



भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद्
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पूसा, नई दिल्ली-110 012

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
KRISHI ANUSANDHAN BHAWAN-II
PUSA, NEW DELHI-110 012

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काय्यकारी उप महासदेशक (फसल एवं पशु)

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Message

The contribution of the ICAR -CIARI is enormous in transforming the agriculture and allied sector in Island ecosystem and upgrading it from primitive to sustainable stage. This is a unique Institute in the ICAR and NAREES system which deals with the issues of the Island agriculture. Considering the recommendations of various expert committees constituted by the Govt. of India and ICAR, it was decided to establish a full fledged, multi-disciplinary research Institute in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The new Institute commenced functioning from 23 June 1978. In recognition of its seminal contribution, the council has placed its confidence on the institute to provide leadership in R&D of island agriculture. Recognizing the pivotal role, the institute is poised to play in island agriculture, it was renamed as "ICAR -Central Island Agricultural Research Institute" in 2014. During the last four decades the institute has developed 41 varieties of rice, pulses, brinjal, orchid, mushroom, Burma dhania, sweet potato, greater yam etc and developed/registered three indigenous animal and poultry breeds from A&N islands. The institute has also developed several technologies / approaches suitable for sustainable island agriculture comprising field and horticultural crops; and, animal husbandry and fisheries. It provides technical backstopping and policy support to the development departments in the islands, thus promoting livelihood security to the island farmers. Recognizing the rich biodiversity of the islands, ICAR-CIARI has carried out pioneering research to catalogue and characterize the island biodiversity. The institute has accumulated wealth of experience on island agriculture by conducting research and development work for the last four decades.

However, there are certain grey areas where the institute is required to give more focus to meet out the demand of the growing population as well as tourism sector and make the Island *Atmanirbhar* to the maximum possible extent. The newer challenges are to develop technologies for livelihood security of island farmers and make the fragile island ecosystem sustainable in long run by suitably managing the vital issues in agriculture such as, climate change as well as, abiotic and biotic stresses. The livelihood security can be strengthened by providing water, soil nutrient and feed and fodder and by encouraging on-farm processing and value addition. I am sure that with the dedicated effort and zeal of the scientists and other staff of the ICAR-CIARI, the mission of *Atmanirbhar* Island and Doubling Farming Income will surely be realized. I am happy to learn that the ICAR -Central Island Agricultural Research Institute (CIARI), Port Blair is celebrating its 43rd foundation day on 23 June 2020. On this occasion, I congratulate all the staff members of ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair and wish the Foundation Day celebration a grand success.

(Anand Kumar Singh)