



भारतीय कृषि एवं खाद्य परिषद्  
INDIAN COUNCIL OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

# Annual Report

# 2017-18



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## *Chairman Message*

**Dear friends,**

I am very delighted to share that Indian Council of Food and Agriculture has completed three years and is growing rapidly in both size and its outreach. ICFA is actively working as 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, entrepreneurships 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 five working groups, organized six national level round table conferences and has signed three MoUs with organizations of international repute. Besides these, ICFA this year initiated with its state and district chapters in two states viz, UP and Haryana, by launching two DACs and organizing State conventions. Also, ICFA organized a national level startup convention to promote startups in agriculture sector.

ICFA successfully organized the Global Agriculture leadership Summit, which this time was 10th in the row, and observed huge gathering of national and international delegates. Readers, will also find about the details of various other interventions made by ICFA in the form meetings, discussions and others through this report.

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



## Company Overview

Indian Council of Food and Agriculture is a policy think tank, established in the year 2015 backed with a thought process of over 12 years. Given the importance of agriculture in Indian economy as still 50% of country's population is directly dependent on farm sector for its livelihood and sustenance and the rapid transformation of agriculture throughout the globe and especially developing countries, changing the course of global food and agriculture trade, the council was constituted to represent Indian Agriculture sector globally and take up issues at the national as well as international level.

ICFA is an apex body, which 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. It acts parallel to trade bodies like CII, FICCI etc., but is 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 ICFA facilitates.

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.

In the changing global agriculture scenario due to increasing pressure to feed increasing population with shrinking resources in a sustainable manner to retain ecological balance and mitigate the effect of climate change, ICFA envisages to play an important role by making agriculture sustainable and profitable.

### 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.”



To provide competent consulting services to support agriculture and agribusiness sector by delivering sustainable solutions to projects in agriculture, agribusiness and allied sectors development worldwide and to bring great value to clients by forging partnerships in agriculture transformation.

### Mission

## 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.





# Work Areas



Policy Research and  
Advocacy



Global Platform for  
Dialogue and Partnerships



Trade Facilitation and  
Market Access



National Knowledge  
Resource Centre



Technology and  
Agri Startups Facilitation



Farmer Market Linkages and  
Agribusiness Services



## 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  
EI 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 2016-17 was:

### Management Team



***Dr. MJ Khan***  
Chairman



***Alok Sinha***  
Vice Chairman



***Pravin Srivastava***  
Director General



***Arvind Saini***  
Executive Director





## ICFA Working Areas

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.

- **Policy Research and Advocacy:** The success of farming or the businesses depend upon the policies of the Governments, which regulate markets, pricing of inputs and outputs and almost everything in the environment in which agriculture and food sector operate.
- **Global Platform for Partnerships:** With the globalization of trade and economies and the issue of climate change emerging as major global concern, there is need for collective efforts and cooperation towards achieving food security and environmental sustainability.
- **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.
- **Startup Ventures and Projects Consulting:** Indian agriculture promises enormous opportunities for entrepreneurs development and start-up ventures and agriculture and food value chain, but there is need for effective facilitation and quality projects consulting for best results.
- **Agri Services and Farmer's Empowerment:** Indian agriculture lacks professional services right from farm management and agribusinesses to delivery of programs and schemes and connecting farmers with the markets and technologies, ICFA is committed to address that need.
- **Food Safety and Agriculture Stewardship:** Access to safe, nutritious and healthy food is fundamental right of the people. However a vast population globally is suffering by malnutrition and unsafe food. Towards this end, ICFA has launched GAP Project and Healthy Food Initiative.

## Year 2017-18: Activities Undertaken

### 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 from the sector under the chairmanship of a prominent personality from food and agriculture sector. In the fiscal year 2017-18, ICFA constituted alliances which are as follows:

#### Working Group on North East

*Date: May 5, 2017*

*Venue: Khanapara, Guwahati*

Given the huge development opportunities in the North eastern region, the desired growth has not been achieved, evident from limited business and industrial activities. In order to convert these opportunities into activities, ICFA launched a Working Group on North East, it's very first regional working group. The group is being chaired by Mr. PL Thanga, IAS 1974 batch, Secretary, Mizoram State Planning Board appointed with 32 eminent persons as its Members. The working group was launched during Vibrant North east event organized by Centre of Agriculture and Rural Development and co-organised by ICFA at Guwahati. The group was created with an aim to mobilise national and global resources, investments and partnerships for overall development of agri, horti and livestock sector in the region in order to provide greater market access, value addition and self-employment opportunities in the state.

## Working Group on Eco Agriculture

*Date: May 22, 2017*

*Venue: India International Centre, New Delhi*

Dr. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Ayog launched 40 Member "ICFA Working Group on Eco Agriculture" at New Delhi at the Round Table Conference on Eco Agriculture and Bio Inputs, which was participated by global CEOs, heads of businesses, national institutions, VCs, farmer leaders and top experts. The working group is chaired by Padamshree Dr. MH Mehta, and has three sub groups viz. Policy Thrust, Agri Bio-inputs, and Eco- Agri Models-Extension and Tech Transfer each with a team lead. The group aims to promote eco agriculture in the country and reduce the burden on chemicals for food production and make agriculture ecologically sustainable, by bringing together all the stakeholders and discuss various issues and challenges to chalk out a blue print for its expansion.



## Working group on ICT in Agriculture

*Date: July 4, 2017*

*Venue: India International Center, New Delhi*



National Working Group on ICT for Agriculture was launched in New Delhi at the IT industry CEOs conclave. The Working Group was launched by veteran scientist Prof MS Swaminathan. There is pressing need to converge agriculture and technology among the key stakeholders for addressing the farm sector challenges and equally important is connecting farmers with markets and technologies. The 40 member Working Group is being chaired by ex DG, NIC, Dr M Moni, and it has top experts and policy makers besides IT CEOs. The event was attended by Mr. AB Rapolu, Member of Parliament

## Working Group on Uttar Pradesh

*Date: July 13, 2017*

*Venue: Lucknow*

Uttar Pradesh has enormous potential in agriculture but the state needs policy support for trade, investments and agri agribusinesses to catalyse growth and double farmers incomes. To support the cause, Indian Council of Food and Agriculture launched a 55 Member Working Group on Uttar Pradesh at Lucknow. This will provide a powerful convergence platform for the key stakeholders to deliberate and deliver for farmers. It is 2nd territorial Working Group, after ICFA WG on NER, and ICFA is committed to bring





about a change in UP agriculture and link the farmers effectively with technologies and markets. The meet was joined by various delegates, including 40 plus industry CEOs.

### **Lakhimpur District Agriculture Council**

*Date: July 21, 2017*

*Venue: Lucknow*

ICFA launched its 1st 70 member District Agriculture Council at Lakhimpur in UP. The DAC was launched by Dr RB Singh, Chancellor, Central Agriculture University DAC is a power platform to bring all stakeholders and deliver for farmers. DAC is created with the sole purpose to make policies, trade and technologies congruent to make farming profitable. The function was chaired by District Collector, Sh Akash Deep, IAS. Various services will be executed through DAC for benefitting farmers.



### **Working Group on Agri Startups**

*Date: February 22, 2018*

*Venue: Constitution Club, New Delhi*

With the changing face of Indian agriculture, more and more agri startups are entering the space, though few of them are able to pace up and survive this cut throat competition and face various issues and challenges. ICFA constituted a working group on Agri startups to bring together all the startups in agri space on one platform to discuss their issues, challenges and share their experiences for mutual benefits. The 40 members working group was launched during ICFA's 1st Agri Startup Convention by Hon'ble Minister of Commerce, Mr Suresh Prabhu. The working group was launched with an aim to work as apex body to address all issues related to policies, financing, incubation, technology, marketing, scaling etc. faced by the Startups so as to unleash the potential of this sector.



### **Karnal District Agriculture Council**

*Date: February 26, 2018*

*Venue: Karnal*

ICFA launched its 2nd District Agriculture Council at Karnal in Haryana. The DAC was launched by Hon'ble Chief Minister of the state Sh. Manohar Lal Khattar. The DAC is being Chaired by Dr. Gurbachan Singh, ex Agriculture Commissioner of India. DAC is a power platform to bring all stakeholders and deliver for farmers. DAC is created with the sole purpose to make policies, trade and technologies congruent to make farming profitable. The DAC was launched in Haryana Progressive farmers' convention.





## 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 RTCs conducted in 2017-18 have been listed below:

### Round Table Conference on “Farm Subsidies and Soil Health”

*Date: April 11, 2017*

*Venue: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi*

*Chaired by:*



Soil health is critical to ecosystem functioning and to maintain the soil's capacity to perform under the threat of climate change, increasing population and intensive agriculture. There is a need of paradigm shift in existing agricultural practices, services and policies. Nutrient management is a common denominator for soil health in diverse ecologies and production systems to enhance food production, improve farm profitability and resource efficiency, besides reducing environmental footprints. In light of the above, a RTC on Farm Subsidies and Soil Health was conducted to deliberate upon the issue of deteriorating

soil health and measures to improve it, including subsidies.

### Round Table Conference on Eco-Agriculture and Bio-inputs

*Date: May 22, 2017*

*Venue: India International Centre, New Delhi*

Chaired by: Mr Jalaj Srivastava, Additional Secretary - NRM, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Co-chaired: Mr. Shyam Khadka, FAO Chief of India

Given the growing pressure on land to feed the increasing population and injudicious use of chemicals coupled with erratic climatic changes, there is a need to shift towards a sustainable way of agriculture. Recognizing the significance of organic farming, bio stimulants and bio-products for health, environment, biodiversity preservation and sustainability of human civilization, Indian Council of Food and Agriculture organized a RTC to pave the way to make organic and bio- inputs a part main stream agriculture. On this occasion a 40 member working group on Eco Agriculture under the chairmanship of Padam Shri Dr. MH Mehta was also launched by Dr. Ramesh Chand, member, NITI Ayog.





### **Round Table Conference on ICT in Agriculture**

*Date: July 4, 2017*

*Venue: India International Centre, New Delhi*

*Chaired by : Prof MS Swaminathan*

With changing times, agriculture has come a long way. Agriculture has been revolutionized with the use of Information and Communication technologies. Presently, different technologies are available to make operations easier and efficient. A RTC was structured by ICFA to bring together various stakeholders engaged in the field of Agriculture, ICT and converging the two for better results. On this occasion a working group on ICT in Agriculture was also launched by eminent Prof. Swaminathan.



### **National Round Table of CEOs on Uttar Pradesh**

*Date: July 13, 2017*

*Venue: Hotel Silvete, Lucknow*

*Chaired by:*

Uttar Pradesh is fourth largest and most populous state in the country with agriculture being the major occupation of the inhabitants. Though the state contributes 19 % in total food grain production but the farmers are living in poverty and adversity. The state has immense potential which is not being fully utilized. In order to improve the status of agriculture as well as farmers in the state, a RTC was conducted to provide a platform to all the stakeholders to come together and discuss the various issues and concerns of agriculture and farmers in the state.



### **Round Table Conference on “Role of Media in Agriculture”**

*Date: September 15, 2017*

*Venue: India International Centre, New Delhi*

*Chaired by: Ms. Alka Bhargava, Joint Secy Ag,*

Media has critical role to play in agriculture in shaping the policies that shape the destiny of 50% people of India. Concerns of farmers and issues that food and agriculture sector face, remain largely un-noticed by media and unattended by the Government. ICFA hosted a unique dialogue between media and luminaries of agriculture sector. The main purpose behind conducting this RTC was to draw media's focus towards serious unattended issues of farmers and agriculture. The meeting was attended by more than 40 dignitaries including, the veteran journalist Sh.



Prabhu Chawla, Chairman, ICFA Group on ICT, Dr. Moni, Dr. SK Singh, Advisor to Agri Minister, ADG -ICAR Dr. Chahal and a host of media persons including LAXMI Devi from PTI, Mr. Sandeep Das from FE, Mr. H Garg from DD News, OP Yadav from Kisan Channel, Mr. VS Malik from AIR. Prof. Swaminathan, due to sickness, addressed the gathering by phone. On this occasion Agriculture Today Group launched Agri News Network (ANN) to provide agri news footage to all media and agencies.



## Round Table Conference on Dairy

Date: October 27, 2017

Venue: India International Centre, New Delhi

Chaired by: Mr. Devendra Choudhary, Secretary to Government of India for AHD&F.

ICFA hosted National Round Table on Dairy at New Delhi, joined by over 50 CEOs and heads of institutions. The sector possess strong potential for new business ventures and increasing farmers income, as it moves from current Rs. 1 lac crore to its actual level of Rs. 6 lac crores in next 20 years. The RTC aimed to discuss the ways to increase the productivity in dairy sector, though India is the largest producer of milk but it is contributed by the fact that India has largest cattle population in the world. On this occasion ICFA also released a report on Dairy Sector.



## ICFA Business Platforms

ICFA as part of its mandate to act as global platform for services, partnerships and enterprise development, has created various business and facilitation platforms to help the key stake-holders across the spectrum to access support, services and expertise of ICFA to help unleash their potential, leading to positive eco-system and overall growth of the sector. Major services and platforms, being operationalized by ICFA directly and through its strategic partners are:



Research and Rating Services



Technology and Innovations Platform



IndGAP Certification and Stewardship Programs



Policy and Regulatory Support Services



Startup Ventures Facilitation Platform



Business and trade Facilitation Services



## Discussions and Interactions

### CEOs Council Dinner

*Date May 27, 2017*

*Venue: India international Center, New Delhi*

ICFA hosted the 'CEOs Council Dinner' in New Delhi to discuss policy issues concerning agricultural growth in India. Agriculture is an important sector of Indian economy as still 50% population is dependent on it however the contribution of sector is declining in the country's GDP, making agriculture unsustainable and unprofitable for the farmers. Therefore there is a dire need to bring in policy reforms to support this sector. Different ways to uplift the sector as well as empowering farmers were discussed. CEOs of various firm operating in agri space participated in the discussion, prominent among those were Mr Jean Paul



Deveau, Global CEO & President, Acadian Sea Plants from Canada; Mr Roger Tripathi, President, Acadian Plant Health; Mr Ravi Verma, MP; His Excellency Wassfi Hassan El-Sreihin, Secretary General, AARDO; Mr Salil Singhal, Chairman, PI Industries; Mr Sunil Khairnar, Chairman, ISAP; Dr Vineet Malaviya, Founder Director, Reliance Fresh; Mr Vijay Sardana, CEO - F&A, UPL; Dr AK Rajput, ED, AIPBA; Mr Tushar Pandey, President, Yes Bank; Dr Vibha Dhawan, ED, TERI; Dr Thyagarajan, Advisor, BASF and Dr Anis Ansari, Chairman, CARD.

### ICFA lead farmers met Home Minister, Mr. Rajnath Singh and Foreign Minister, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj

*Date: June 8, 2017*

*Venue: New Delhi*

ICFA organized meeting of farmers leaders on land acquisition bill with the Home Minister, Mr. Rajnath Singh, Foreign Minister, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of Rural Development, Ch. Virendra Singh, Member of Parliament, Mr. Bhupender Yadav at the residence of the Home Minister, Government of India. Prominent farmers leaders, including Mr. Rakesh Tikait, Mr. KB Chowdhary, Mr. Yudhvir Singh, Mr. KS Gujjar, Mr. Puneet Thind and others participated.

### AIFA Board Meeting

*Date: June 8, 2017*

*Venue: ICFA, New Delhi*

ICFA hosted All India Farmers Alliance board meeting to discuss the problems faced by farmers across the country, including the farmers' agitation going on in Madhya Pradesh. The board decided to call a meeting of AIFA in the national capital to discuss way forward. Various national farmer associations and 44 member farmers group would be invited to participate. The meeting was moderated by National Convener AIFA, Dr. Rajaram Tripathi. Representatives of twenty five major farmers organisations were present and worked out Farmers National Agenda and finalises action strategy and national coordination. Prominent among those attended were Bhartiya Kisan Union, Rashtriya Kisan Sangathan, Kisan Shakti Sangh, All India Kisan Sabha, All India Vegetable Growers Association, All India Dairy Federation, Telangana Kisan Samiti, South Asia Borlaug Association, Swaraj Abhiyan, Bihar Kisan Samiti, and All India Herbal Association. The Group decided to coordinate with all other farmers bodies to bring them on one platform for agenda and coordination.

### **ICFA hosted African delegation in New Delhi**

*Date: February 18, 2018*

*Venue: India International Centre, New Delhi*

ICFA hosted a 14 member High Power African delegation from six countries mounted by Michigan State University, USA under the aegis of New Africa Partnership Agency for Development (NEPAD) and led by the Cabinet Minister of Nigeria, His Excellency, Mr. IU Jibril for discussions on agriculture partnerships. The delegation showed keen interest in the expertise and solutions from India in the areas of farm mechanisation, crop protection, bio products, animal sciences, biotechnology and farm management.



### **ICFA organized a consultation meeting on operationalizing Operation Green in New Delhi**

*Date: March 17, 2018*

*Venue: New Delhi*

ICFA organized a consultation meeting in New Delhi on operationalizing Operation Green, which was announced in the Union Budget 2018 @ Rs. 500 crores for prices stabilization of tomato, onion and potato. The meeting was chaired by Mr. JP Meena, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industry. Two hour long discussions, participated by 15 experts from diverse backgrounds, generated very useful ideas for implementing the scheme. Additional secretary- MFPI Mr. Gangwar Co-chaired the meeting.



### **ICFA organised consultation meeting on MSP for farmers**

*Date: March 26, 2018*

*Venue: New Delhi*

Home Minister of India Mr. Rajnath Singh held three hour long consultation meeting on MSP for farmers with a select group of experts organised by ICFA at his residence. The group suggested market reforms and elimination of mandi licencing, providing space in Mandi for FPOs, declaring reserve prices for commodities under MSP, freeing trade, reducing diesel prices and revisiting loans of small and marginal farmers by large loan waiver scheme among other things. Dr. PK Joshi, South Asia Director of IFPRI, Vijay Sardana, chairman, ICFA Working Group on Agro Trade and eminent farmers leaders, Krishna Bir Chowdhary, Ch. Pushpender Singh and Yudhvir Singh participated in the meeting, which was moderated by Dr. MJ Khan, Chairman, ICFA.







## 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.

### ICFA signed an MoU with ISAP

*Date: May 27, 2017*

Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) signed an MoU with Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP) in New Delhi to jointly work on social media projects in agriculture to deliver timely information, data, analysis, reports, success stories, video clips etc on programs, schemes, inputs, technologies and developments among the farmers and all key stakeholders in Indian and global agriculture. The MOU was signed with a thought that ICFA is a global platform in agriculture and ISAP has large social media network of over 1.90 lac registered members and the two organizations will complement each other in enhancing social media reach out in rural spectrum.



### ICFA collaborated with IZA

*Date: December 4, 2017*

Crops and soils in India are much deficient in zinc, which is reflecting on human health. ICFA signed a MoU with International Zinc Association (IZA) to work on policy issues and research projects and to support extension programs. The MoU was signed by IZA Director, Mr. Andrew Green and ICFA Chairman, Dr. MJ Khan. Also Mr. Green released ICFA Knowledge Report on Soil Health and Fertiliser Subsidies. Present on the occasion were Dr. Soumitra Das, South Asia Director, IZA, Mr. NS Randhawa, ED, ICFA, Mr. Vivekanand, Director - Research & Studies and Ms Mamta Jain, Director - Policy and Corporate Affairs.



### ICFA Signed MoU with Sudan

*Date: March 28, 2018*

ICFA signed its first MoU with the federal government of any country. The MoU was signed in New Delhi between Dr. Awad M Elgar, special envoy to the President of Sudan and Ms. Mili Dubey, Director, Trade & Agribusiness, ICFA. The MoU covers mobilizing Indian Technologies and investments in the areas of crop production and establishing seeds bank, food processing and livestock sector, horticulture, bio-agriculture and farm mechanization. ICFA plans to mount delegation of its member organisations to Sudan, Ethiopia and Zambia next month. Present on the occasion were Ambassador of Sudan, H.E. Mr. Yousuf, Chairman, ICFA Dr. MJ Khan and CEO of International Agriculture Consulting Group, Dr. Dinesh Chauhan.





## Visitors to ICFA

### ICFA received Director General of ICRISAT, Dr. David Bergvinson

*Date: May 11, 2017*

ICFA received Director General of ICRISAT, Dr. David Bergvinson at its office and discussed to work together for launching the India Africa Agriculture Partnership Platform, engagement with Indian States for agri projects, ICT platform for farmers and launching Healthy Food Initiative.

### Meeting on ICFA Parliamentary Forum

*Date: May 15, 2017*

Indian Council of Food and Agriculture nominated Senior MP and former MOS Agriculture Mr. Tariq Anwar as the Chairman, ICFA Parliamentary Forum. Mr. Ravi Verma, MP appointed as the National Convenor and Dr Udit Raj, MP as the Co-chair of this Forum. Mr. Anwar and Dr Raj visited at ICFA office and discussed its agenda, structure and formal launch. It was agreed to create a 40 member forum comprising 25 MPs from Lok Sabha and 15 from Rajya Sabha.



### Veteran journalist Prabhu Chawla was received at ICFA office

*Date: June 21, 2017*

Veteran journalist Prabhu Chawla was received at ICFA office for discussions on farmers issues and agenda and the role of media. Mr. Chawla expressed his concerns on farmers agitations and suicides in the states of MP and Maharashtra. He lauded the idea of conclave of farmers bodies in Delhi by ICFA affiliated All India Farmers Alliance on Aug 12 to set the agenda for farm growth and farmers welfare. Chairman Dr MJ Khan was joined by senior ICFA directors, ED, CARD Kunal Tiwari and Director, IACG Dr Dinesh Chauhan.



### Members of the Ghana Presidential delegation to India were received at ICFA office

*Date: March 13, 2018*

Members of the Ghana Presidential delegation to India, Mr. Samuel Amfo, MD, SYA Kwakya and Mr. Yaw Kwakye, MD, Torenzo were received at ICFA office to discuss agro trade, technology and agribusiness opportunities with India. The delegation evinced keen interest in creating agri ventures in dairy, poultry, fisheries, cocoa, horticulture and food processing with Indian expertise. They also requested for support in importing farm machinery, agrochemical and farm technologies. The meeting was joined by Mr. RG Agarwal, chairman, DAL, Dr. MJ Khan, chairman, ICFA, Dr. Dinesh Chauhan, CEO, IACG, Ms. Mili Dube, Director and Ms. Samitha Haldar, Vice President, ICFA.





## Interventions

### CHAIRMAN ICFA MET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER OF SRI LANKA

Date: May 10, 2017

Dr MJ Khan Chairman, ICFA met Dr. Harsha de Silva, Deputy Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka discussed issues related to food and agriculture trade and cooperation between India and SL and agreed to partner to promote technical cooperation in key crop areas through technologies and training support and also the agro food trade.



### ICFA AND CEYLON CHAMBER TO COLLABORATE FOR TRADE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Date: May 11, 2017

Dr MJ Khan, Chairman, ICFA interacted with Mr. SPS Ranatunga, President Ceylon Chamber, Mr. Z Hashim Chairman, F&V Association, Mr. Aruna Veerakon, President, National Agribusiness Council, Mr. Malik Alwis, Dy SG Ceylon Chamber & President SL Food Processors Association, and Mr Mohan Silva, SG, NAC at the headquarters of Ceylon Chamber in Colombo, Srilanka. The Ceylon Chamber and ICFA agreed to collaborate for trade and technical cooperation for crop inputs and technologies. ICFA will host SL delegation in New Delhi next month for further discussions.



### ICFA Participated in Workshop at SRI LANKA

Date: May 12, 2017

Chairman, ICFA visited Sri Lanka to attend Workshop on Emerging Food Safety & Quality Risks in South Asia: Challenges & Opportunities organized by Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) and Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). It was a fruitful meeting with Sri Lanka Exports Development Board, in Columbo, Srilanka. Director General, Ms. J. Siriwardena led six member EDB team expressed keen desire to strengthen trade relations with India. ICFA to host the delegation and meeting with trade bodies. EDB has also confirmed to participate in the India International Agro Trade Fair.

### ICFA lead a delegation to World Tea Summit at Hangzhou, China 18-19 May, 2017

Chairman ICFA, lead a 11 member delegation to World Tea Summit and met Prof. Dongyu QU Chinese Vice Minister of Agriculture at the Hotel Narada, Hangzhou for delegation level talks. Wide ranging issues from technical cooperation to trade boosting measures, crop care technologies to mechanization, tea husbandry and animal health care discussed. Minister emphasized the need for collaboration between Chinese and Indian institutions to





unleash the potential in food and agriculture for the benefit of farmers and consumers alike. Prime Ministers, Trade Ministers, Foreign Ministers, Ag Ministers or High Level officials headed delegations from 34 countries at the summit.

### **ICFA Team met Mr. Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture**

*Date: May 27, 2017*

ICFA team met the Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Mr Parshottam Rupala at his office and discussed recommendations of the National Round Table on Eco Agriculture and Bio Products. Eco Agriculture is need of the hour to make agriculture ecologically sustainable and profitable for farmers, given the increasing pressure to produce more from shrinking resources. The Minister expressed his happiness on the innovative measures suggested to control quality in bio products and save farmers from spurious products flooding the market. The team later met the Secretary of Agriculture Mr SK Pattanayak and discussed the QA in bio products and GAP certification in horticulture



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### **ICFA team met Mr. NS Tomar, Union Minister for Rural Development**

*Date: June 9, 2017*

Dr MJ Khan, Chairman, ICFA along with ED, Mr NS Randhawa and Director, Mrs Mamta Jain, met Mr NS Tomar, Union Minister for Rural Development, and discussed critical farm, farmers and rural development issues in view of the current farmers agitation in many states that have the nation gripped in agony and despair on the pathetic state of its farming community and also deliberated upon the road map to Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Doubling Farmers Income and shared 7 points formula to redress farmers distress.



### **ICFA team met Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Manohar Lal Khattar**

*Date: July 19, 2017*

Chairman ICFA with other members of team met with the CM Haryana to discuss wide range of issues and the policy thrust required towards empowering farmers. It was agreed that ICFA to work on branding of Haryana farm produce and in creating market linkages. The minister agreed for launching District Agriculture Councils in Haryana starting with Karnal and also consented to join ICFA Agriculture Leadership Summit on Sept 5 at New Delhi.





## **Chairman ICFA met the Hon'ble Governor of Haryana Prof. KS Solanki**

*Date: July 19, 2017*

Chairman ICFA Dr MJ Khan along with senior Directors visited Chandigarh and met the Governor of Haryana Prof. KS Solanki and presented him report on Eco-Agriculture. The Governor agreed to join Agriculture Leadership Summit on 5 Sept in New Delhi. The Chairman also met the Chief Principal Secretary to CM Panjab, Mr. Suresh Kumar and discussed about ICFA and Punjab Government partnering on sustainable agriculture initiatives. The chairman later met Agriculture Minister Haryana, Sh OP Dhankhar over dinner at his house.



## **Chairman ICFA met Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. MJ Akbar**

*Date: March 20, 2018*

Chairman ICFA met with the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. MJ Akbar and discussed India AFRICA Partnership in Agriculture and the AgroWorld 2018 being hosted by ICFA in New Delhi 24-26 Oct, combining with the Global Agriculture Summit 2018, presentation of World Agriculture Prize @ \$ 1 lac and the Global Dialogue On Climate Change and Food Security. Support of the Ministry was sought in inviting all the heads of nations to make AgroWorld the largest agro event in the world.



## **ICFA Flagship Event: Global Agriculture Leadership Summit and Award 2017**

*Date: September 5-6, 2017*

*Venue: Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi*

Global Agriculture Leadership Summit is an annual two days event organized by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) and this time it was tenth in the row. The Summit was organized in Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi concurrently with the Global Agriculture Awards and the release of Agriculture Year Book by Agriculture Today.

During the two days, various discussions on different aspects of agriculture as well as agribusiness were conducted with eminent personalities from research, industry and administration and policy making who shared their views and experience with the august gathering. In all total 10 technical sessions were there revolving around different aspects like Finance, technologies, role of state, ICT etc.

During the summit, Agriculture Leadership Awards were also presented to the individuals and organisations for their outstanding work under different categories. In all 13 awards were presented in different categories. The awards were given away by Hon'ble Minister of Home Sh. Raj Nath Singh Ji. The awards are presented to recognize the excellent work done and inspire the others to continue their efforts. (For detailed report, please visit <http://icfa.org.in/souvenirs.php>)



## Other Major events

### Vibrant North East 2017

*Date: 4-6 May 2017*

*Venue: Veterinary College, Khanapara, Guwahati*

ICFA co-organised the Vibrant North East 2017 with Centre for Agriculture and Rural development. VNE 2017 constituted the exhibition by different companies operating in the different areas of agriculture. Various round of discussions to promote agribusiness and industry in the north eastern region of the country and roadmap to overcome the issues and challenges was made.



### Lakhimpur DAC Summit

*Date: December 8, 2017*

*Venue: Inter College, Lakhimpur, UP*

After launching the Lakhimpur District Agriculture Council, ICFA organised 1st District Agriculture Summit at Lakhimpur. In the summit strategies for doubling farmers' incomes were discussed and the need to promote agribusiness as well as farmer-industry partnership in the state was realized. The summit was presided over by Agriculture Minister of UP, Mr. SP Shahi, who was joined by Ms. Rekha Verma, MP, Mr. Ajay Mishra, MP, 4 MLAs of the district, Mr. SK Singh, IAS, DM, Agri Counsellors of Spain and New Zealand, Mr. Neil Kennigton and Dr. Teresa Barres. Convenor of All India Farmers Alliance, Dr Rajaram Tripathi, Registrar General, PVPFRA Dr. RC Agarwal, Director of IISR Dr. AD Pathak, Director, CISH, Dr. S Rajan and CEOs of Nutrelis Food, Stevia Biotech, Farm Grocers, Mr. P. Diwedi, Mr. S Agarwal and Mr. Puneet Thind and a host of senior officials from the State and Central Government and the industry were also present. A district vision document was also released during the summit.



### All India Agri Startups Convention and Awards 2018

*Date: February 21-22, 2018*

*Venue: Constitution Club 2018*

Given the rapidly increasing number of startups entering the agrispace, but only few sustaining in long run, there is a need to discuss the issues and challenges faced by them and bring in the policy reforms to help them revolutionise agriculture in the country. With this background All India Agri Startup Convention was organised to bring in all the stakeholders, the startups, the industry experts, the policy makers and others at one place to deliberate upon the various challenges faced by the startups and make them aware of different policies and schemes that government has to support them. The two day event had various technical session addressing





different aspects of agribusiness, ICT, role of government and industry and scope and opportunities for growth. During the event the Startup were also awarded for their remarkable contribution to the sector. The awards were presented by Hon'ble Minister of Commerce Mr. Suresh Prabhu, who also released ICFA Knowledge Report on Agri Startups. A working group on Agri Startups was also launched.

### **Haryana Progressive Farmers Convention & Awards 2018, 26 February 2018 | Karnal**

*Date: February 26, 2018*

*Venue: Karnal, Haryana*

Haryana is an agricultural state with majority of population engaged, With the increasing pressure on land to produce more with shrinking resources to feed the increasing population, the agriculture needs to be revolutionised to meet the changing requirement. ICFA organized the Progressive Farmers Convention in Haryana to provide a platform to farmers to raise their issues and concerns. Experts from industry and senior officials from government addressed the issues. The 1st District Agriculture Council of Haryana by ICFA at Karnal was launched by Chief minister, Sh. Manohar Lal. State Agriculture Minister Sh.OP was also present for the event. ICFA also recognized the contribution and performance of farmers under various categories to further motivate them and inspire other farmers to put in best efforts.




### **ICFA organised its 3rd State Farmers Convention at Lucknow**

*Date: March 15, 2018*

*Venue: Lucknow*

ICFA organised its 3rd State Farmers Convention at Lucknow on the theme of connecting farmers to market. The convention was inaugurated jointly by the Cabinet Minister of Dairy, Mr Laxminarain and the Minister of Animal Husbandry, Mr SS Baghel. The Progressive farmers Convention aimed to provide a platform to farmers to voice their issues and concerns and discuss their problems with experts from industry and senior officials from government. Progressive Farmer Awards were also presented in the convention to 20 farmers from 14 districts by the Agriculture Minister, Mr SP Shahi at the concluding session. Over 300 Progressive farmers participated in the program.





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