

**Deputy Director General (Engineering), Indian Council of Agricultural Research  
inaugurates Installation Training for the Statistical Software Package of NAIP  
Consortium “*Strengthening Statistical Computing for NARS*”**

Dr. MM Pandey, Deputy Director General (Engineering) inaugurated the Installation training of Nodal Officers from 24 NARS organizations of NAIP Consortium on “Strengthening Statistical Computing for NARS” on June 07, 2010 in presence of Dr. V.K. Gupta, ICAR National Professor and Dr. V.K. Bhatia, Director, IASRI, New Delhi and many other dignitaries. Dr. Bhatia underlined the importance of this project and emphasized that the outcome of this project would be in terms of trained manpower in the usage of statistical package. Dr. Rajender Parsad, Consortium Principal Investigator described briefly the genesis, importance and goal of the project and also presented an implementation plan. This initiative aims at creating a sound and healthy statistical computing environment for the benefit of scientists of NARS. The goal of the project is to provide research guidance in statistical computing and computational statistics, providing thereby enabling statistical computing facilities to the researchers of NARS. It would not merely be an interface of statistics, computer science and numerical analysis; it would also involve development of intelligent algorithms using statistical techniques for analyzing massive data sets. Dr. V.K. Gupta felt that the initiation of this project is a historical event, which would go in the Annals of the ICAR as a red letter day. It would give a new look to the research of agricultural scientists and through statistical computing environment the agricultural research would become globally competitive, visible and acceptable. Dr. Gupta also felt that the process of procurement and installation has been successfully initiated but the bigger challenge that lies ahead is in the implementation and capacity building of scientists and this would become a major component of the success of this project. Dr. MM Pandey congratulated IASRI for its efforts in spearheading this initiative which would provide desired impetus to agricultural research. Dr. Pandey expressed his feelings by saying that this effort would further enhance the visibility of IASRI and the disciplines of Agricultural Statistics and Computer Applications in NARS. Dr. Pandey expressed a sense of fulfillment over the fact that not only this project aims at creating infrastructure but also targets at training 1500 researchers in the NARS in the usage of high-end statistical package. These trainers would in turn train their fellow scientists and thus it would have a multiplier effect. The availability of very healthy statistical computing environment would help the researchers in NARS in undertaking a probing, in-depth an appropriate data analysis of the data generated from agricultural research including those in advanced research areas such as biotechnology, genomics, micro-arrays, forecasting, agricultural field experiments and surveys, microarrays, massive data sets such as climate changes. It would also develop a capability of sharing data over web and creation of analytics over the web useful for All India Coordinated Research Projects and other Network Projects of NARS. Dr. Pandey echoed loudly the feeling that sensitization of the research managers and the research scientists is very important for the success of this project. IASRI has to prove its leadership in this aspect as well.