

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILVER JUBILEE OF THE RUBBER RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF INDIA

The Rubber Research Institute of India, established in 1955 under the Rubber Board, an autonomous body of the Government of India, Ministry of Commerce, celebrated its Silver Jubilee during the last week of November 1980 at Puthupally in Kottayam by organising an International Rubber Conference.

Shri Parnab Kumar Mukherjee, Minister for Commerce, Government of India, inaugurated the Silver Jubilee celebrations on 22nd November 1980. S. G. Sundaram, Chairman of the Rubber Board, gave a brief account of the history of the RRII. The Minister stressed the necessity of increasing the productivity of natural rubber and informed that the Government will soon clear the 100 cr. scheme submitted by the Board for the development of the rubber plantation industry in the country. An agricultural exhibition was arranged adjacent to the pandal during the Jubilee celebrations from 22nd November to 28th November. The International Rubber Conference India 1980 (IRCIND 80) was inaugurated by Smt. K. R. Gowri, Minister for Agriculture, Government of Kerala. Shri Jacob Thomas, Vice-Chairman of the Rubber Board, who presided inaugural session, pointed out the major problems which affect the industry.

Keynote Address

Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, Member (Agriculture) of the Planning Commission of India, gave the keynote address for the IRCIND 80 on 24th November morning. The theme of the address was "Rubber research in the 80's". He stressed the vital need for improving the productivity and said that effective steps need be taken to reduce the gap between the actual yield and potential yield of rubber. He also emphasised the role of basic, applied and adaptive research such as development of new plant types, gene transfer, tissue culture, partitioning of biomass into economically beneficial pathways, soil breeding,

environmental impact of production and processing systems, identification of agro-ecological systems suitable for rubber cultivation in the north-eastern regions, improved use of water and fertilizers, mixed rubber based farming systems and dynamics of labour availability and its impact in improving the rubber plantation industry. Dr. Swaminathan, also released the "Hand Book of Natural Rubber Production in India" published by the RRII in commemoration of its Silver Jubilee. This handbook is a complete manual containing a wealth of up-to-date information on all aspects of NR production and processing technology with special reference to India, beginning with the history of rubber plantation industry in India and ending with rubber statistics.

Technical Sessions

The following topics were dealt with during the technical sessions: (1) Genetics and Plant Improvement; (2) Cytology and Biochemistry; (3) Physiology and Exploitation; (4) Plant Protection; (5) Plant Nutrition and Management; (6) Processing and Technology; (7) Planter's session.

Guest lectures were delivered on: (1) Guayule Rubber, (2) The role of natural rubber in energy and material saving. (3) Rubber based industries in Kerala, (4) The role of rubber plantation industry in the economic development of the country. Dr. M. J. Thavaraj gave the valedictory address emphasising the importance of starting rubber-based industries in Kerala State.

During the international conference and planters day 70 papers were discussed. These included contributions from Ivory coast, France, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, UK and India. Of the 48 papers from India, 31 were presented by the scientists working with the RRII. All the papers were well illustrated with the aid of colour transparencies, chart and diagrams

SEMINAR ON RECENT ADVANCES IN ENTOMOLOGY IN INDIA

A one-day Seminar on "Recent Advances in Entomology in India" was organised by the Entomology Research Institute, Loyola College, Madras, celebrating the birth centenary of the doyen of Indian Entomologists, the late Dr. T. V. Ramakrishna Ayyar on February 7, 1981, in which several entomologists from all over India participated. While inaugurating

the Seminar Dr. T. Ramachandra Rao (former Director, National Institute of Virology, Poona), a renowned malarialogist, emphasised the importance of field-oriented research in Entomology, as well as the value of basic research. Dr. J. Thuljaram Rao (Zonal Co-ordinator, Indian Council of Agricultural Research Lab-to-Land Programme) in his presidential

remarks discussed some of the current problems relating to sugarcane entomology in India. Reviews presented at the seminar included forest entomology, sugarcane entomology, insect endocrinology, soil entomology, cecidology, insect pathology, hormonal control of insect pests, biological control of vectors of medical and agricultural importance, integrated control as well as aspects such as the biochemistry of the nervous system and population biology and ecological energetics in some acridids.

Delivering the Ramakrishna Ayyar Birth Centenary commemoration address on "ecodevelopment" Dr. M. S. Swaminathan (Member, The Planning Commission, New Delhi) discussed various problems of technological developments in India in relation to

environment with special reference to problems of energy crisis, farm technology, water management. Dwelling eloquently, he pleaded for increasing the Gross National Product by building up the infrastructure of ecological preservation and development, and improving monitoring systems to keep a check on the consumption of fossil fuel and the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. A portrait of Dr. Ramakrishna was unveiled and a book on "Recent Advances in Entomology in India" was released by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan.

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FEDERATION OF INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

FICCI Award 1980 for Technology with particular reference to its interaction with Industry :

Shri S. G. Ramchandra, Bangalore, shares this award with Dr. Sukh Dev, Baroda.

Shri S. G. Ramchandra, Executive Vice-President, Kirloskar Electric Co. Ltd., has made outstanding contributions in the field of electrical engineering, energy conservation and utilisation, formulation of Indian Standards for electrical machinery and induction motors.

Dr. Sukh Dev, Director, Multi-Chem Research Centre, Baroda, receives the award for his contributions in the chemistry of essential oils and related products as also organic chemistry especially in natural products chemistry. Dr. Sukh Dev has developed technology for synthetic menthol, production of (+)-transchrysanthemic acid from (+)-carene, vital for the production of synthetic prethroids.

MASCOT NATIONAL AWARD IN CORROSION

With a view to stimulate interest among Scientists and Technologists in the field of corrosion, the Electrochemical Society of India has accepted the offer of Sri. S. K. Seshadri, Managing Partner, M/s. Mascot Chemical Works, Bangalore, a company mainly devoted to the manufacture of Corrosion Prevention and pretreatment chemicals, to sponsor a National Award for an overall work published during January and December 1980 in the field of CORROSION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH A BEARING ON INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS.

The award will consist of a cash of Rs. 4,000

and a scroll. The work shall be meritorious and promising.

The awardee should give a descriptive note as to the investigation/invention having bearing on the industrial application in the particular field along with the technical details for the consideration of the Selection Committee.

The application should be forwarded to the Secretary, the Electrochemical Society of India, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560 012, through the Heads of their institutions so as to reach him by April 30, 1981.