

KRISHAK SAMACHAR

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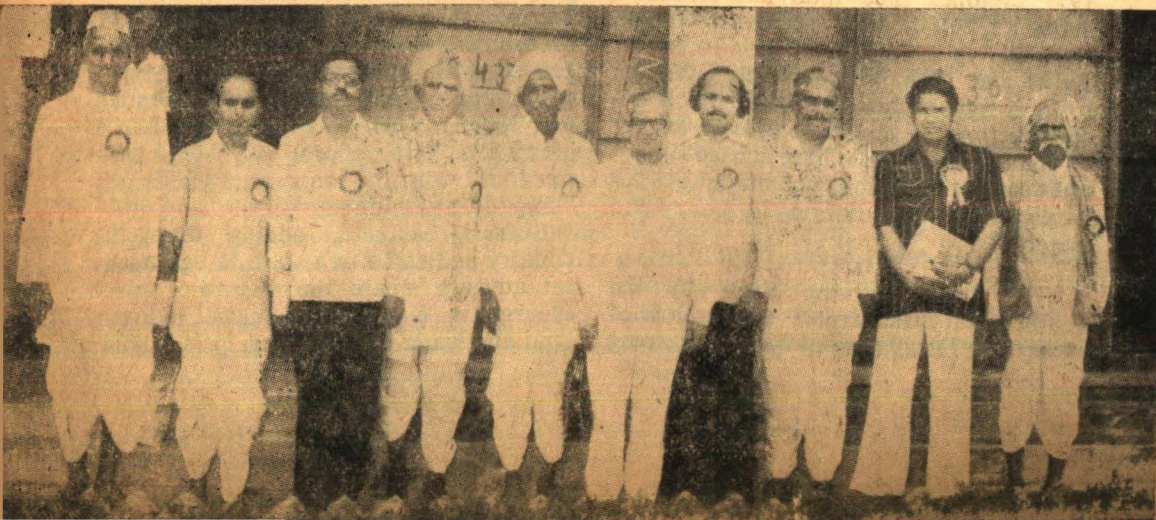
May, 1979

No. 5

B.K.S. Felicitate Krishi Pandits

The All India Crop Competitions were organised by the Directorate of Extension, Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation during the year 1977-78. This year Mr. T.G. Shivaraj, a Kurnool farmer was awarded "Krishi Pandit" title and Rs. 5000/- cash by Union Agriculture Minister, S.S. Barnala for the highest Paddy crop of 17,544 kg. per hectare. The second "Krishi Pandit" award-winner was Mr. Mohan Lal Onkardass Lodha of Jalgaon, Maharashtra. He had produced 12820 kg. of Jowar per hectare. He got cash award of Rs. 5,000/- and a certificate of "Krishi Pandit". Mr. Girdharilal of Mandsaur District, M.P. had secured a yield of 16,784 kg. of wheat per hectare to win his "Krishi Pandit" award and Rs. 5,000/- in cash. The second and third prize winners of Paddy were Mr. Pandhari Lakhaji Lighade of Bhandara (Maharashtra) for Paddy yield of 16,490 kgs. per hectare and Shri G.S. Tiwari of Raipur (Madhya Pradesh) for his paddy yield of 15,475 kg. per hectare respectively. Second price of Jowar went to Shri Peerajee of Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh) for 7,806 kg. per hectare and third jowar prize was won by Shri R. Venkat Reddy of Hyderabad for his 5,950 kg. per hectare jowar. The second wheat prize went to Shri Samarthmal Pal Patwa of Mandsaur (M.P.) for 15,386 kg. per hectare and third wheat prize winner was Shri Rajaram Gupta of Mandsaur for his 13,990 kg. per hectare.

Shri V.V. Kherde of Warud (Maharashtra) win the Udyan Pandit award, a bronze medal and Rs. 5,000/- cash for his best orchard of orange. Second prize in orange was given to Mr. Udai Ram Patel of Jhalawar (Rajasthan). The Udyan Pandit award, the bronze medal and Rs. 5,000/- cash was given to Mr. Jivrajbhai Patel for his Ber garden. The second Ber orchard prize was given to Shri Nawal Singh of Gurgaon (Haryana). Dr. D.A. Bholay seen with Krishi Pandits.



Arhar Support Price Raised by Rs. 10/-

The Government announced that support prices for 1979-80 for fair average quality of tur (arhar) had been fixed at Rs. 165 per quintal and for moong and urad at Rs. 175 per quintal. Union Agriculture Minister, S.S. Barnala said that support prices of pulses had been fixed on the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission. He pointed out that the support prices of Rs. 165 per quintal for tur and Rs. 175 per quintal for tur and moong respectively were higher by Rs. 10 per quintal than the support prices announced for the 1979-80 marketing season.

Cyclone again hits A.P. and Tamilnadu

The Southern coastal districts Nellore, Parkasam, Guntur of Andhra Pradesh and Chingleput of Tamilnadu battered only two years ago, were again struck by a cyclone. A cyclonic storm ravaged the entire belt between Tada in Nellore district and Machillipatnam in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh and Chingleput district of Tamilnadu. Lakhs of people were rendered homeless due to this cyclone. Relief operations are going on. A total crop area of about 55,000 acres has been affected. Paddy crop in 29,029 acres, tobacco in 13,596 acres, ragi in 8,205 acres, cotton in 1,500 acres groundnut in 17,775 acres gingelly in 80 acres, chillies in 90 acres, plantations and betels in 150 acres. Cattle and property of coastal areas are also affected. According to current indications the death toll may cross 1000, nearly 4 lakh houses were damaged. The damage to crops and property was much higher than in the 1977 cyclone. The total loss estimated about Rs. 500 crores. The loss to Indian Railways is estimated at Rs. 10 crores. Relief and Rehabilitation measures in form of food and clothes and quick reconstruction of houses to provide shelter to the affected people have started in the right earnest. Various voluntary agencies have also started pouring in money and materials.

The timely warning given by the weather-men has averted serious loss of lives. The installation of cyclone-warning

and detection radars on the east-coast have made possible the detection of cyclonic storms 400 km. out of sea and to track their movement as closely as necessary. The govt. may consider using reconnaissance air-craft to locate the exact spot where a devastating cyclone is likely to strike, measure the cyclone wind velocity, estimate the size of the storm and the lowest pressure in the eye of the cyclone. Studies to enable change the path of cyclones and reduce their energy content by weather modification technics will be helpful, then it may be possible to divert the destructive power of cyclones away from populated coastal areas, until then the A.P. Government is rightly thinking of creating a "safety belt" on their entire coastline.

Multiple Cropping only Solution

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Secretary to the Union ministry of agriculture, said at Bangalore that multiple cropping could provide the solution to increase the gross cropped area, as there is practically no scope for bringing more area under cultivation in any other way. He said the additional land required for human and industrial needs in the country and said that it had been estimated that between 170 and 2000 non-agricultural land use would expand by about 60 per cent from 16.20 to 26 million hectares. Mr Swaminathan who was delivering the fourth annual convocation of the Indian Institution of Management, said that there would be pressure on water resources too and the problem would have to be handled with care. Experience with new irrigation projects had shown that unless from the beginning the entire spectrum of problems relating to water use and management with reference to each soil type, profile and cropping system was attended to "water would become a curse than a blessing". The concept of "bread with freedom" was the only one which was compatible with human dignity and innovativeness, he said, adding that the country had come to a stage in agricultural advance where the absence of social synergy in terms of ecological security, land and water use planning, pest mana-

gement and post-harvesting technology was becoming a serious handicap to further progress. Unless adequate attention was paid to the promotion of social and developmental synergy, accomplishments would always lag behind expectations.

Export of fresh vegetables

The Government has decided to allow the export of fresh vegetables within the limited ceiling through designated central and state corporations and marketing federation only. The Commerce Ministry had asked some of the state Governments to undertake additional production of fresh vegetables exclusively for export purposes. It is intended to allow 50 per cent of the additional production for export. The Ministry of Agriculture is examining the proposals received from the governments of Maharashtra and Punjab for additional production of vegetable for export purposes. The task force on agricultural exports appointed by the commerce ministry had suggested a minimum level of 10,000 tonnes of fresh vegetables for export annually in its report. Bulk of the exports was effected from Bombay. Vegetables exported were purchased from the wholesale market. Whenever export was made by chartered place there was bulk purchase which caused imbalance in supply and demand position in the wholesale market, resulting in a sharp rise in prices. Now adequate safeguards will be taken before permitting any sizable quantity of vegetables for export. That is why the Centre has told the state government to increase the production and half of the additional output would allowed for foreign markets. Export of vegetables, excluding potatoes and onions, in the last three years has shown an erratic trend. While exports in 1976-77 increase to 7,165 tonnes from 5,455 tonnes in the previous year, the export in 1977-78 was only 4,800 tonnes. In terms of value, the exports in 1975-76 fetched foreign exchange worth Rs. 145.67 lakh which increased to Rs. 181.30 lakh in 1976-77. But in 1977-78 the value of exports was Rs. 174.53 lakh.

Coordinated Approach to Farming

A co-ordinated application of techno-

logy, extension services and Government policies has enlarged the farm revolution, covering a larger variety of crops, including rice, barley, jowar, soyabean, sugarcane, cotton, mesta, potatoes and several types of vegetables and fruits. The current phase in Indian agriculture has been described as "a period of readjustments". Deficits have been transformed into surpluses, and as export enquiries pour in, Krishi Bhavan scrutinises a Task Force's report to frame a long-term strategy. "The immediate strategy is to export identify the constraints at the field levels and undertake micro-level planning". The Ministry has chalked out a programme of regional consultations, for the purpose. Since weather abnormalities cause maximum destabilisation to the agricultural output, the regional meetings are likely to suggest the setting up of "crop weather watch groups" at the district levels. An interesting proposal is that in the traditionally flood or drought-prone areas the "risk-free season" should be converted into a major cropping season. It is possible to evolve contingency plans and restructure cropping patterns to suit different weather conditions. However, it will be necessary to build seed reserves to implement the alternative cropping strategies. Another proposal to stabilise production and productivity and this has been already successfully implemented in some restricted areas to grow fast-maturing pulses (summer moong, for example) and oil-seeds in areas remaining fallow between the rabi harvest and the kharif sowing. The accent would henceforth be to improve post-harvest technology. The regional conference will review, block-wise, the arrangements existing in the area for harvesting, drying, storage, processing and marketing. The "new approach" is to relate the technology to the entire plant and not merely to the grain, he said. It is emphasised that straw and other parts of the plant should also be processed so that value-added products are made in the village itself. Arunachal Pradesh farmers can earn more if instead of exporting pineapples, they export the concentrate. Oil, they say can extract from rice bran, maize germ, mango kernels and cottonseed, which are thrown away as waste.

Garden Freshness

Dehydrated, canned & bottled

For you.....

- ★ **Peas**
- ★ **Sarson Ka Sag**
- ★ **Pineapple Slices**
- ★ **Mixed fruit Jams**
- ★ **Mango pickle**
- ★ **Tomato ketchup**
- ★ **Orange, lemon & Mango squashes**
- ★ **Mango Pineapple & Apple fruit drinks etc.**

by

MARKFED Canneries Jullundur

(A unit of Punjab MARKFED Chandigarh)

New Wheat & Paddy Varieties

Seventeen new varieties of wheat are expected to be released to farmers this year. Among the varieties, HD 2204, WL 711 and HD 2177 are for timely sown irrigated, medium-to-good fertility conditions of north western India, comprising Punjab, Jammu, Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Rajasthan except Kota and Udaipur divisions. WL 711 is not, however, recommended for cultivation in humid sub-mountainous areas. For low-to-medium fertility, rainfed or limited irrigated, timely sown conditions of north west India, WL 410 and IWP 72 have been suggested. VL 421 has been proved for low-to-medium fertility normal planting time of higher and lower hills of U. P. H. P. and J. and K. K. Poorvi, Malaviya wheat-12 and HP 1102 are three varieties approved for timely sown, irrigated, medium-good fertility conditions of north-eastern India.

For late sown, irrigated medium-good fertility conditions of north-eastern India, there are UP 115 and HP 1209. The Varietal Releases Committee has approved WH 147, HD 4530 and Jairaj, for timely

sown, irrigated conditions of central India, covering Madhya Pradesh, Bundelkhand area of UP, Gujarat and Kota and Udaipur divisions of Rajasthan, CC 464 and HD 2189 are two varieties chosen for timely sown, irrigated conditions of peninsular India-Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and plains of Tamil Nadu, while HW 657 has been approved for timely sown, low-to-medium fertility, rainfed conditions of peninsular India, excluding Tamil Nadu hills.

The promising Kharif Paddy varieties for the eastern zone are CR 79-11 and CR 94-MR-1550, for the central and west zone. CR 73-1-1, and for the central region, R 711-4-1. The promising varieties for the southern region are IET 2,881, ADT 31, Mahsuri, MR-292-F, IET 2,911, PNR 29,692, 4,569 and Talahanna. Among the rai Paddy the southern region has IR 20, Jaya, Van, RP 4-14 and AS 3,429. Production potential experiments, conducted by agronomists, showed that grain production ranging from 8.3 to 13.2 tonnes per hectare was obtained at seven research centres.

Rs. 90 Support Price for Paddy

The Agricultural Prices Commission has recommended the procurement price for varieties of Paddy in the common group for 1979-80 marketing season at Rs. 90/- per quintal and the procurement prices for other groups of paddy to be fixed keeping in view the normal varietal differences. The current prices of paddy is Rs. 85/- per quintal. The procurement price for jowar, bajra, maize and ragi be maintained at Rs. 85 per quintal for the 1979-80 marketing season. According to report the area under paddy in the country increased from an average of 37.4 million hectares in the three-year period ending 1970-71 to 39.3 million hectares in the triennium ending 1977-78 that is by 5.1 per cent.

The most spectacular improvement in productivity occurred in Punjab and Haryana, where problems of water control and management are less severe. The

productivity in Punjab rose by 87 per cent and in Haryana by 60 per cent. UP recorded 31 per cent rise, while Tamil Nadu 17.7 per cent and Andhra Pradesh 8.2 per cent. The yield levels remained stagnant in Madhya Pradesh and Assam and these declined by 10.7 per cent in Orissa.

The APC has expressed the view that the sizeable increase in rice production in non-traditional rice growing areas contributed in no small measure to rising level of procurement, even after restriction of movement of rice from one zone to another were withdrawn in October, 1977. The procurement went up from 4.4 million tonnes in 1976-77 to 4.8 million tonnes in 1977-78 and 5.7 million tonnes in 1978-79 till April, 1979. Haryana, Punjab and U.P. together contributed 64.8 per cent in 1976-77, 72.3 per cent in 1977-78 and 75.5 per cent in 1978-79 till April, 1979.

Vital Statistics

* The per capita income of agriculturist in India had gone down from 198 in 1960-61 to Rs. 196 in 1976-77 but the income of urban population had gone as high as 813 in 1976-77 from Rs. 399 in 1960.

* World cotton production this year is expected to be 64.5 million bales (400 pounds) while the cotton utilization is expected to be about 62 million bales which will affect the cotton prices.

* In 64 establishments both in the public and private sector 50,000 or more mandays each were lost due to strikes and lockouts during 1978-79.

* The Government is considering a proposal to pay Rs. 12/- more per quintal of wheat to farmers who can afford to store wheat till the end of this season in an effort to phase out wheat arrivals in the market.

* The per capita income in Haryana was Rs. 508/- in 1977-78 as against Rs. 441/- in 1970-71.

* Nitrogenous fertiliser plants in India lose about 35% of their capacity on an average every year on account of various problems of maintenance.

* Rural credit is at present being advanced broadly by four agencies: The co-operative institutions, the schedule commercial banks, the regional rural banks and government departments. As against a total credit advanced by these agencies of Rs. 1,674.6 crore in 1976, the credit advanced in 1978 was worth Rs. 2,755 crore. This consisted of Rs. 1830 crore as short-term loans and Rs. 923.70 crore as term loans.

* Sugarcane arrears are mounting at present at Rs. 120.25 crores and 90% of the factories would become eligible for take over by the government under the Sugar Undertakings Act, 1978. The present cost of production of sugar is estimated to be Rs. 248/- per quintal as against

the retail price of sugar around Rs. 3/- per kg. The area under sugarcane this year has declined by more than 15% on all India basis. The prevailing rate of sugarcane is around Rs. 9 per quintal.

* The All India percentage of rural households under debt from 61 in 1964-65 to 66 in 1974-75. The incidence of indebtedness was higher among the households "with land" than those "without land". The percentage of indebted households with cultivated land was 71 and those without cultivated land 62. The average amount of debt per indebted agricultural labour household was Rs. 584/- which recorded an increase of about 139% over that of 1964-65.

* The production of Nitrogenous fertilizers during the year is expected to be 21.80 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen. Representing an increase of 1.80 lakh tonnes over last year. The production of Phosphatic fertilizers is expected to be 7.7 lakh tonnes as against 6.7 lakh tonnes last year. The demand for fertilizers is estimated to be 20% higher than in the previous year. The shortfall about 8,00,000 tonnes of nitrogenous fertilizers and 2,28,000 tonnes of Phosphatic fertilizers and the entire requirements of Potassic fertilizers will have to be imported. The fertilizer import bill is expected to increase sharply by about Rs. 150 crores. This year because of rising trends in fertilizers prices in the international market.

* India is expected to export agricultural produce worth Rs. 3,100 crores in the near future against the current average export of Rs. 1,848 crore a year. This will be after meeting the domestic needs. The foodgrain production in the current year despite loss to the tune of 3 million tonnes because of floods and hail storms, would be 127 million tonnes as against 125.6 million tonnes last year. Rice production in 1977-78 reached a peak of 52.7 million tonnes. Jowar production increased to 11.8 million tonnes higher by 1.3 million tonnes over last year. The overall index of agricultural production in 1977-78 was up by 13.9%. This year was

a record potato crop of 92 lakh.

* The life expectancy in India is now estimated at 52.6 years for men and 51.6 for women compare to 46.4 for men and 44.7 for women at the earlier count.

* A crop insurance scheme is being introduced by the Central government on a pilot basis with the state governments as co-insurer, it is based on area approached for homogenous agro-climatic blocks with common premia rates and indemnity. The state government as co-insurer would share claims as well as premium to the extent of 25%.

* India this year has exported 5,810 tonnes of dry ginger against 5044 tonnes last year. Export of black pepper this year was 8087 tonnes as against 11386 tonnes last year showing a decline of 3299 tonnes.

Rajasthan Earmarks Rs. 187 Crore for Antyodaya

The Government has drawn up a Rs. 187-crore Five Year Plan under the Antyodaya programme in the state. According to the proposed target, 40,000 persons would get old age pension, 44,000 families land, 2,89,000 families advance loans by various agencies, while, 1,10,000 people would be provided source of livelihood by the Khadi Gramodyog Board and other institutions. Some changes have been made in the procedure of identification of the Antyodaya families in the light of experience gained last year. Keeping 1971 as the base year of census, three families would be identified in each village with a population of 500 or less, five families in village with population of 500 to 1,000. Seven families in a village with population of 1,001 to 1,999 and 10 families in a village having a population over 2,000. During the second phase of the Antyodaya scheme, which started from November 18, 1978 over 1,11,000 families had been identified till March 15, 1979. As many as 13,500 gram sabhas were organised to identify the families during this period. Identification work has been completed in 31,500 villages, while over 4,000 villages were found to

have no Antyodaya family. In all, 44,636 families have been benefited during this period in the second phase. Of these 15,265 persons have been sanctioned old age pension, 11,496 families land, 2,067 employment, 11,439 loans and 299 benefited by other means.

Khargone District Krishak Samaj

Khargone District Krishak Samaj organised two short duration farmers training camps during the last week of April, 1979 in the villages. About 35 farmers attended each of this camps. The farmers were informed about the advance agricultural methods, package of practices for various crops, improved varieties, soil-testing, balanced use of fertilizers, irrigation methods, plant-protection measures, post-harvest technology, storage and processing and marketing, importance of cooperation and cooperative societies, rural health and sanitation and other important topics. Shri M.S. Khanuja, the President of Khargone District Krishak Samaj has taken the troubles to organise these camps successfully with the help of local Bharat Krishak Samaj workers, farmers, the agricultural experts and officials of the agricultural departments.

Bharat Krishak Samaj Life members Enrolled in April-1979.

Karnataka	46
Maharashtra	43
Madhya Pradesh	13
Tamilnadu	3
Andhra Pradesh	2
Andaman Nicobar	2
Bihar	1
Uttar Pradesh	1
J & K	1
Haryana	1

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Food for Work Programme

The Food for Work Programme (FWP) has picked up so much tempo during the last few months that the Centre is finding it difficult to meet all the demands for foodgrains from the States. From a mere 1.27 lakh tonnes in 1977-78, when the programme was launched, the utilisation jumped to about 10 lakh tonnes in 1978-79. The current year's demand is much more than the 15 lakh tonnes allocated tentatively for 1979-80. When it was launched in April, 1977 the Centre, with a surplus of 18 million tonnes of foodgrains (mainly wheat), had to ask the States to lift the wheat it was giving free for augmenting their funds for the maintenance of public works. Faced with increasing demands, the Centre has told the States that they would get foodgrains on two criteria—half on the basis of the rural population in the States half on actual utilisation during the last financial year.

After watching the progress of the FWP in 1977-78, the Government decided that the following types of works may be undertaken under this programme :

(i) Major, medium and minor irrigation works ; (ii) flood protection drainage and anti-water-logging works ; (iii) soil and water conservation ; (iv) afforestation and social forestry on Government and community lands belonging to local bodies, like panchayats, plantations along roads, canals and railway tracts ; (v) construction of intermediate and main drains, field channels, land levelling, etc., in the command areas of irrigation projects ; cleaning and desilting of water courses ; (vi) roads including State highways, forest roads and canal service roads for public use ; (vii) school buildings, panchayat ghars, community centres, drinking water wells belonging to the Government and local bodies in the rural areas ; and (viii) any other work which will result in the creation of durable assets for the benefit of the rural poor.

Expert Committee on Cost of Production of Crops

The Government of India have constituted a Special Expert Committee on Cost of production estimates under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.R. Sen, to examine the existing arrangements for the collection and analysis of cost data and to make necessary recommendations for its improvement. The terms of the committee shall be as under :

- i) To examine the design, content and methodology adopted in regard to generation of cost of production estimates under the comprehensive Scheme for Studying the cost of cultivation/production of various crops ;
- ii) To examine the present arrangements for the collection of data at the field level and its scrutiny and processing for generating cost of production estimates at the Central level ;
- iii) To suggest methods of curtailing delays in the availability of cost of production estimates for various crops ;
- iv) To examine the question of extending the coverage of cost of production studies in terms of crops/varieties and States ;
- v) To suggest methods of working out a comparable series of input prices on the basis of available data collected for cost of production studies ; and to make recommendations.

Bharat Krishak Samaj welcomed the appointment of Expert Committee for reviewing methodology of cost of production estimates and strongly hopes the committee will be able to work out and evolve a satisfactory methodology which is most unbiased and dependable both in government and the farmers in the country for various crops. Special efforts to start a series of input prices is very much welcomed.