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INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH: PROMOTING AGRICULTURE IN INDIA THROUGH RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS

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ABSTRACT:

The Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, oversees the independent agency known as ICAR. The ICAR was a pioneer in bringing about the Green Revolution. It has also significantly contributed to the promotion of excellence in agricultural higher education. The production of food grains, horticulture crops, milk, fish, and eggs has increased as a result of the research and technological advancements made by ICAR. This article aims at studying the evolution, milestone, and organizational structure of ICAR. The data has been collected from various secondary sources, especially from the websites of ICAR and its affiliated institutions. A theoretical study has been done from the available data. For analysis, tables, pie charts, and comparative statements are used. From the study, it is found that ICAR acts as an Umbrella Organisation for the promotion of agriculture through various research activities, projects, and education. There are 4 nos. of Deemed Universities, 65 nos. of Institutions, 13 nos. of Directorates/Project Directorates, 6 nos. of National Bureaux, and 14 nos. of National Research Centres working under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Agricultural Universities such as 63 nos. of state agricultural universities, 4 nos. of deemed universities and 3 nos. of central agricultural universities that are promoting agriculture through education, research, and innovation.

Keywords: ICAR, Agriculture, Research, Agricultural Universities, Innovation.

I. INTRODUCTION:

The "Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare," Government of India, is home to the independent "Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)" organisation. It was created on July 16, 1929, as a registered society under "the Societies Registration Act, 1860," in response to the "Royal Commission on Agriculture's" report, and was formerly known as "The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research."

ICAR's main office is in New Delhi. The Council is the top organisation for organizing, directing, and supervising agricultural research and education nationwide, encompassing horticulture, fisheries, and animal sciences.

II. MILESTONES OF ICAR: The following ICAR milestones are highlighted:

In 1957, a research project on Maize was started, which was the first “All-India Co-ordinated research project”. In 1958, IARI was given the status of a Deemed University. “Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)” under the Ministry of Agriculture was created in the year in 1973; the First “Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)” opened in Puducherry (Pondicherry); the Establishment of “Agricultural Research Service and Agricultural Scientists' Association” in 1974; Placement of Various “Agricultural Research Institutes” under the Purview of “ICAR” in 1966; Launching of Lab-to-Land Programme and the “National Agricultural Research Project (NARP)” in 1979.

Institution- Village Linkage Program (IVLP) was started in 1995. In 1996, the National Gene Bank was established in New Delhi. The King Baudouin Award was given to the ICAR in 1989 for its significant role in bringing about the Green Revolution. For research and development work done in collaboration with the Rice Wheat Consortium, the King Baudouin Award was once more given in 2004. The “National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP)” and “National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP)” were both launched in 1998 and 2005, respectively.

III. DIVISIONS AND UNITS:

Some of the ICAR's operating divisions and units are; horticultural science, crop science, natural resource management, animal science, agricultural engineering, fisheries science, agricultural extension, agricultural education, knowledge management, human resource management unit, IP&TM and PME, “National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)”, “National Agricultural Science Fund (NASF)”, international relations, administration, and finance are just a few of the fields covered by this discipline.

IV. RESEARCH INSTITUTES:

The following list includes the numerous research institutions affiliated with the ICAR: Institutions, Directorates/Project Directorates, National Bureaux, Deemed Universities, National Research Centers, and Institutions.

The above-mentioned research institutes are briefly described with the help of tables.

- a. **Deemed Universities:** There are four deemed universities operating under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). These are mentioned in the following figure:

Figure-1: Deemed Universities

SL. No.	Deemed Universities
1	ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi
2	ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal
3	ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar
4	ICAR-Central Institute on Fisheries Education, Mumbai

(Source: ICAR)

- a. **Institutions:** There are 65 institutions that are operational across the country. They focus on the overall development of the agriculture sector through systematic innovation, research & development and proper education & training for the stakeholders.
- b. **Directorates/Project Directorates:** 13 nos. of directorates or project directorates are there in India under the ICAR. They give emphasis on the soybean, groundnut, mushroom, cashew and other commercial agricultural products.
- c. **National Bureaux:** The 6 nos. of National Bureaux are mentioned as follows.

Figure-2: National Bureaux

Sl. No.	National Bureaux
1	ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetics Resources, New Delhi
2	ICAR-National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Micro-organisms, Mau, Uttar Pradesh
3	ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru
4	ICAR-National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur
5	ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources, Karnal
6	ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow

(Source: ICAR)

- b. **National Research Centres:** There are 14 nos. of national research centres that are working for the development of bananas, grapes, litchi, orchids, pig pomegranate, camel etc. The pest management centre is also working under the national research centre.
- V. **AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES:** The agricultural universities imparting education all over India are categorized as under:

a. **Central Agricultural Universities:** There are three central agricultural universities in India under the purview of the ICAR. Such as:

Figure-3 : Central Agricultural Universities:

Sl. No.	Central Agricultural Universities
1	Central Agricultural University,P.O. Box 23, Imphal-795004, Manipur
2	Rani Laxmi Bai Central Agricultural University,Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh
3	Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University,Pusa (Samastipur)

(Source: ICAR)

b. **Deemed Universities:** These are already mentioned in the Figure-1 of this article.

State Agricultural Universities: There are 65 state agricultural universities situated in India. Those are mentioned in the below table.

Table-1: State Agricultural Universities

State	NO. of University
Andhra Pradesh	03
Assam	01
Bihar	02
Chhattisgarh	02
Gujarat	05
Haryana	03
Himachal Pradesh	02
Jharkhand	01
Jammu & Kashmir	02
Karnataka	06
Kerala	03
Madhya Pradesh	03
Maharashtra	05
Orissa	01
Punjab	02
Rajasthan	06

Tamil Nadu	03
Telangana	03
Uttrakhand	02
Uttar Pradesh	05
West Bengal	03

(Sources: Compiled from ICAR)

VI. FINDINGS:

From the study, it is found that ICAR acts as an Umbrella Organisation for the promotion of agriculture through various research activities, projects, and education. There are 4 nos. of Deemed Universities, 65 nos. of Institutions, 13 nos. of Directorates / Project Directorates, 6 nos. of National Bureaux, and 14 nos. of National Research Centres working under the “Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)”. Agricultural Universities such as 63 nos. of state agricultural universities, 4 nos. of deemed universities, and 3 nos. of central agricultural universities that are promoting agriculture through education, research, and innovation.

VII. CONCLUSION:

“Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)” is playing a pivotal role in promoting the agricultural ecosystem in India through proper innovation, research and development. The foremost objective of ICAR is to increase the production of food grains. It played a leading role during the “Green Revolution” in India. This has had a noticeable effect on the country's food and nutritional security. It has been very important in fostering excellent standards in agricultural higher education. It works in cutting-edge sectors of science and technological development, and its scientists are recognized experts in their professions on a global scale. Therefore, ICAR is the biggest agricultural system in India as well as in the world.

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