Teaching and Training of Agricultural Statistics

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ABSTRACT N.30

For bringing overall improvements in the functioning of Agricultural Statistical Systems across the world, the training and teaching of the discipline of Agricultural Statistics is of paramount importance. The development of newer statistical applications for data collection, policy planning and maintenance of information systems on various components of economic interest are very important. The teaching and training aspects associated with these components are essential and the role played by the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) has been very significant, both in research as well as teaching and training in the field of Agricultural Statistics and Computer Application. The Institute is world-wide recognized for its contribution to research and teaching in the field of agricultural statistics. In addition to in-service training programs at national and inter-national levels, the Institute has been contributing towards Human Resource Development Programme by way of conducting M.Sc. and Ph.D. programme in Agricultural Statistics since 1964-65. Many foreign nationals have been benefited from these programmes.

In this article, the contribution of IASRI in the area of teaching and training in Agricultural Statistics is highlighted. The various issues of training needs in Agricultural Statistics and career development have also been focused. The usefulness and emergence of new technological innovation like e-learning, distance learning and access of websites for teaching material are also dealt at length. The Institute's strong training components in the areas of Designing of Sample Surveys, Remote Sensing and Application of GIS in Area and Crop Yield Estimation Surveys, Livestock and Fisheries Surveys, Crop Forecasting and Forewarning of Pest and Diseases and Use of different Statistical Software Packages in carrying out statistical analysis of voluminous data are highlighted. The contributions in other areas of design and analysis of field experiments including quantitative genetic analysis and bioinformatics for researchers are also of great significance.