

INDIAN SOCIETY OF WEED SCIENCE
BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, ASSAM AGRICULTURAL
UNIVERSITY,
JORHAT, ASSAM
MARCH 8-9, 1988

The president of Indian Society of Weed Science, Dr. S.K. Mukhopadhyay presented his address in the inaugural session of weed science conference on March 8, 1988. The president thanked the Vice-Chancellor, AAU, Jorhat for extending facilities and hosting the conference of the society. Dr. Mukhopadhyay recapitulated and narrated the chronological development of weed science research in India. He informed that there are 22 centres of All India Coordinated Research Programme on Weed Control covering all states of the country.

The research work on weed science in India began with screening and selection of herbicides for controlling weeds in field crops. These research results have been accepted in the package of practices for crops like rice, wheat, cotton, sugarcane, sorghum, onion, cumin, tea and other plantation crops. Significant contribution by Weed Scientists have been made to control problem weeds like *Phalaris minor* Avena Spp. *Lolium temulentum* in high yielding varieties of wheat and *Echinochloa* Spp. in rice crops. The approach for Integrated Weed Management has also been started taking in to account of chemical, cultural and biological and agronomic manipulations for controlling weeds in field crops and same approach of weed management in the cropping system as a whole has been initiated.

But many other important fields of Weed Science research has not been given much attention, the President stressed. There is need to give attention on studies related to weed biology (Weed ecology, Weed survey, Weed taxonomy), weed Physiology, weed microbiology, herbicide physiology, biochemistry and herbicide residue

study. In addition to weed survey and weed mapping, a detail record on the weed survey of each campus of the Agricultural University/ College including its farms needs to be kept ready at hand for students and researchers. Reporting of survey should be based on Relative density, Relative Abundance and Relative Frequency and Important Value Index (IVI)

More stress needs to be given on non-chemical method of weed control by using Stale Seed-bed technique, minimal cultivation, intercropping, all kinds of mulching and other agronomic manipulations like using higher seed rate, closer spacing, cross sowing and use of more competitive crop cultivars. Exploring the effective biological methods of weed control particularly aquatic weed control in high cost irrigation canal system to avoid pollution of water and toxicity of herbicides needs to be made. Good control of submerged aquatic weeds have been reported by grass carp fish (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) and effective control of water hyacinth by weevils like *Neochetina Elichhornae*, *N. bruchi*. The weed control Agronomists in addition to weed management in field crops, non-cropped areas and water bodies also need to study the herbicide residue management.

The Indian Society of weed science was established in 1968 at a meeting of some eminent Weed Scientists at Banaras Hindu University with the leadership of late Dr. M.K. Moolani. The first number of the Indian Journal of Weed Science was published in 1969. The society initially had some problems just like other societies, but at present it has established its credibility in the field of contributory research on weed science. This has become possible only due to dedication of our fellow weed scientists. The Indian Society of Weed Science need to have International Collaboration with Weed Science Societies particularly American Society of Weed Science, Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society, European Weed Research Council, British Weed Control Council, Japan Science

Society, Philippine Weed Science Society and also with the Weed Science Societies of neighbouring countries like Thailand, Indonesia and Pakistan.

The strongest of the pillars on which the society is standing is its journal, i.e. the Indian Journal of Weed Science. From the very beginning, the journal has been appreciated by all and of late it has been upgraded with higher quality and of publication standard. Due to financial constraints which the society is severely facing at present, it has become difficult to bring out issues of the journal regularly. Considering the importance of the Indian Society of Weed Science, all kinds of support from different sources are solicited in addition to the funds raised by subscription for membership.

At the end, the President expressed appreciation to weed scientists for their dedication and hard work in the field of weed science. He also requested the Herbicide Industries to extend more support to the society, considering the society as also one of their own forums.