



CMFRI

NEWSLETTER

ISSN: No.0972-386



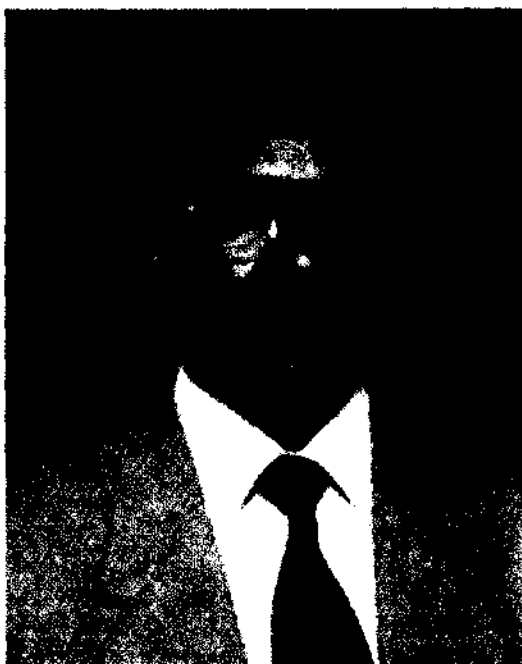
No. 97

January - March 2003

DR. MANGALA RAI TAKES OVER AS SECRETARY, DARE AND DG, ICAR

Director and staff of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute express their hearty congratulations to Dr. Mangala Rai, the distinguished agronomist of the country who has taken over as the Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Government of India and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research on January 9, 2003.

Born on June 30, 1947, Dr. Mangala Rai completed his Masters Degree in Genetics and Plant Breeding in 1969, Doctorate in 1973 and was conferred D.Sc. Degree in 1999. Dr. Rai started his professional career as a junior plant breeder in 1973 and worked as a teacher and research guide in Agra University and Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology and thereafter in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Dr. Rai has held many eminent positions, as National Co-ordinator for AICRP on Linseed, Director (Oilseeds Technology), ADG (Seeds), ADG (Policy and Perspective Planning), National Director (NATP) and has worked on a variety of crops such as rice, wheat, barley, sunflower, safflower, rape seed - mustard, linseed and maize wherein he concentrated on genetic improvement and development of varieties for commercial cultivation. Dr. Rai's contributions to the hybrid development programmes and to the oilseed research and development are well recognized all over the world. Dr. Mangala Rai has served as consultant to FAO and functioned as the Chairman of SAARC Agricultural Information Centre. At present Dr. Rai is



the Chairman of Asian Maize Biotechnology Network, International Sunflower Research Network, the President of Indian Society of Oilseeds Research, on the Board of Trustees of CIMMYT, Mexico and also in the Board of Management of six Agricultural Universities. Dr. Rai's planning of research and development activities has been instrumental in finalising Vision-2020 Perspective Plans for all ICAR institutes.

Dr. Mangala Rai is thus a rare combination of excellence in scholastic records and a professional career enriched with varied experiences as that of a teacher, plant breeder, research guide and manager. Dr. Rai has over one hundred and eighty publications to his credit including research papers, technical bulletins and books such as Transgenics in Agriculture, Hybrids in Crops and Oilseeds Research and Development. Dr. Rai has bagged in a number of awards including CG Chair's Award of international recognition.

Dr. Mangala Rai has described his mission as the Director General, ICAR, to bring transparency, efficiency, effectiveness and relevance in scientific pursuits with a human touch to achieve ecologically sustainable agriculture in the country. CMFRI family welcomes Dr. Mangala Rai who has taken over the reins of the Council and looks forward to the guidance and leadership of the Chief of the ICAR to augment the blue revolution in the country.