRDC)
 - Robert J. Holmer (AVRDC)
 - Suwit Chaikiattiyos (DOA)
 - Grisana Linwattana (DOA)
 - Poonpipope Kasemsap (KU)
 - Kanokrat Sittipoch (HSST)
 - Philip Chew Hong (AARNET)

It was decided that the first announcement to be drafted by **December 01, 2012** and to be released by **December 14, 2012** and the theme will be focused on food and nutrition security, family farming and young people. Since the time period available was about one year only, it was emphasized that all committees/sub-committees/Groups should meet quickly to facilitate timely action.

Participation in the Preparatory Meeting of UPAFSA-2013 at FAO/RAP, Bangkok, Thailand

The PNASF was nominated by the FAO for organizing the **Regional Workshop on “Strengthening Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture towards Resilient Food Systems in Asia”** scheduled January 28-30, 2013 in Bangkok. In 2005, PNASF had organized FAO Workshop entitled *Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture for Asian Countries during 29th June to 2nd July, 2005*.

In this context a preparatory meeting was held on November 22, 2012 at FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in Bangkok. Dr. Prem Nath attended the meeting. In introductory meeting, Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific shared his views on the theme, scope and objectives of the workshop. He was supported by Ms. Shashi Sareen, Senior Food Safety and Nutrition Officer, FAO/RAP.

PNASF had committed to organize this workshop in collaboration with FAO. In the Operational Meeting details were worked out. The workshop programme decided was as follows;

Title: **Regional Workshop on “Strengthening Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture towards Resilient Food Systems in Asia”**

Objectives: The objectives of the workshop were to review experiences on urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) in the Asia Region as well as lessons learnt with the aim of identification and advocacy of best practices and case studies from countries across the Region. The regional workshop will also identify priorities and key investment areas for strengthening UPA leading to action plans including pilot interventions that can be taken up for supporting resilient food systems in the cities of Asia; mechanisms to coordinate

between different stakeholders (public, private and civil society) and partners will also be identified.

Programme: The programme will include presentation of UPA Reports from different Asian countries, Case studies and Group discussion on research priorities, development initiatives and public private partnership.

Field trip: The team selected the terrace garden and peri-urban vegetable fields in the outskirts of Bangkok city for participants to visit.



Terrace Gardening in Bangkok City



Peri-urban Vegetables

SOCIAL COMMITMENT

New Fellowship Granted

Dr. K.G. Ahuja of Chicago, USA, author of the book entitled, "Foods and Nutrition" published by PNASF and Studium Press, New Delhi and PNASF Technical Advisory Council Member, extended second Fellowship Award in the name of her late mother Smt. Devki Devi Ahuja, for a Ph.D. student in Food Science and Nutrition. Earlier in year 2001, Dr. Ahuja had granted a Ph.D. Fellowship which was allocated to UAS, Bangalore. On submission by the PNASF, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore consented to accept the second fellowship for a Ph.D. student in Food Science and Nutrition beginning 2013.



Dr. K.G. Ahuja

Prof. V.L. Chopra honored

Prof. V.L. Chopra, former Director General, ICAR; former Member of Planning Commission, Government of India and the Senior Scientific Councilor, PNASF was appointed as the First Chancellor of Central University of Kerala by H.E. the President of India in her capacity as the visitor of the Central University of Kerala on August 22, 2012. The PNASF and VEGINET family congratulate Prof. Chopra for this honor and wish for his continued support to food, agriculture and education.



Prof. V.L. Chopra

75th Birthday Celebration of Chairman, PNASF

The family and friends of Dr. Prem Nath celebrated his 75th Birthday on November 12, 2012 at his residence. The event was organized by his son Dr. Bijoyendra Nath, USA; daughter Ms. Shyamla Nath, Mumbai; Ms. Vanita and her husband Mr. Vinay Sampath and family friends. All present congratulated him which was followed by food, music and dances of joy. All the family members and friends present on the occasion prayed for his long life and good health for his continued contribution to food and agriculture.



Dr. Prem Nath greeted by friends



Some Photos captured during Dr. Prem Nath's 75th Birthday Celebration

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Publications

- Nath, Prem (2012) International Horticulture Food Security Issues, Annual Conference ASHS 2012 Abstract Book, Jul-Aug, 2012, P 101
- Nath, Prem; Linwattana, Grisana; Holmer, Robert; (2012) High-value Vegetables from Eastern Asia, Annual Conference ASHS 2012 Abstract Book, Jul-Aug, 2012, P 43
- Nath, Prem; Velayudhan, Sundari; (2012) Gourds in Asia, Annual Conference ASHS 2012 Abstract Book, Jul-Aug, 2012, P 123

New Book: The Basics of Human Civilization- Food, Agriculture and Humanity, Volume-I: Present Scenario- Compiled by Dr. Prem Nath and edited by Dr. C.P.A. Iyer, Dr. O.P.Dutta, Dr. K.R.M. Swamy, Dr. B.S.Prabhakar and Mr. P.B.Gaddagimath.

The PNASF is scheduled to publish this book contributed by well-known national and international authors and contains the following chapters:

1. **Introduction - Dr. Prem Nath, India**
2. **Food and Nutrition**
 2. 1. The Right to Food - **Dr. Prem Nath, India**
 2. 2. The Intersection of Religion and Horticulture- **Prof. Jules Janick, USA**
 2. 3. Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition for most Vulnerable People and Our New Generation - **Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, FAO, Thailand**
 2. 4. The Insufficient Calorie: How the Nutritional Quality of Food was Overlooked in the Drive to Eliminate Hunger - **Dr. Jacqueline Hughes, AVRDC, Taiwan**

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- 2.5. Importance of Food Safety in the Food Production and Supply Chain- **Ms. Shashi Sareen, FAO-RAP, Thailand**
- 2.6. Enhancing Livelihoods in Central Asia and the Caucasus through the Increased Production and Consumption of Nutritious Vegetables - **Dr. Ravza Mavlyanova, Uzbekistan**
- 3. Natural Resources and Food**
- 3.1. Some Perceptions on Natural Resources - **Dr. Prem Nath, India**
- 3.2. Food Security and Climate Change Benefits from Sustainable Agriculture Intensification: Synergies and Trade-Offs - **Dr. Giacomo Branca, Nancy McCarthy, Dr. Leslie Lipper, FAO, Rome**
- 3.3. Agriculture and Environment: the Double Edge Sword of Science and Technology - **Dr. Mahmoud Solh, ICARDA, Syria**
- 4. Agriculture and Food Policy Changes**
- 4.1. The Evolving Role of Agriculture in Mitigating Food and Nutrition Insecurity- **Ms. Rajul Pandya-Lorch and Dr. Sivan Yosef, IFPRI, USA**
- 4.2. Food Policy and Health- **Mrs. L.G.S. Villavicencio, USA**
- 4.3. Investment in Indian Farm Sector: Pathways and Policy Directions - **Dr. S. Bisalaiah, India**
- 4.4. Progressive Change in Land Reforms and Agriculture Policy - **Prof. R. S. Deshpande and Mr. Nitin Tagade, India**
- 4.5. Impact of Vegetable Breeding Industry and Intellectual Property Rights in Food Security-**Prof. Jao K Silva Dias, Portugal**
- 4.6. Messages from International Horticulture Conferences and Symposia in the New Millennium - **Dr. K. R. M. Swamy and Dr. Prem Nath, India**
- 5. Improving Agriculture**
- 5.1. Augmenting Agriculture Higher-Education in India - **Dr. Panjab Singh, India**
- 5.2. Perspectives and Approaches in Agricultural Extension for Sustained Development - **Dr. C. Prasad, India**
- 5.3. Rural Bio-Resource Complex: A Holistic Approach to Improve Livelihood Security of Farmers- **Dr. K. Narayana Gowda and Dr. K.C. Narayanaswamy, India**
- 5.4. Improved Integrated Farming to Augment Food and Nutrition Security of Masses - **Dr. Narayana G. Hegde, India**
- 5.5. New Approaches by NGOs in Augmenting Rural Development - **Dr. Arun Balamatti, India**
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- 5.7. Seed Industry and its Future in India: A Retrospective Resonance - **Dr. M. Mahadevappa, India**
- 5.8. New Strategies and Approaches in Improving Vegetable Cultivars - **Prof. Joao Carlos da Silva Dias, Portugal and Rodomiro Ortiz, Sweden**
- 5.9. Technological Innovations in Cashewnut Production - **Dr. K. R. M. Swamy, India**
- 5.10. Improving Quality and Safety of Food from Field to Consumption Level-Indian Context - **Dr. K.R. Anilakumar and Dr. K. Santhanam, India**
- 5.11. Aquaculture: From Edge of Civilization to a Modern Food Production System- **Dr. M.R. Raghunath, Dr. K. Hemaprasanth, and Dr. N. Sridhar, India**
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- 6.4. Relevance of Nutrition Gardens In the Context of Nutritional Security – **Dr. P. Indira and Prof. K. V. Peter, India**
- 6.5. Feeding Cities through Urban and Peri-Urban Aquaculture - **Dr. Dilip Kumar, and Dr. S. Munilkumar, India**
- 7. Challenges and Opportunities**
- 7.1. Challenges and Opportunities in Food, Agriculture and Humanity- **Dr. Prem Nath, India**
- 7.1.1. Challenges and Opportunities-Food and Nutrition
- 7.1.2. Challenges and Opportunities- Food Crisis
- 7.1.3. Challenges and Opportunities-Poverty
- 7.1.4. Challenges and Opportunities- Health
- 7.1.5. Challenges and Opportunities-Environment and Natural Resources
- 7.1.6. Challenges and Opportunities-Agriculture and Horticulture

The book is scheduled to be released on Monday, February 04, 2013 at Raj Bhawan, Bangalore.

E-VEGINET News: The responses of the readers of Issue-I and II have been encouraging, Issue-III is being mailed and Issue-IV will be available in January, 2013.

Publications of PNASF

Publications on shelves

Description	India (In Rs.)	Foreign (In US \$)
* Book – Vegetable Crops : Improvement and Production (Pages :398) 2007	125.00 + Rs. 55.00 (postage)	25.00 including postage
* Book – Food Security and Vegetables- A Global Perspective (Pages : 437) 2004	200.00 including postage (PB) 300.00 including postage (HB)	50.00 including postage

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Description	India (In Rs.)	Foreign (In US \$)
* ICV-2002 Proceedings – CD (Pages:931) 2003	150.00 including postage	10.00 including postage
* VEGINET Booklet (Pages: 22) 2003	35.00 including postage	5.00 including postage
* ICV-2002 Abstract Book- (Pages:445) 2002	150.00 including postage	35.00 including postage
ICH Abstract Book (Pages:487) 2009	300.00 including postage	55.00 including postage
ICH Souvenir (Pages:142) 2009	150.00 including postage	35.00 including postage
Book – Foods and Nutrition (Pages: 485) 2009	Available with Studium Press LLC 4735/22, 2 nd Floor, Prakash Deep building (Near PNB), Ansari Road Darya Ganj, NEW DELHI-110 002.	
ICH-2009-Proceedings-CD (Pages: 2553) 2010	100.00 including postage	
Book-Horticulture and Livelihood Security (Pages: 550) 2011	Available with Scientific Publishers 5-A, New Pali Road, P.O. Box 91 Jodhpur - 342 001, Rajasthan Phone: +91-291-262 4154 Fax: +91-291-261 3449	

* 15% discount given to PNASF and VEGINET members, Professors, Students and Libraries.

How to order?

Making online order to drpremnath@vsnl.net and by sending Bank Demand Draft or Cheque in favor of Dr. Prem Nath Agricultural

Science Foundation, A/C No.: 0417101037688 in Indian rupees and A/C No: 0417101039815 in US Dollars, payable at Canara Bank, Vyalikaval, Bangalore – 560 003, India.

Plans on hand

While the ongoing activities will continue, the PNASF proposes to undertake new programmes and activities;

- ✦ Organizing FAO/PNASF *Regional Workshop on implementing resilient food systems in Asia by Strengthening Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture* scheduled January 28-30, 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ✦ Organizing Late B. R. Sen Memorial Lectures and Book-Release Ceremony scheduled February 04, 2013, Raj Bhawan, Bangalore.
- ✦ Preparation of the book **“The Basics of Human Civilization-Food, Agriculture and Humanity-Volume-II: Food”**.
- ✦ Preparations for SEAVEG-2014-*Regional Symposium Sustaining on Small-Scale Vegetable Production, Food and Nutrition and Marketing Systems SEAVEG 2014: Families, Farms, Food* scheduled February 25-28, 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ✦ Follow up on field projects.
- ✦ Participation in Conferences/Symposium/Workshop/Congress;
- ✦ Awards/grants to university students and researchers to continue ;
- ✦ Collaborate with the national and international institutions/ associations in the area of food and nutrition security etc.;
- ✦ Publication of the PNASF News Letters and E-VEGINET News.

OPPORTUNITIES

Awards/Scholarships

PNASF encourages universities/institutions to institute PNASF Medal Awards for outstanding post-graduate students/ young scientists working on research problems augmenting food and nutrition security and invites them to support these activities through funds.

Field Projects

PNASF invites societies/associations/NGOs interested in implementing small rural community projects on self help income generation augmenting food security, for any assistance.

Publications

The PNASF publications are available on price with the Central Secretariat, PNASF and publishers.

Contribution/Membership

Registration/membership/contribution either to PNASF or to VEGINET available at

Website: www.pnasf.org

and by E-mail to

drpremnath@vsnl.net

or

pnasfoundation@gmail.com.

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Publications of PNASF



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