My Reflections about IASRI

- **VK Bhatia**

Firstly, I express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Director of the Institute for giving me an opportunity to share my reflections about IASRI. I am very much indebted to IASRI for making me learn and acquire knowledge in such a wonderful discipline of Agricultural Statistics. In fact, I feel very much honored and privileged to be associated with IASRI which has not only made me aware of Agricultural Statistics in general but also provided me with a very respectful life. The memories of IASRI are so intense that they will last throughout my entire life span.

Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) is an internationally reputed Institution having a very long history of enormous research contributions in the different areas of agricultural statistics as applicable to agriculture, animal and fisheries sciences. Teaching and training in Agricultural Statistics are also very important and significant contributions of IASRI.

The emphasis of science of Agricultural Statistics is to understand and extract knowledge of the underlying principles of an Agriculture Systems and for their efficient functioning for growth and improvement. The development of efficient methodologies is an important component of the discipline of Agricultural Statistics for drawing valid and precise inferences from the diversified data sets. The data sources play a very significant role in drawing proper inferences so their integration, effectiveness and efficiency of data collection methods must be assessed against the data needs and the quality criteria. Agricultural statistics help in understanding the economic, environmental and social dimensions of agriculture and rural development. For these reasons the research component of agricultural statistics, including its data, needs to be reoriented.

With the emergence of newer areas of Data Mining, Machine Learning, Big Data and Artificial Intelligence the research in the discipline of Agricultural Statistics needs to be more focused on solving real life problems with the help of tools of Data Visualization, Biostatistics, Environmental and Ecological Statistics, Experimental Designs, Sampling Techniques, High-dimensional Statistics, Spatial Statistics, Bayesian Statistics, Cloud-based Statistical Inference etc.

In addition to carrying out research in the newer areas of interest, there is an urgent need to produce competent Agricultural Statistics personnel to bring statistical literacy to society. To achieve this, more emphasis is to be laid on generating qualified Agricultural Statisticians, Agricultural Statistics Consultants, Agricultural Statistics Data Analysis Experts and Agricultural Statistics Analysts. As per definition of Statistical Analysts, they are those who put more focus on making large sets of data understandable to a more general audience. In effect, they use theoretical statistical tools and data analysis skills to translate big numbers into easily digestible graphs, charts, and summaries for key decision makers of different research and other organizations. In a nutshell the theoretical statistician who is very competent but not able to establish a direct rapport with the public at large is not of much interest because in that case the very purpose of

dissemination of use of statistics is not fulfilled. In my view this area of generating competent Agricultural Statistical Analysts is also important and may be given emphasis.

In the end I wish the very best research and training environment to IASRI and wish a very significant, fruitful, problem solving and productive future in the disciplines of Agricultural Statistics, Computer Applications and Bioinformatics.

Thank you

Jai Hind

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