

## Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR visited RAU, Pusa

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, New Delhi visited RAU, Pusa on 23.09.2012. He was accompanied by Dr. (Mrs.) B. Meena Kumari, DDG (Fisheries), ICAR; Dr. P. Jayasankar, Director, CIFA, Bhubneshwar; Dr A. P. Sharma, Director, CIFRI, Barrackpore and Dr. J. K. Jena, Director, NBFGR, Lucknow. He inaugurated a newly built Hi-Tech Laboratory at Sugarcane Research Institute (SRI), Pusa and laid down the foundation stone of Laboratory complex at College of Fisheries, Dholi. He visited Pusa Farm, SRI, KVK, Birauli, Tirhut College of Agriculture and College of Fisheries at Dholi.

During visit to Pusa Farm, he suggested to make a critical evaluation of SRI method of rice cultivation. He advised for introduction of pearl culture and weed free maintenance of fish culture pond at KVK, Birauli. He praised the facilities available at hatchery complex of College of Fisheries especially for different kind of fish hatchery models under one roof and for diversification of aquaculture. He advised the students to take benefit of the practical facilities available in the College and to equip themselves with the technologies pertaining to aquaculture and fisheries.

DG, ICAR also interacted with scientists/teachers of the University in the Conference Hall of the Sanchar Kendra. Dr. R. K. Mittal, Vice-Chancellor, RAU welcomed the DG, DDG (Fisheries) and other visiting dignitaries and briefed about the University activities. DG, ICAR appreciated the infrastructure facilities and the on-going research, education and extension activities of the University.

During his address, he informed that the process of converting RAU into a Central Agricultural University (CAU) is now expedited with the efforts of the present Vice-Chancellor of Rajendra Agricultural University. It is, however, required that the RAU should examine the bench marks, that were set at the time of start of this University, what has been achieved so far and what is desired to be achieved as CAU. He desired that the CAU should be developed in agriculture as an IIT in engineering and technology where there should be new disciplines and new faculties. The University should act in Centre of Excellence mode in identified areas and have its own brand name and technology incubation centre for commercialization of technology. On research front, he emphasized on planning of location specific research, hybrid seed development, secondary agriculture, processing and value addition of litchi, makhana, maize, spices and important vegetable and fruit crops, water resources management, review of on-going AICRPs, need of new collaborative projects, and development of suitable micro-nutrient models for different agro-ecologies etc.

He expressed satisfaction that RAU is still in real rural scenario and therefore, it has a greater role in the agricultural human research development through imparting education and training. He mentioned that attracting good students is a real challenge for agricultural education. For this, awareness programmes including Agricultural Education Day should be organized every year. There is a need for new tools of education, improving expression power of students and faculties, faculty motivation, e-connectivity and e-courses etc. He wished that the RAU will produce a new Super- 30 batch of agriculture students bringing glory to the name of Bharat Ratna Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

He exhorted the scientists to adopt some villages for showcasing technology advancements and develop them into model agriculture villages. He suggested that the University should adopt 100 villages where the scientists should participate extensively in demonstration of technology, as also the University should prepare block and village level contingent plans for growth and development of agriculture in the region.