

**Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, inaugurates Launch Workshop of
NAIP Consortium**

“Strengthening Statistical Computing for NARS”

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR inaugurated the Launch Workshop of NAIP Consortium on *Strengthening Statistical Computing for NARS* on June 08, 2010 in presence of Dr. Bangali Baboo, National Director, NAIP, Dr. M.M. Pandey, DDG (Engg.), Dr. A.K. Singh, DDG (Natural Resource Management), Dr. S. Datta, DDG (Crop Sciences), Dr. K.D. Kokate, DDG (Agricultural Extension), Dr. V.K. Gupta, ICAR National Professor, Dr. Mruthyunjaya, Former National Director, NAIP, Dr Ramesh Chand, Director, National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, Dr Sain Dass, Director, Directorate of Maize Research, Dr. H.S. Gaur, Dean and Joint Director Education, IARI, New Delhi, Dr. NT Yaduraju, National Co-ordinator, NAIP, Dr. V.K. Bhatia, Director, Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and many other dignitaries. This project is a realization of the visualization of research managers, research facilitators, researchers and trainers to create 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 so as to provide enabling statistical computing facilities to the researchers of NARS. The efforts would not merely be focused on an interface of statistics, computer science and numerical analysis, but it would also involve designing of intelligent algorithms for implementing statistical techniques particularly for analyzing massive data sets, simulation, bootstrap, etc.).

The availability of healthy statistical computing environment would enable the researchers in NARS to undertake probing, in-depth, appropriate, intractable analysis of data generated from agricultural research including those in advanced research areas like biotechnology, genomics, micro-arrays, forecasting, agricultural field experiments, surveys, microarrays, massive data sets such as climate change, biodiversity, market intelligence, etc. It would also facilitate data sharing over web and creation of analytics over the web useful for All India Co-ordinated Research Projects and other Network Projects of NARS.

Dr. Ayyappan emphasized the need to sensitize the researcher managers about the capabilities of this project in making the agricultural research globally competitive, visible and acceptable. To this end IASRI has to play a proactive role by describing success stories, capabilities and features of the statistical computing environment through presentations in Director’s Conferences, SAU Vice-Chancellor Conferences, Dean’s meetings and other important fora.

The launch of this timely initiative to reinvigorate the agricultural research system with advanced computing facilities and development of computing skills would make June 08, 2010 as a red letter day for NARS. This would provide enhanced visibility to IASRI and agricultural statistics discipline in NARS. This project has brought all 151 NARS organizations in a closed network. The training component of the project is also very exhaustive and targets at training 1500 agricultural research scientists in the country in the usage of high-end statistical package. These would then become trainers and in turn train other agricultural research scientists. Such an effort would have a multiplier effect.