

Press Release (26.09.2012)

Council of Scientific & Industrial Research

**Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR), Leh Ladakh
Wins**

CSIR Award for S&T Innovations for Rural Development – 2010

and

**Directorate of Agriculture, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh and CSIR-National
Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), Lucknow**

Win

CSIR Award for S&T Innovations for Rural Development – 2011

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh who is also the President of CSIR, today, gave away the prestigious CSIR Award for S&T Innovations for Rural Development (CAIRD) - 2010 to Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR), Leh Ladakh for "Development of cold arid agro-animal technologies for rural development in Ladakh region (J&K)" and CAIRD-2011 to Directorate of Agriculture, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh and CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), Lucknow for "Plant Growth Promoting Microbial Bioinoculants for Enhanced Crop Productivity".

CSIR had instituted, in 2006, the "CSIR Award for S&T Innovations for Rural Development" to recognize and honour S&T innovations that have helped transform the lives of rural people. The effort through this award, in a way, is also to give a boost to rural development through intrinsic innovation and its implementation at ground level. The award, which has emerged as a very prestigious one, carries a cash prize of Rs.10 lakh, a citation and a shield.

DIHAR through its multidimensional R&D efforts has brought about qualitative and quantitative changes in agriculture, animal husbandry and cold desert flora of Ladakh. It has identified suitable varieties and developed agro-practices of 78 types of vegetable and 30 types of high altitude medicinal and aromatic plants to boost local production in cold desert region of Ladakh. The institute has developed and successfully commercialized seabuckthorn products. The seabuckthorn berries had no commercial value in Ladakh region till year 2001. However, after setting up the first seabuckthorn processing unit in Leh, seabuckthorn collection is taken as an important activity and additional source of income for farmers.

The contribution of DIHAR has helped enhance the availability of fresh foods such as vegetables, fruits, milk, meat, eggs, supplementary herbal products and medicinal & aromatic plants to troops through local farmers in Ladakh, which has helped Ladakh achieving self-sufficiency.

The innovation of CSIR-NBRI and Directorate of Agriculture, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh relates to the development of environment friendly bioinoculants, which have been gainfully used for enhancing the crop yield. These have been used successfully for several economic crops like Urd, Arhar, Mung, Soybean, Groundnut, Gram, Pea, Lentil etc. Also promising results have been obtained in trees, floricultural crops, spices, medicinal and aromatic crops through employment of these products.

The bioinoculants developed by CSIR-NBRI and produced by Biofertiliser manufacturing units of UP Govt. have been used in approximately 26 lakh hectares of agricultural land in UP during the last six years. This innovation has resulted in total fertilizer savings up to the tune of 31,997 MT for nitrogenous and 52,708 MT for phosphatic fertilizers during these years in UP. The synergistic efforts of Directorate of Agriculture and CSIR-NBRI have helped transform the agricultural scenario of UP in terms of economic and ecological benefits.