

stabilizing the population of the country and perhaps those of other countries in similar need, through male contraception.

RISUG's inventor responds

To queries posed by skeptics, the inventor of RISUG – the male contraceptive, Guha, said the following: Suitable packaging for the copolymer RISUG was available and in use. The syringe required for the injectable male contraceptive would be further improved under a project to be taken up at the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Kolkata. Reversibility of RISUG had been demonstrated in rat, rabbit and two species of monkey in experiments conducted at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi; Central Drug

Research Institute, Lucknow and the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. On an exploratory basis the feasibility of going from a 'no sperm state to some sperms in the ejaculate' has been shown in a preliminary human study pending permission of the Drug Controller General of India for a proper clinical reversibility study.

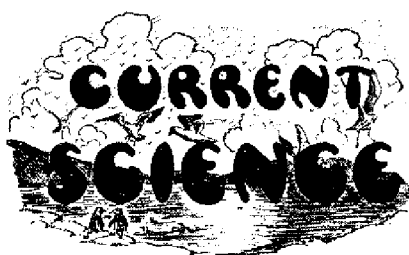
Regarding the availability of volunteers, there had been some difficulty but today the situation was quite different, as already treated volunteers encouraged others. Any target set could be met provided the go-ahead clearance was given and the necessary funds provided. No drug development could put long-term safety beyond doubt as shown in the life-history examples of other drugs such as practalol, sulphaguanidine, etc. that were withdrawn many years after use. From

studies spanning about 25 years and clinical use of over 12 years, RISUG had appeared to be a safe drug. However, any stray cases of drug reaction could crop up and these would merit investigation according to accepted medical practices. The reproducibility of RISUG batches had improved upon the setting up of a pilot plant in mid-2001 and further expansion and improvements were planned.

RISUG needs full support at this vital stage of its development so that it could soon reach those who require to use it, both in India and throughout the world.

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From the archives



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The Imperial Agricultural Research Institute

The Scientific Report of the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, for the year ending June 1938, records the results of work during the first year of its settled existence in its new home, after its transfer from Pusa to Delhi.

It will be recalled that when, as the result of damage to the Institute at Pusa by the devastating earthquake in January 1934, the Government of India decided to transfer the Institute to Delhi, misgivings were felt in some quarters whether owing to soil and climatic differences, the work on many important crops could be continued at Delhi from the point at which it was left at Pusa. It is gratifying to note from the report that the actual results obtained with several crops belied the apprehensions, and that the continuity of the programme of field res-

earch and experiment has not suffered by the transfer.

The Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, familiarly known as the Pusa Institute, has successfully striven, since its establishment in 1903, to advance the nation's most vital industry – agriculture – by bringing science and agricultural practice into close contact. As a central research organisation, the Institute made great and enduring contributions to the improvement of agriculture and to the scientific knowledge of the agricultural problems of the country, during the past three decades. The Institute at Pusa, being the first of its kind in the country, provided for many years the main stimulus for agricultural research. Many recent agricultural developments in the country owe their foundations to the constant care and wider imagination exercised in seeking for the directions of advance, and in giving the lead which the Institute had offered in the early days of agricultural research in India....

The transfer of the Institute from Pusa to Delhi, marks a new epoch in the history of agricultural research in India, and coincides with important developments and new ventures in the science and practice of agriculture in India. There have been important developments within the agricultural industry itself. The economic significance of Indian agriculture is not now confined to the production of food

crops and peasant agriculture. Power farming on estate basis and intensive cultivation are developing. Movements in marketing organisation and the introduction of grades and standards demand in agricultural produce a very high quality for trade and industry. A more recent and a very important development is the interest in national nutrition, which calls for the production of sufficient food with high nutritive value. These insist upon fresh knowledge on problems of soil fertility, cultivation and plant nutrition and in the ways of protecting crops from damage by insect pests and disease, paying due regard to the fact, as it is known now, that the nature and intensity of the processes in the soils and crops of the tropical and sub-tropical regions are different from those that obtain in temperate regions. The programme of research and investigation besides being a continuation or the corollary to the work that has been in progress requires such modifications or additions as are demanded by current problems and the trend of future developments....

... Science must arm the one with knowledge and protect the other in the production of more wealth. This task is as arduous as its responsibilities are great. We confidently rely on the inspiring guidance of the Director and the devotion of his staff for results which would ensure the steady and increasing prosperity of the agricultural population.