



भारतीय कृषि एवं खाद्य परिषद्
INDIAN COUNCIL OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Annual Report 2016-17





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Chairman Message

Dear Friends,

It is of great delight that Indian Council of Food and Agriculture is now 18 months old and is actively working a policy think tank, trade facilitation body and development enterprise for food and agriculture sector in India and serving as global platform for partnerships.

ICFA through its outreach policy and business agenda and global partnerships is creating opportunities for growth, value addition and trade to help improve the income of farmers. Also, the council is working for farmers and agri-entrepreneurs towards helping them connect with the market opportunities, while addressing their policy, technology, trade, marketing, financing and partnership related needs.

ICFA is also promoting investments, entrepreneurship and technologies in farm sector by forging global partnerships with right institutions and by taking up projects, training and facilitating farmers producer organizations and agri start-up ventures to accelerate growth in farmers' incomes, productivity and agribusinesses.

During the year in review the council has successfully launched two working groups, organized eight national level round table conferences and has signed three MoUs with organizations of international repute. The council has a total of four working groups, eleven national RTCs and seven MoUs to its credit. The council has participated and made meaningful intervention at various meetings of national and international level.

In future, the council through its sector focused Working Groups, State and District Chapters, National Councils and country specific Joint Business Councils, seeks to strongly represent the interests of all the stakeholders at the national level on one hand and position India's food and agriculture sector globally on the other hand.

Amidst a volatile environment and changing climate pattern, it is important to have not only consistent but increasing agricultural production with better returns to farmer and industry. In order to strongly position India in global food and agriculture market, it is essential to have more and more youth and private firms in the agriculture with public sector support to make it a profitable venture and ICFA envisions to do the same for growth of farmers, agriculture and nation as a whole.

Dr MJ Khan
Chairman





Genesis

Agriculture continues to be a powerful engine for rural prosperity, economic growth and social transformation world over and especially for the developing countries. In India, Africa and in many Asian countries agriculture holds critical importance to the economy as in the developing world 40% - 70% of the population directly depends on farm sector for its livelihood and sustenance. Agriculture in India and globally is undergoing a rapid transformation post WTO regime, governing the global trade in food and agriculture.

Indian agriculture and farmers as well as agro industries are passing through a critical phase but lack a credible body to articulate its views and take up issues at the national and international level. In this context, there was a long felt need of having an apex body, which could act as a think tank, information bank, advocacy group, watch-dog, development catalyst, trade, technology and investments facilitator and monitoring center for food and agriculture sector at national and global level. This should act as parallel to trade bodies like CII, FICCI etc., but be different from them in scope and objectives to represent not only the interests of the industry but also the sector as a whole, including the farming community.

The fast changing trade and economic environment globally requires a paradigm shift in our approach. We have to act proactively and respond positively to the changing dynamics of the global trade and agriculture. The bench-marks are now global and we have to prepare our policies and strategies with global perspective. Though the country has become self reliant in food grains production, its average productivity and quality is low and the cost of production high, which makes Indian agriculture less competitive in the world market. Therefore, there is need for global cooperation in agriculture and much greater need for boosting up trade in food and agriculture. This sector also promises great potential for start-up ventures and entrepreneurship opportunities, which the new body can facilitate.

A paradigm shift is required in our approach to agriculture; from production to marketing, from quantity to quality and domestic to international consumers. The agriculture has to be practiced on scientific lines with the use of best of technologies available to compete globally in cost and quality. A major program on crops shifting has to be implemented, taking in view the global benchmarking and our core competitive strengths in various crops. The importance of internal reforms and direction to the sector is enhanced on account of centrality of food and agriculture in the global trade post WTO.

There are however, contradictions in our policies with compartmentalized approach due to absence of a dialogue mechanism among various stake-holders. The Government, policy makers, research bodies, extension agencies, industry, development institutions and farmers groups think in different directions, often with contradictory approach for the same ultimate cause. Within food and agro industry also there are different bodies for specific interest areas.

This underlines the need for such body, which encompasses the compartmentalized approaches and strives for consensus on major issues and reconciliations of approaches by creating proper understanding and opinions on major issues that concern Indian agriculture, farmers and agri-food industry. And at the same time it works on policy issues, promotes investments and agribusinesses, facilitates cooperation in trade and technologies and unleashes the potential of food and agriculture globally. agriculture sector and unleash the potential towards empowering the farms and farmers.

With this background Indian Council of Food and Agriculture was created in 2015, after prolonged consultations and global studies over a period of 12 years. ICFA promises to address all the above concerns and needs of the food and agriculture sector and unleash the potential towards empowering the farms and farmers.



Vision

“Unleashing the potential of India's food and agriculture sector and empowering farmers through trade, technologies and partnerships towards achieving global food security and environmental sustainability.”



Mission

“Acting as the think tank, development enterprise and platform for global partnerships among the stake-holders in food and agriculture sector towards creating opportunities for trade, technologies and investments in agriculture and food value chain; and thus facilitating entrepreneurs development, farmers' empowerment and enhancing the centrality of farm sector in policy making and economic ecosystem.”



Objectives

- To be the apex body at the national level, acting as think tank, policy research and trade facilitation body, development enterprise and policy advocacy centre for food and agriculture sector; and to give voice to various stakeholders; farmers, agri professionals, trade, industry, research and development sectors.
- To act as the monitoring centre and watch-dog for the national and international developments in food and agriculture sector, and to positively influence policies, trade negotiations towards protecting interests of farmers and the industry alike as also to promote the opportunities for small farmers and agri business ventures in this sector.
- To be the global platform for partnerships in food and agriculture to promote trade, investments and technologies and startup ventures in farm sector; and execute programs of GAP, food safety, environmental sustainability and agricultural stewardships towards promoting eco-agriculture and accelerating the growth of agribusinesses and food trade.
- To create awareness and understanding on major issues in food and agriculture sector and promote cooperation among the major stakeholders by organizing business meets and consultations; and promote innovations and adoption of successful farming and agribusiness models on larger scale and facilitate visits of trade and official delegations between India and other countries.
- To be the national platform for farmers services, and to execute agricultural projects, entrepreneurship programs and farming ventures; and forging linkages with the industry, institutions and development bodies to promote commodity specific professional groups; and to act as apex facilitation body to further the cause of farmers and key stakeholders involved in food, agriculture and agribusinesses.

Board Members

Indian Council of Food and Agriculture is governed by a Board of Directors, which is comprised of the professionals of national and global eminence from the diverse fields such as policy, development, academic, research, farming, trade and industry. Currently, ICFA has a twenty Member Board, chaired by Dr. MJ Khan.



Dr. R B Singh
Chancellor
Central Agricultural University



Salil Singhal
Chairman and MD
PI Industries Ltd



Dr. P K Joshi
South Asia Director
IFPRI



R S Sodhi
Managing Director
AMUL



Dr. Purvi Mehta
Head – Agri (South Asia)
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



Ajit Jain
Managing Director
Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd



Jai Shroff
Managing Director
UPL Limited



Ram Mudholkar
President
El DuPont India Pvt Ltd



Siraj Chaudhry
Chairman
Cargill India Ltd



Dr. Maharaj Muthoo
President
Roman Forum, Rome



RPS Gandhi
Chairman
Green Valley Biotech Pvt Ltd



Dr. K L Chadha
President
Horticulture Society of India



Prof. Karim Maredia
Director
Africa Partnership Program
Michigan State University



B S Soundarajan
Chairman
Suguna Foods Ltd



Prof. Kadambot Siddique
Director
Institute of Agriculture,
Western Australia University, Perth

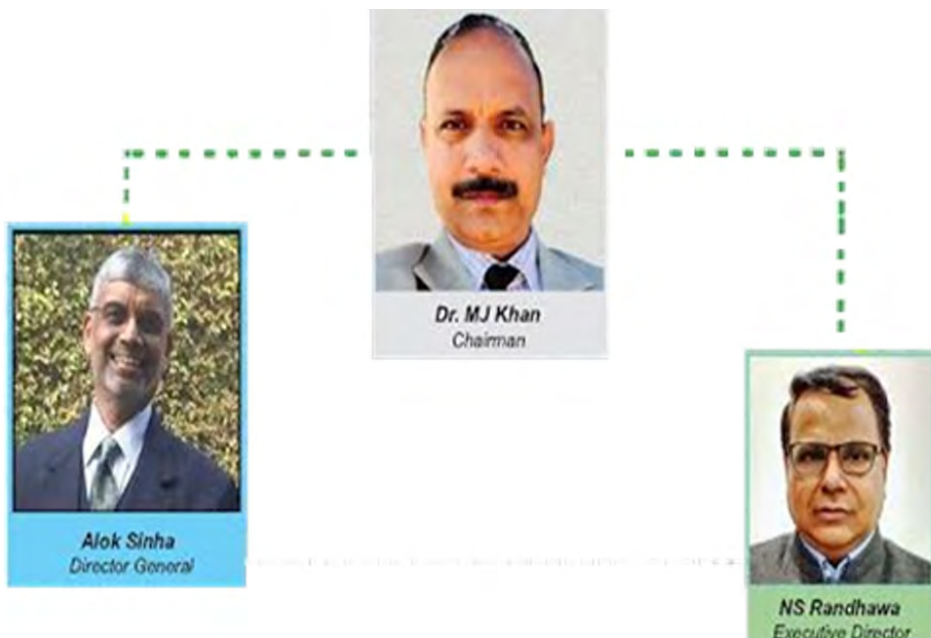


N G Hegde
Chairman Emeritus
BAIF Development
Research Foundation

Management Team

ICFA, being a think tank, cannot lean too heavily towards either the academic, journalistic or bureaucratic mode of operation, but instead, needed to use the required elements and as a result board of directors came up with a distinctive and customized “business model” for the organization. The management team for the organization for the financial year 2015-16 is as

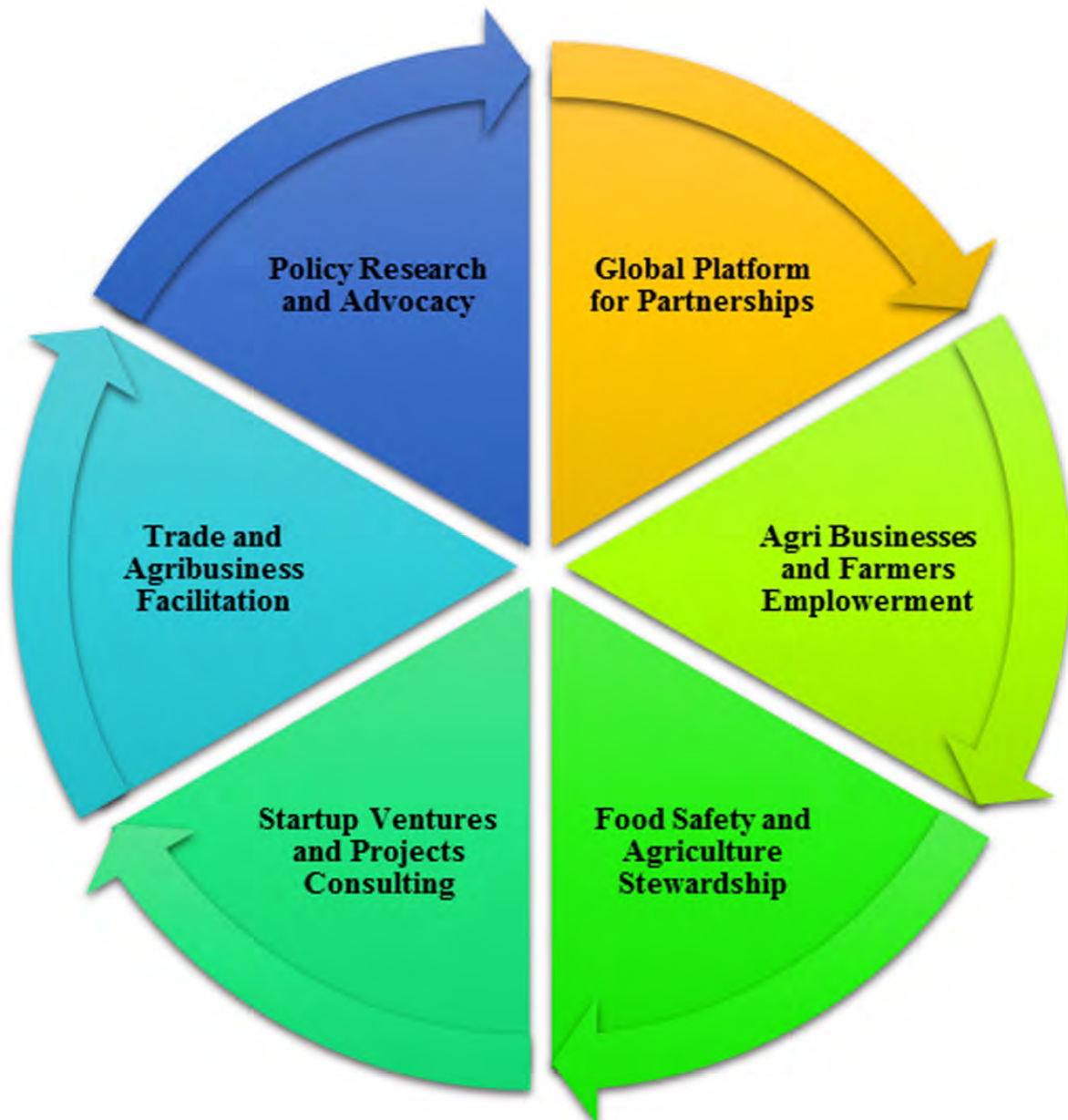
Management Team



Review of Operations

Indian Council of Food and Agriculture, being first think tank in the sector of food and agriculture in India focuses on all most all the aspects of the agricultural sector of India from farmers to the industry. With this wide view, the council focuses on the following working areas by conducting RTCs, launching Working Groups with respect to various sectors and signing MoUs with various institutes.

Indian Council of Food and Agriculture Working Area





ICFA Working Areas

- **Policy Research and Studies:** The success of agriculture or the businesses depends upon the policies of the Governments, which regulate markets, pricing of inputs and outputs and almost everything is governed by the policies. ICFA focuses on research based policy advocacy and development agenda.
- **Platform for Global Partnerships:** With the globalization of trade and economies and the issues of trade and climate change emerging as common global concern, there is need for collective efforts and cooperation towards addressing the key global issues. ICFA aims to bring on one platform all the key stake-holders.
- **Trade and Agribusiness Facilitation:** India has got very large and diverse food production system, growing almost every crop and every animal that is grown in any part of the world. However, share of India in global food and agriculture trade is minimal, which ICFA promises to boost.
- **National Resource and Monitoring Centre:** Agriculture and food sector is vastly diverse and now globally integrating. There is hectic pace of happening in policies, trade, technologies and markets world over, which need to be studied and monitored and its implications analyzed and shared with farmers, Governments and other key stake-holders.
- **Global Policy and Dialogue Forum:** In an increasingly globalized world, there is need for continuous dialogues and discussions on trade and policies, technologies and knowledge sharing for farmers, industry, entrepreneurs and policy makers to get updated knowledge and global perspective. ICFA aims at organizing regular dialogues and deliberations.
- **Crop Stewardship and Agri Services:** Indian agriculture lacks professional services right from GAP certification to farm management and agribusinesses to delivery of programs and schemes. ICFA is committed to addressing this need by organizing farmers to connect them with services, technologies and national and global markets



Working Group and Alliances

ICFA constitutes working groups and alliances for the major sub sectors of the agriculture industry with comparatively small number of population under the chairmanship of a prominent personality from food and agriculture sector. In the fiscal year 2016-17, ICFA constituted an alliance which is as follows:

“All India Farmers' Alliance (AIFA) – The Voice of Indian Farmers”

Date: September 8, 2016

Venue: Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi

All India Farmers Alliance is promoted by ICFA comprising 44 Farmer Organizations from all over the country. It is a true National Body of Farmers, which involves more than a million members within 16 months of its promotion and have National, State and District Chapters throughout the country. All India Farmer's Alliance is a forum that incorporates several grass root level farmer organizations, cooperatives, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups and other farmer bodies, under its aegis for a common cause of farmer's welfare. These groups sought to ameliorate poverty, poor profitability, low crop prices, farm debt and other farm crisis by educating and mobilizing farmers on these vital issues. The critical role of All India Farmer's Alliance is to engage in policy debate at state and national level with concerned agencies and stakeholders.

ICFA Working Group on “Horticulture”

Date: November 15, 2016

Venue: B.Pal Auditorium, IARI, Pusa Campus, New Delhi

Indian Council of Food and Agriculture launched its Working Group on Horticulture during 7th Horticulture Congress in New Delhi. Father of India's Horticulture Revolution, Dr. KL Chadha has been nominated as its Chairman and Dr. Vibha Dhawan, Executive Director, TERI as the National Convener. Vice Chancellor, Jodhpur and Commissioner Horti, Andhra Pradesh have been nominated as Co-Chair. Dr. MJ Khan, chairman ICFA formally launched the Working Group by presenting Special Memento to Dr. KL Chadha.



Round Table Conferences (RTCs)

ICFA has initiated a series of round table conferences for all the major sub – sectors and aspects of agricultural sector taking all the stakeholders i.e. government officials, policy makers, corporate heads, head of academic and research institutions on board with a purpose to create a platform for open discussion about issues and challenges of the sector. RTCs envisage taking up major concerns and bottlenecks for the growth of the sector and coming up with the recommendation to overcome the same.

The round tables were initiated from February 2016 and eight RTCs have been successfully organized during the financial year 2016-17.

Round Table Conference on “Indian Poultry Industry”

Date: December 14, 2016

Venue: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Chaired by: Dr. O.P. Chaudhary, Joint Secretary Poultry, Government of India,

Poultry sector in India continues to be growing in the long run through policy support by the Government and perseverance of the private sector. With timely interventions by the Government in the backyard poultry sector, farmers in the country have moved from rearing country birds to rearing low input technology birds which ensure faster growth of chicks, higher eggs per bird and increased hatchability. The sector possesses immense potential for growth, value addition, employment generation and in driving growth of India's farm sector.

Indian poultry industry however faces several challenges as well, both on policy and market front. Keeping various issues in mind, Indian Council of Food & Agriculture organized a National Round- table on Indian Poultry Industry.

Round Table Conference on “Horticulture

Date: January 10, 2017

Venue: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Chaired by: Dr. K.L. Chadha, President, HIS

Horticulture is emerging as a strong sector and growing contributor to Agriculture GDP. With the increase in demand the production of horticultural crops has been increasing rapidly and has surpassed grain production for three consecutive years. In spite of such an impressive achievements; there yet remains many constraints due to which horticulture sector is not able to unleash its full potential. In order to discuss the bottlenecks and possible solutions a national round table on horticulture was organized by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA). The main purpose was to provide a platform to private players, government officials and heads of research and academic institutions of Indian horticulture sector to interact face to face and talk over the issues and concerns in its development and the steps required to overcome them, with major focus on marketing and logistic aspects.

Round Table Conference on “Micro Irrigation”

Date: January 10, 2017

Venue: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Chaired by: Dr. H.P. Singh, Chairman, Confederation of Horticulture Association of India (CHAI)

India's agriculture is still hostage to the vagaries of nature, with 60% of the sector dependent on rainfall. So when rain fails for two consecutive years like it has, it is a full blown crisis for the country's farmers. Today, India is considered to be a water stressed country. We were highly water-surplus in 1950s. This change has come mainly due to two reasons. First – increasing population; and second – highly wasteful flood method of irrigation (FMI). To arrest the decline in per capita water availability and per capita food grain availability, we need to increase production with judicious water use in farming. Micro Irrigation (MI) along with precision farming not only addresses the problem of water scarcity but also effectively save fertilizer



consumption per unit of land and improves productivity. MI is the key to this looming water scarcity. With usage of MI systems, conveyance loss can be minimized as well as evaporation; runoff and deep percolation can be reduced.

Keeping in view these problems and their solution a national round table on micro irrigation was organized by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA). The intent of the meeting was to provide an active platform for discussion and consultation on major issues and trends pertaining to micro irrigation and precision farming to all the stakeholders including the state and central government, industry, trade, credit institutions and public sector agencies as well as research institutes.

Round Table Conference on “Mechanization”

Date: January 31, 2017

Venue: India International Centre, New Delhi

Chaired by: Mr. Ashwani Kumar, Joint Secretary – Mechanization, Ministry of Agriculture

Agriculture being one of the primary employment sector to millions across the country becomes vital for the country's growth. India ranks third in farm and agriculture output globally. It is also the largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices and related products. Agricultural exports constitute 10% of the country's exports, and are the fourth-largest exported principal commodity. However, productivity in the country has been highly variable due to erratic monsoons, which in turn presents a strong case for farm mechanization and use of more stable irrigation sources such as micro irrigation systems etc.

Farm Mechanization in enhancing farm efficiency and making farming more profitable, Government of India has given highest priority to this sector. But given the plethora of issues and constraints the country is yet to realize its full potential. In this context ICFA hosted a National Round Table Conference on Farm Mechanization.

Round Table Conference on “Organic Farming”

Date: February 8, 2017

Venue: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Chaired by: Mr. Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry Department of Commerce jointly with Dr. Vandana Dwivedi, Addl. Commissioner (INM), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

Organic Farming is a unique production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity, and this is accomplished by using on-farm agronomic, biological and mechanical methods in exclusion of all synthetic off-farm inputs making farming more profitable. Keeping all views in mind Government of India has given highest priority to this sector in this union budget 2016-17. But given the plethora of issues and constraints the country is yet to realize its full potential. In this context, ICFA hosted a National Round Table Conference on Organic Farming.

Round Table Conference on “Plant Protection”

Date: February 17, 2017

Venue: Taj Palace, Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi

Chaired by: Dr. A. K. Sinha, Plant Protection Advisor to the Government of India

India loses agricultural produce worth over 1 Lakh Crore annually. Crop protection products hold key to save crop losses and thus contributing to the national food security and doubling farmers' income. Given its importance, ICFA hosted a National Round Table of Plant Protection. The main purpose was to provide a common platform to private players, government officials and heads of research and academic institutions in the sector to have loud thinking over the issues and concerns as well as the steps the steps required to overcome them, with major focus on ensuring that only genuine and quality products go to the market and are available to the farmers or producers.



Round Table Conference on “Untapped Potential of North Eastern Region”

Date: March 15, 2017

Venue: India International Center, New Delhi

Chaired by: Dr. A. K. Sinha, Plant Protection Advisor to the Government of India

North East region is one of the richest reservoir of genetic variability and diversity of different crops i.e., various kinds of fruits & vegetables, spices, ornamental plants and also medicinal & aromatic plants. The diversity for horticultural crops of this region has mainly been managed by local farmers, often women. In spite of the presence of diversified crops in the region, the potential of the region is still untapped. In order to discuss the untapped potential of the region, a national round table on “Untapped Potential of North East Region” was organized by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA). The main purpose was to provide a platform to private players, government officials and heads of research and academic institutions to interact face to face and talk over the issues, challenges and opportunities in the region and steps required in the same direction.

Round Table Conference on “Food Safety, Quality and Supply Chain Management”

Date: March 22, 2017

Venue: India International Center, New Delhi

Chaired by: Mr. Ashish Bahuguna, Chairman, FSSAI

Co-chaired by: Mr. JP Meena, Special Secretary, MoFPI

Agriculture is India's third largest industry employing almost half the country's working population and accounting for 18.1% of GDP. On the whole, it is not widely organized and relies heavily on small growers, transporters and traders to supply both domestic and export markets. Thus, India offers a wealth of opportunity to the food industry. However, as a developing nation, its food safety, quality and supply chain management issues are now coming into focus. In order to discuss the various challenges and way outs for the same, a national round table on “Food Safety, Quality and Supply Chain Management” was organized by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA). The main purpose was to provide a platform to private players, government officials and heads of research and academic institutions to interact face to face and talk over the issues, challenges and regulatory framework and steps required in the same direction.

Discussions and Interactions

Discussion on “African Agriculture”

Date: January 22, 2017

Venue: India International Center, New Delhi

Agriculture is India's third largest industry employing almost half the country's working population and accounting for 18.1% of GDP. On the whole, it is not widely organized and relies heavily on small growers, transporters and traders to supply both domestic and export markets. Thus, India offers a wealth of opportunity to the food industry. However, as a developing nation, its food safety, quality and supply chain management issues are now coming into focus. In order to discuss the various challenges and way outs for the same, a national round table on “Food Safety, Quality and Supply Chain Management” was organized by Indian Council of



Food and Agriculture (ICFA). The main purpose was to provide a platform to private players, government officials and heads of research and academic institutions to interact face to face and talk over the issues, challenges and regulatory framework and steps required in the same direction.

Discussion on “Union Budget – 2017”

Date: February 1, 2017

Venue: India International Center, New Delhi

The Union Budget 2017-18 is perhaps the most significant budget for the Narendra Modi-led NDA government and will define the path forward on how the economy will perform. This budget is special for other reasons as well, most important of all being the focus on agriculture and rural development. This budget has given both the interrelated sectors a major boost with significant increase in allocation, which is bound to show significant results going forward. With agriculture growth expected at 4.1%, this budget presents the best opportunity for transforming the rural economy.

Interaction with Minister of State (IC) Commerce and Industry, Government of India on “Doubling Farmers’ Income through Agri and Food Trade”

Date: February 22, 2017

Venue: India International Center, New Delhi



An interaction session of ICFA board members and few other eminent persons from the industry along with farmers' representative was organized with Hon'ble minister Mrs. Nirmal Sitharaman to put up the challenges faced by the farmers and industry in international trade and to seek guidance to improvise the same.



Collaborations/Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)

ICFA with a view to build a reliable, valuable and rational relationship and to establish friendly and cordial relations between India and other countries signed Memorandum of Understanding with various organizations, including Universities.

MoU with African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO)

Date: July 1, 2016

AARDO and the ICFA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at AARDO Secretariat for carrying out collaborative activities. The MoU was signed by H.E. Eng Wassfi Hassan El-Sreihin, Secretary General on behalf of AARDO and Mr. Alok Sinha, Director General on behalf of ICFA. During the signing ceremony, five senior officials from ICFA and the Assistant Secretary General and all Division Heads from AARDO were present.

MoU with Borlaug Institute of South Asia (BISA)

Date: July 15, 2016

ICFA signed an agreement with the Borlaug Institute of South Asia (BISA) for agricultural development in South Asian countries by jointly mobilizing resources and technologies. The MoU was signed in New Delhi between Chairman of ICFA, Dr. MJ Khan and Director General of BISA, Dr. H S Gupta. BISA and ICFA have mutually agreed upon working jointly in the fields of rural development, agriculture and food, implementing programmes on food security, environmental sustainability and accelerating the growth in farm productivity and agri-business.

MoU with SourceTrace INC, Boston

Date: January 18, 2017

ICFA and SourceTrace INC, Boston signed up MoU for working on IT application in agriculture. SourceTrace is US based IT firm specializing in agriculture. The company will work with ICFA towards developing appropriate apps for empowering farmers. The MoU was signed at ICFA office between the SourceTrace, Global CEO, Dr. Venkat Mariju and ICFA Working Group on ICT Chairman, Dr M Moni.

Visitors to ICFA

US Minister Agriculture, Mr. Scott Sindelar with Ag Attache



US Minister Agriculture, Mr. Scott Sindelar with Ag Attache in US Embassy in New Delhi, Mr. Mark Wallace and team visited ICFA office this afternoon and held detailed discussions with ICFA Board Members on strengthening cooperation in food and agriculture with India. This follows a series of meetings ICFA held at USDA HQ in Washington DC.

Minister of Agriculture from Malaysian province Kelantan



Minister of Agriculture from Malaysian province Kelantan, Mr. Che Abdullah Nawi with a five member delegation was received at ICFA HQ. Wide range of issues related to trade and technology partnerships and strengthening farmers' level cooperation were discussed. Also, the Minister invited ICFA to bring soon a delegation of stakeholders to Malaysia

Father of India's Green Revolution, Prof. MS Swaminathan



ICFA received the Father of India's Green Revolution, Prof. MS Swaminathan at its HQ in New Delhi. Prof. Swaminathan along with Noble Laureate, (Late) Dr. Norman Borlaug and Bharat Ratna, (Late) Mr. C Subramaniam saved India from the starvation threat to over 200 millions and thus saved humanity. He was joined on this occasion by Mr. AB Rapolu, MP, Dr. JS Sandhu, Dy DG-ICAR and some ICFA Board Members.

German Trade Counsellor



ICFA received German Trade Counsellor Ms. Ursula Holzhauser and Director, German Agribusiness Alliance from Hamburg Ms. Alina Gumpert at its HQ in New Delhi and discussed broad range of issues in food and agriculture and agreed to work on policy and trade issues by creating an institutional mechanism of Indo German Joint Business Council. From ICFA side meeting was attended by the Chairman Dr MJ Khan, DG Mr Alok Sinha, ED Mr NS Randhawa, CEO Mr V Rathore, Director Ms Mamta Jain and ICFA - WG Chairmen Mr. PL Thanga and Dr. M Moni.

Chief Imam and President, All India Imams Organisation, Maulana Umer Iliasi



Chief Imam and President, All India Imams Organisation, Maulana Umer Iliasi was received at ICFA office. Hazrat shared his vision of management lessons and spirituality, purpose of life and importance of serving the humanity. Seen in the picture are Dr. MJ Khan, Chairman ICFA, Mr. Veenu Bansal, IPS, DCP Security and Mrs. Garima Gupta, IAS, Special Secretary-Education.

Hon'ble High Commissioner of Mozambique and Trade Counsellor



Hon'ble High Commissioner of Mozambique and Trade Counsellor India and Mozambique both are predominantly agrarian economies. ICFA received at its Head Quarters His Excellency, Mr. Ermindo Augusto Ferreira, Hon'ble High Commissioner of Mozambique and Trade Counsellor Mr. Oliveira Amimo. Wide range of subjects related to agri trade, technology, investments and agribusinesses for accelerating agri growth and food security were discussed. ICFA team was represented by its Chairman, MJ Khan, DG Alok Sinha, ED Mr. NS Randhawa, Board Member Dr. M Moni, Directors Mamta Jain and Dr. Sucheta Arora and Vice President Dr. Priyanka Sarkar.

Agriculture Counsellor of Chile



which ICFA is organizing on the pattern of IITF.

Agriculture Counsellor of Chile Mr. Gonzalez was received at ICFA HQs to discuss organizing Chilean Fruit Festival in New Delhi. Chile is the world's leading exporter of grapes, walnuts, kiwi and a number of berries. We agreed to organize this festival in 2nd week of April 2018 and before that to host Chilean Agriculture Minister led delegation at the India International Agro Trade Fair (IATF) 13-15 Dec 2017 in New Delhi which

A group of farmers from Muzaffar Nagar district



A group of farmers from Muzaffar Nagar district led by Ch. Udham Singh, president, Kisan Mazdoor Mahasangh was received at ICFA headquarters today to discuss farmers issues. Mahasangh is part of All India Farmers Alliance promoted by ICFA. The series of meetings are part of making agri agenda for the Union Budget 2017.

Canadian Delegation



Canadian delegation led by their Agriculture Counsellor in New Delhi was received at ICFA office to discuss the pulses, fertilizers, bio products and canola trade. Director General - ICFA, Mr. Alok Sinha chaired the meeting, attended by ICFA Board Member, Dr. M. Moni, Executive Director Mr. NS Randhawa and CEO Mr. Vishnu Rathore (IIM-A)

Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Mr. P. Rupala



Indian Council of Food and Agriculture hosted Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Mr. P. Rupala at its HQ in New Delhi. Two hours long interaction with ICFA Board Members and Chairmen of different Working Groups took place and discussed issues ranging from MSP to GM crops, agro trade and agri sector reforms to increasing farm incomes. The Minister desired a meeting with ICFA promoted Farmers

Alliance next week, followed by meetings with the ICFA Working Groups for initiating needful reforms in agriculture.

Interventions

Chairman of ICFA attended the meeting of India-US-Africa Partnership Alliance in Agriculture



Dr. MJ Khan, Chairman, ICFA attended the meeting of India-US-Africa Partnership Alliance in Agriculture at the Broad College of Business, Michigan State University, US. Indian Council of Food and Agriculture is the India Partner to the Platform along with MSU and NEPAD, Johannesburg. We decided to work on a global project on converting farmers into farm entrepreneurs, focusing on India and Africa in

partnership with Indian institutions and agriculture industry.

ICFA hosted an interaction with four Food Prize Laureates of 2016



ICFA hosted an interaction with all four Food Prize Laureates of 2016, Dr. Howarth Bouis, Dr Maria Andrade, Dr Robert Mwangi and Dr Jan Low.

Meeting with Shri Ratan Tata



A meeting was held with the iconic Shri Ratan Tata at his office in Mumbai. Dr. MJ Khan, Chairman, ICFA, presented him with the Leadership award which was followed by a 90 minutes long rewarding discussion on policy issues, health of farms and farmers, health and nutrition, national and global food security and how ICFA and the Tata Group can work together for agriculture development.

Meeting with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs



India Africa Partnership promises great prospects for Global Food Security. India's learning in Agriculture can help Africa transform its farm sector and achieve rural prosperity. To boost trade and business cooperation ICFA will be creating a Working Group on Africa Agriculture and would be hosting Round Table on India Africa Agriculture. In this regard a meeting was held at the office of Minister of

State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. MJ Akbar on December 30, 2016 in New Delhi.

Discussion with Rajya Sabha MP, Mr. Sharad Yadav



ICFA team including Chairman Dr. MJ Khan, Executive Director Mr. NS Randhawa and Director Ms. Mamta Jain met JDU Leader and Rajya Sabha MP Mr. Sharad Yadav at his residence in New Delhi this evening and discussed farmer's issues and agenda for the Budget Session. Sh. Yadav enquired about the estimation of loss to farmers due to Demonetization.

ICFA hosted Students' Group from John Hopkins University, USA



ICFA hosted students' group led by Dean Sharon from John Hopkins University, USA through its strategic partner IAG International Washington DC. An interaction between JHU and IARI students took place. The meeting was chaired by Dr. RB Singh, chairman ICFA Academics Working Group and chancellor of Central Agriculture University. Present on the occasion were Dr PK Joshi, South Asia Director, IFPRI,

Director of NCAP, Mr Ramesh Deshpande, IAG Convener, ED, ICFA Mr. NS Randhawa and senior officials of IARI and NASC. ICFA and JHU to work on students exchange program.

Dr. Priyanka Sarkar, representing ICFA at Pragyan Youth Summit 2017



Pragyan Youth Summit 2017 at NIT TRICHY - Youth India Business Summit, a unique opportunity for young minds to come together and interact with the decision makers and industry leader of the nation. Representing ICFA Indian Council of Food and Agriculture, Dr. Priyanka Sarkar talked about "Inclusive Innovations" to meet the needs of the economically weaker sections of Indian society

as part of Make in India Concept. Agricultural R&D assumes more importance because it is a cost effective way of promoting sustainability and harnessing advances in frontier sciences in priority areas. Direction towards impact solutions and emerging issues in agriculture was focused and role of ICFA as apex sole body working towards providing a global platform national level policy, research, trade, information, development, advisory, advocacy, facilitation and monitoring center for food and agriculture sector; and to give voice to various stake-holders, farmers, agri professionals, trade, industry, research and development sector.

Meeting with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

Indian seed industry is one of the most vibrant and dynamic R&D driven seed industries globally and it has grown to over 20,000 Crores in 2016 out of a global size of 3 lakh Crore. The industry is comprised of 10 plus MNCs, 40 plus large Indian companies and over 400 small companies, spread across the country, serving the needs of 130 million farm families. Dr. MJ Khan, Chairman, ICFA addressed Indian Seed Congress organized by National Seed Association of India at Kolkata on the topic of Cashless Transactions in Agriculture. Union Agriculture Minister inaugurated the event with host of other dignitaries attended.

Dr. Mj Khan Chairman, ICFA participated in a farmers training program Hosted by Dinesh Malik.



South Rajasthan is hub of coriander production. Hosted by Dinesh Malik, who quit his cosy job at Reliance and put up an agro processing unit at village Arandkhera, 30 kms from Kota, Dr. Mj Khan Chairman, ICFA participated in a farmers training program and later visited coriander fields. His unit is buying spices from over 2000 farmers and supplying to several food companies, including Tata. Also, he connected

the Entrepreneur with Jodhpur Agri Varsity for technical support. ICFA as part of its mandate provides support to the agri start ups through its network of agri institutions.

ICFA participated 69th Session of AARDO Board Meeting



African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) is New Delhi headquartered Inter-Governmental body focusing on agri and rural interventions to improve food security, livelihood options and welfare of rural masses in member countries. ICFA participated and addressed 69th Session of AARDO Board meeting in New Delhi, which was participated by 31 Ambassadors and Heads of Missions. Indian Council of Food and

Agriculture is strategic partner of AARDO and participated with the status of Observer. AARDO offers great platform to participate in development process and market opportunities in African and developing Asian countries.

Dr. MJ Khan was present at the Ceremony of the 5th Inter Drought international conference.



Dr. MJ Khan joined the Concluding Ceremony of the 5th Inter Drought international conference at Hyderabad, organized by ICRISAT and attended by over 800 delegates from 50 plus countries. Presented mementos along with the Agriculture Minister of Karnataka Mr. K Byre Gowda and Chairman of the Event Organizing Committee, Dr. RK Varshney, Director, Genome Center, ICRISAT.

ICFA Delegation hosted by the Ambassador of Czech Republic in New Delhi



ICFA delegation was hosted by the Ambassador of Czech Republic in New Delhi, H.E. Mr. Milan Hovorka and Dy Chief of Mission Mr. Roman Masarik for discussions to boost trade, technologies, investments and cooperation in food and agriculture sector between the two countries. The Ambassador proposed for an interaction of ICFA members with Czech Foreign Minister in 2nd week of December 2017 in New

Delhi. He also invited and offered to host ICFA delegation to his country.

ICFA Management Meetings

ICFA Board Meeting



Prof. MS Swaminathan, Pioneer of India's Green Revolution chaired Board meeting of Indian Council of Food and Agriculture at its HO in New Delhi. The Board took the decisions of hosting 10th Global Agri Leadership Summit 5-6 September, 2017 in New Delhi to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Mr. Modi and Industry-Academia Partnership Projects. The meeting was joined by Dr. Purvi Mehta, Director (Ag)

South Asia, Gates Foundation, Dr. PK Joshi, South Asia Director, IFPRI, Mr. Ashish Bahuguna, Chairman, FSSAI, Dr. M Moni, Chairman WG on ICT, Mr. Alok Sinha, DG, ICFA, Dr. Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, ASRB, Dr. KL Chadha, President, HSI, Dr. Ajeet Kumar, Vice Chancellor, NIFTEM and Dr. MJ Khan, Chairman, ICFA.

News Coverage

Indian Council of Food and Agriculture India's apex think tank and trade facilitation body launched

Agriculture in India continues to be a powerful engine for rural economic growth and social transformation with over 50% population directly dependent for its livelihood and sustenance. Indian agriculture is however, presently undergoing a rapid transformation since the onset of economic reforms during early 1990s and the emergence of post WTO regime, governing the global trade in food and agriculture.

A paradigm shift is required in our approach to agriculture, from production to marketing, from quantity to quality and demands to international consumers. Agriculture has to be done on scientific lines with the use of best technologies for to compete globally in cost and quality. The up and down stream business needs to be promoted in agriculture to enhance value addition, profitability and employment generation. The importance of research and innovation in the sector is enhanced on account of the connectivity of food and agriculture in the global trade, post WTO.



ICFA members and officials at a meeting. The group includes representatives from various agricultural sectors and government officials.

Round Table Meeting of ICFA Policy Group on "Farmers' Welfare - Identifying the Issues"

The ICFA Policy Group has held a round table meeting to discuss the issues related to farmers' welfare. The meeting was attended by experts and officials from various departments. The group identified key areas for improvement and discussed strategies to address the challenges faced by farmers.



Participants at the Round Table Meeting of ICFA Policy Group on "Farmers' Welfare - Identifying the Issues".

कृषि परिषद का हुआ उद्घाटन, खेती के गुर बताना

The inauguration of the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) was held in New Delhi. The event was presided over by the Union Minister for Agriculture, Shri. Narendra Singh Tomar. He emphasized the importance of agriculture in India's economy and the need for a strong think tank to support farmers and improve agricultural practices.



The inauguration ceremony of ICFA, with Union Minister for Agriculture, Shri. Narendra Singh Tomar.

तर पूर्व क्षेत्र में आईसीएफ वार्किंग ग्रुप का शुभारंभ

The ICFA Working Group for the North Eastern Region has been formed. The group will focus on addressing the specific challenges and needs of farmers in this region, including issues related to infrastructure, market access, and agricultural practices.



Members of the ICFA Working Group for the North Eastern Region at a meeting.

किसान संघ के संयोजक बनें डॉ. त्रिपाठी

Dr. Tripathi has been appointed as the coordinator of the Farmers' Union. He will be responsible for coordinating the activities of the union and representing farmers' interests at the national level. Dr. Tripathi has a long experience in agricultural research and extension services.



Dr. Tripathi, appointed as the coordinator of the Farmers' Union.

Meet on 'Doubling Farmers Incomes through Agro, Food Trade' held

A meeting was held to discuss the strategies for doubling farmers' incomes through agro and food trade. The meeting was attended by officials from various departments and experts in the field. The discussion focused on improving market access, reducing post-harvest losses, and enhancing the value chain.



Participants at the meeting on 'Doubling Farmers Incomes through Agro, Food Trade'.



Participants at a meeting.



Participants at a meeting.

भारतीय कृषि-खाद्य परिषद के अध्यक्ष का छत्तीसगढ़ प्रवास

The Chairman of the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) has visited Chhattisgarh. During his visit, he met with officials and farmers, and discussed the issues related to agriculture in the state. He also inspected various agricultural activities and infrastructure.

Target of doubling farm incomes by 2022 is very much achievable, say experts

Experts believe that the target of doubling farm incomes by 2022 is very much achievable. They suggest that this can be achieved through a combination of measures, including improving market access, reducing post-harvest losses, and enhancing the value chain.

ICFA - Galvanizing India's Agriculture Led Growth

ICFA is playing a key role in galvanizing India's agriculture-led growth. The organization is working towards improving the efficiency and productivity of the agricultural sector, and ensuring that farmers receive a fair price for their produce.

India - Africa cooperation in agriculture can ensure long term global food security

Cooperation between India and Africa in agriculture can ensure long-term global food security. The two countries have a lot to learn from each other, and by sharing knowledge and resources, they can improve agricultural practices and increase food production.

भारत-श्रीलंका के बीच तकनीकी सहयोग पर सहमति

India and Sri Lanka have reached an agreement on technical cooperation in agriculture. The agreement will focus on areas such as crop production, pest management, and soil conservation. This cooperation will help both countries improve their agricultural practices and increase food production.

एलपीयू में 'स्टेविया' पर इंटरनेशनल सिंपोजियम

An international symposium on Stevia was held at the ELPU. The symposium was attended by experts from various countries, and it provided a platform for them to share their knowledge and experiences. The symposium was a success, and it was well-received by the participants.

किसान संघ का नेतृत्व छत्तीसगढ़ के त्रिपाठी को, महाराष्ट्र में बनेगी एगनीति

Dr. Tripathi will lead the Farmers' Union in Chhattisgarh, while a new strategy will be implemented in Maharashtra. The new strategy will focus on improving the welfare of farmers and ensuring that they receive a fair price for their produce. The Farmers' Union is committed to representing the interests of farmers and working towards their development.

देशभर के किसान पीएम से जल्द मिलेंगे

Farmers across the country will meet PM Narendra Modi soon. The Prime Minister has promised to meet with farmers and listen to their concerns. This meeting will provide an opportunity for farmers to voice their problems and seek solutions from the government.

7 Samachar Post, New Delhi, Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Agriculture Leadership Awards 2016 announced

CM, MP get Policy Leadership and Ratan Tata Lifetime Achievements

The Agriculture Leadership Awards 2016 have been announced. The awards recognize the contributions of individuals and organizations in the field of agriculture. The winners include the Chief Minister of Haryana, the Minister of Agriculture of Maharashtra, and Ratan Tata. The awards are presented by the Indian Institute of Agricultural Management (IIAM).

कृषि के संपूर्ण विकास के लिए तकनीकी सशक्तीकरण जरूरी

Technical empowerment is essential for the complete development of agriculture. This involves providing farmers with the necessary skills and knowledge to improve their agricultural practices and increase their productivity. Technical empowerment can be achieved through various means, including training, extension services, and the use of modern technologies.

कृषि परिषद का हुआ उद्घाटन, खेती के गुर बताना

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