

## **IASRI Alumnus Dr R.C. Agrawal joins as Registrar General, PPV&FRA**

Dr R.C. Agrawal, National Co-ordinator of Component-1 of World Bank funded programme 'National Agricultural Innovation Project' (NAIP) at Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, and a former M.Sc. and Ph.D. student of IASRI, has become the Registrar General, Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers' Right (PPV&FRA) Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, w.e.f. November 23, 2011.



Dr Agrawal obtained a doctorate degree in Agricultural Statistics from Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi in 1989. He has also successfully completed one year PG Diploma in Cyber Law from the reputed Indian Law Institute in the year 2007. During his career, he has published more than 30 research papers in national and international journals, edited 2 books, published 8 crop catalogues, 13 book chapters and delivered more than 40 invited talks during various conferences, workshops and training programmes.

He began his career as a Scientist at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi, in 1989, where he provided leadership in Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) information documentation and dissemination for use in breeding programmes, priority setting of the PGR activities, identification of gaps and needs for further exploration in important crops and preparation of national/international reports related to PGR treaties and legislations in India. He was primarily responsible for establishing a 'National Information Sharing Mechanism (NISM) on the implementation of Global Plan of Action for the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in India'. The NISM is being used for effective planning, management and identifying priority areas in PGR activities in India. He has also helped Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in providing consultancy to many countries like Iran, Oman, Zimbabwe, Campodia, Myanmar, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Nigeria etc. in the establishment of NISM.

Many on-line databases related to PGR and plant varieties have been developed by Dr. Agrawal and are in use by researchers in India. Two databases namely IINDUS (Indian Information System as per the DUS Guidelines) and NORV (Notified and Released Varieties of India) are in use at the PPV&FR Authority for the purpose of registration of extant and new varieties. As a Senior Consultant and Member Secretary of the Development of Plant Variety Information System of the PPV&FRA, he has contributed significantly to establish the 'Plant Variety Information System (PVIS)' of this Authority.

Dr Agrawal has a good international exposure. As a member of Indian delegation, he has visited several countries for the assignments related to Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations consultancies, Bioversity International consultancy, trainings, conferences and workshops.

As National Co-ordinator of component-1 NAIP which has about 180 partners across NARS and a budget of approx Rs. 400 crores, he demonstrated his impact in the creation of an enabling environment for better efficiency and productivity of the agricultural research system. In this component he co-ordinated activities of (a) information, communication and dissemination systems, (b) competitive business policy and technology commercialization models, (c) advanced learning and state-of-the art capacity building initiatives, (d) value added market intelligence services, (e) good M&E and strengthened impact evaluation systems, and (f) project friendly financial management and procurement systems.

The ISAS family extends him heartiest congratulations and success in his new assignment as Registrar General, PPV&FRA.