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From Chairman's desk



It gives me immense pleasure to present the first edition of ASRB NEWS a biannual newsletter showing significant initiatives and activities of ASRB in pursuit of talent search. It is a matter of pride that the first edition of ASRB NEWS is being released by Sh. Radha Mohan Singh Ji, Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister and President, ICAR on the occasion of 41st Foundation Day of ASRB on 1st November, 2014 at New Delhi. So far ASRB has been presenting details of its activities and future plans through its yearly annual report published at the end of each financial year. The scope and scale of talent search activities in agriculture has expanded considerably over the past years. It has also become more challenging owing to fast changing paradigm of research and its management both nationally as well as globally. At ASRB, therefore, we have been feeling a real need for proactive and dynamic interactions with our clients as well as the stakeholders. Such regular exchange and sharing of ideas and feedback seems the only effective way to ensure that talent search efforts are commensurate to the requirements of the system. ASRB has already taken lead in transforming the pen and paper examination to computer based tests for NET and ARS (Preliminary). This will bring efficiency, accuracy, fairness, objectivity and overall quality to examination system. The automation has improved the control and monitoring of examination system on one hand and at the same time strengthened the feedback mechanism from candidates as well as their scale of participation. This is helping us in strengthening to and fro communication with all the stakeholders for effective and timely interventions. In the time to come we intend to bring in many more processes like CAS assessments and direct recruitments in the automation mode to optimize objectivity. I shall always look forward to have your continuous feedback and suggestions for improving the talent search systems. You may share your ideas with me through email. I assure that your valuable suggestions will get our utmost consideration.

(Gurbachan Singh)
Chairman

Achievements

- 35 RMP and 100 non-RMP positions have been filled through direct recruitment.
- 362 Scientists have been recruited in 48 disciplines through Agricultural Research Service (ARS) - 2013 examination.



Dr Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, ASRB presenting Annual Report 2013-14 to Sh. Radha Mohan Singh Ji, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister and President, ICAR

- 47 Scientists have been promoted to the grade of Principal Scientist from Senior Scientist under the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS).
- 2712 candidates qualified in the National Eligibility Test (NET) -2014(I).
- ASRB has successfully commissioned an online examination system with a network of 2020 computer nodes at 23 examination centres at ICAR institutes and SAUs across the country for conducting computer based examinations. All centres are well equipped with state of the art hardware and software tools. The system also includes online submission of applications, payment of examination fee, allotment of examination centres, generation of admit cards, declaration of results etc. Software module for creating a question bank and generating question papers using the question bank has also been developed. A large repository of questions has



Chairman inspecting the Online Examination Center at NDRI, Karnal

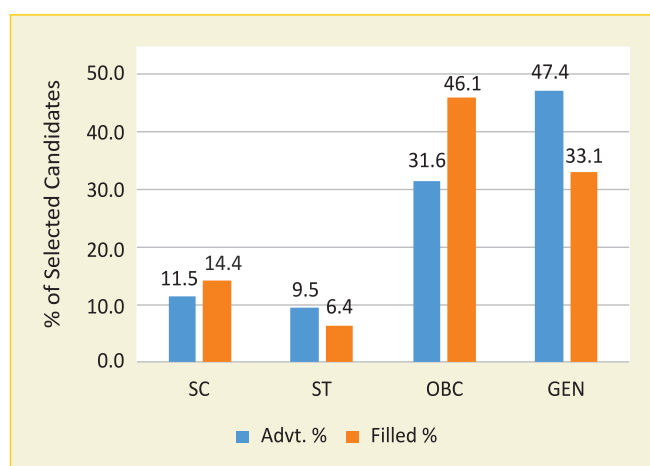
already been digitized in each of the 56 disciplines. The entire examination system has been audited by the third party auditors to ensure quality and security. The nodal officers and technical staff of the examination centres have been duly trained in the process of online examination. The automation of registration process, generation and issuing of admit cards, conduct of examinations and result declarations have all saved significant amount of manpower, time and costs. The first complete online examination was conducted successfully for NET-2014(I) from 26 March, 2014 to 4 April, 2014, for which the online registration process was started in the month of February, 2014.



Inauguration of first online examination for NET-2014(I)

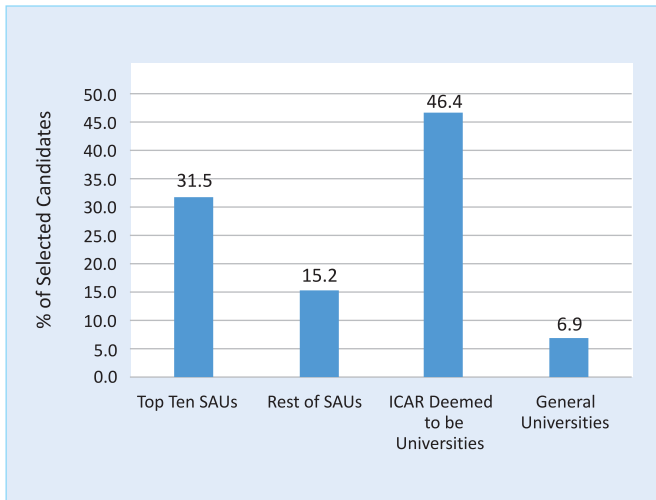
Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Examination 2013

The Agricultural Research Service (Preliminary) Examination was held on 29 December, 2013 at 33 centres, in which 12841 candidates appeared in 48 disciplines. 3638 candidates qualified for the main examination and 3239 actually appeared for the main examination held on 9 March, 2014 at 12 centres across the country. 1104 candidates were called for the interviews against 506 vacancies in 48 disciplines. Eventually 362 candidates could be recommended by the Board for appointment.



Category wise distribution of successful candidates in ARS 2013

- Out of 362 recommended candidates, 78% were from ten State Agricultural Universities & Deemed to be Universities and the remaining 15% from rest of SAUs and only 7% were from General Universities.



Organization wise performance in ARS-2013

Top ten SAUs: TNAU, UAS, Bangalore, GBPUA&T, ANGRAU, UAS, Dharwad, CCSHAU, KAU, PDKV, UHS, YSR Horticulture University.

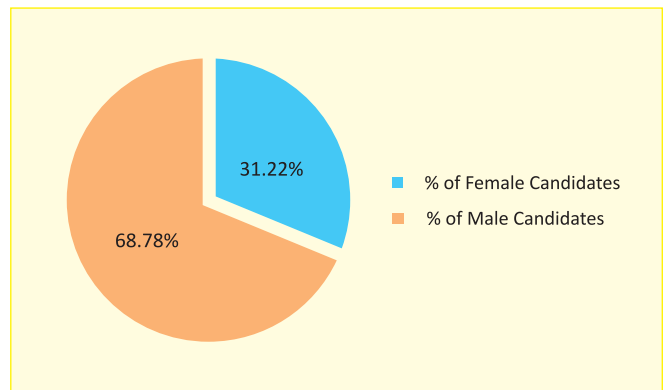
ICAR Deemed to be Universities: IARI, CIFE, IVRI, NDRI.

- State-wise distribution remained skewed. 84% of successful candidates came from just 11 states (Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Odisha and Manipur). States like Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Gujarat, Sikkim, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands had very little representation in the list of successful candidates.



State wise details of successful candidates in ARS 2013

- Among the 362 selected candidates there were 113 female candidates.

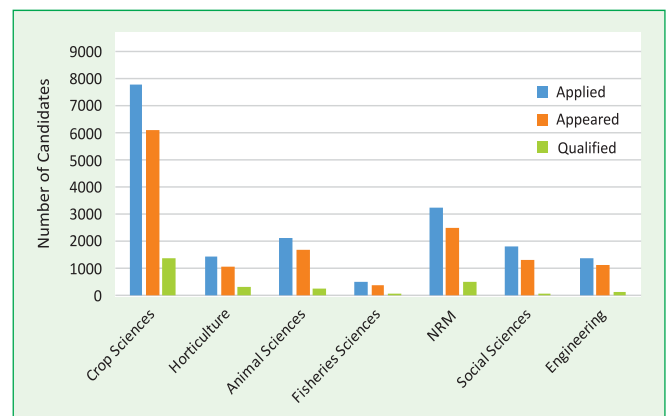


Gender wise distribution of successful candidates in ARS 2013

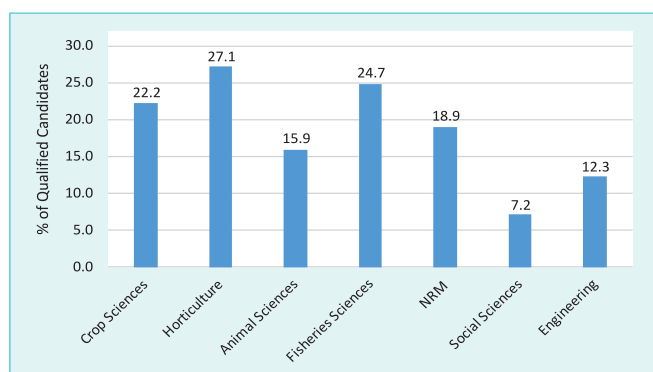
National Eligibility Test (NET)- 2014

For the first time, NET-2014(I) was conducted completely in online mode from 26.03.2014 to 04.04.2014 in 55 disciplines at 23 examination centres across the country. Submission of application, registration, payment of fee, issuance of admit cards, test administration and result declaration were all handled in the online mode. A total of 18245 candidates registered for the examination and 14178 (77.7%) appeared. 2712 (19.13%) candidates qualified for NET certification.

The highest percentage of qualified candidates was in the discipline of Poultry Science (75%) followed by Floriculture & Landscaping (55.6%), Fish Genetics & Breeding (53.3%). In the discipline of Animal Reproduction & Gynecology and Home Science though 94 and 133 candidates respectively appeared for the examination but none could qualify. In more than 19 disciplines the success rate was less than 10%. Highest number of candidates (2325) appeared, in the discipline of Agricultural Biotechnology i.e. 16.4% of the total candidates who have appeared and the lowest percentage was in the discipline of Agricultural Structures and Environment Management viz. 0.04%.



Major discipline groups wise details of NET 2014 (I)

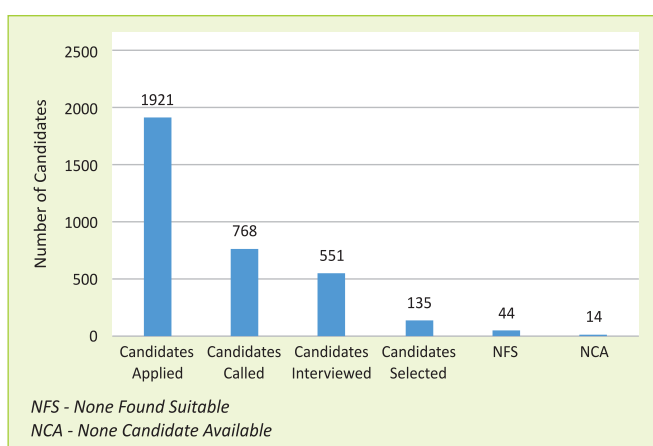


Major discipline groups wise qualified candidates in NET 2014 (I)

The combined NET-2014 (II) and ARS-2014 (Preliminary) Examination was conducted successfully in online mode at 21 Centers across the country from 22-28 September, 2014. The examination at Srinagar and Jammu centers had to be postponed in view of severe flood situation and the same was rescheduled to 27 - 31 October, 2014.

Direct Recruitment

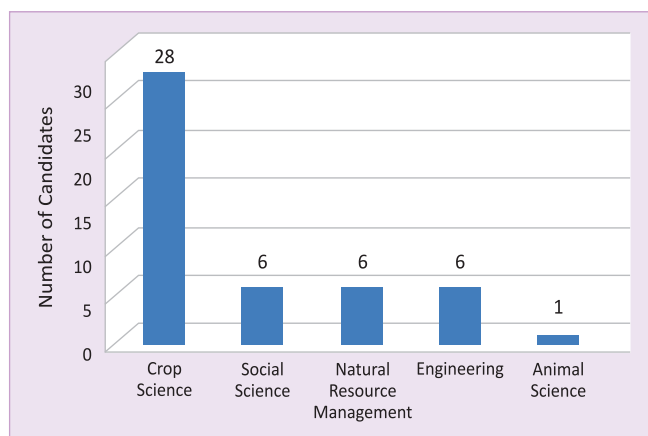
During this period direct recruitment action was initiated for filling up 193 scientific posts including research management positions. A total of 1921 applications were received and after thorough scrutiny by the screening committees, 768 candidates were called for interviews. While only 551 candidates actually appeared for interview. Only 135 posts could be filled. In 14 cases of senior scientists, no candidates were available for interviews. No suitable candidates were found in 44 cases which included the posts of Directors, Head of Divisions, Senior Scientists and Programme Coordinators.



Details of recruitment through direct selection

Revised Career Advancement Scheme (CAS)

A total of 47 scientists were assessed and interviewed for promotion from Senior Scientist to Principal Scientist grade in 17 disciplines during the period. Similarly, 3 assessment/reassessment cases in three different disciplines were taken up under the old career advancement scheme which was effective till 31 December, 2008.



Major discipline groups wise details of proposals processed for assessment under CAS

Important Committees / Meetings

Committee for revision of Score Card for Direct Recruitment

The Board constituted a committee of senior outside experts with Dr S.K. Bandyopadhyay, Member, ASRB as the Convener to review the present score card for direct recruitment to various scientific positions under ICAR. The committee has already held six meetings and finalized a draft revised score card which is under validation process.

Committee to review Disadvantageous Units/Centres/Stations of ICAR

A meeting was held on 15 April, 2014 under the Chairmanship of Dr S.K. Bandyopadhyay, Member, ASRB for reviewing the disadvantageous units/centres/stations of ICAR based upon feedback from various quarters.

ASRB Board Meetings

Six Board meetings of ASRB have been conducted from time to time for considering important issues pertaining to examinations, recruitments and assessments etc. and relevant work programs were devised.



A Board meeting of ASRB in progress



Important Events

Hindi Competitions

Board conducted two Hindi Competitions i.e. Hindi Essay Writing and Hindi Letter Writing on 28 March, 2014 and 6 June, 2014 respectively. A large number of officers and employees of ASRB participated in these competitions. Cash Prizes to the winners were given during Hindi Saptaha organized from 14–22 September, 2014.



Mrs. Priyamvada, Director (OL), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, giving away the 1 Prize of Hindi Essay writing to Dr Suresh Pal

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board took up work on the ground in the right earnest for success of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Dr Gurbachan Singh, Chairman along with Members, other senior officers and the ASRB staff initiated a special cleanliness drive on 2 October, 2014 at the office premises and surrounding areas of Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan-I.



Chairman, Members and Senior Officers of ASRB participating in the cleanliness drive

Visits/ Interactions

- Dr Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, ASRB delivered Convocation Address on the 6th Convocation of MAFSU, Nagpur as Chief Guest on 26 February, 2014.



Dr Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, ASRB awarding degree to a candidate during 6th convocation of MAFSU, Nagpur

- Chairman, ASRB visited and inspected the arrangements for the ARS Main Examination-2013 Centre at Patna and inaugurated Kisan Mela-2014 as Chief Guest at RAU, Pusa, Samastipur on 8 March, 2014.
- Dr V.N. Sharda inspected the arrangements for Online NET-2014 (I) Examination at CIFE, Mumbai and interacted with faculty and students of the Deemed University during 28-29 March, 2014.



Dr Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, ASRB inaugurating the Kisan Mela-2014 at RAU, Samastipur, Pusa, Bihar



Dr V.N. Sharda, Member, ASRB interacting with the faculty of CIFE, Mumbai

- Delivered a Lecture in Krishi Vigyan Kendra Interface Workshop on Interventions in Tribal Areas & Efficiency Enhancement on 19 August, 2014 at New Delhi.
- Dr S.K. Bandyopadhyay was invited for the inaugural Session of the National Seminar on “Innovations in Dairy Processing in India – Post Operation Flood Scenario” as Chief Guest at WBUA&FS, Nadia, West Bengal on 14 March, 2014 and visited CIFRI, Barrackpore and Research Centre of CIBA, Kakdwip and interacted with Scientists of the Institutes/Centres during 15-16 March, 2014.



Dr Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, ASRB addressing the participants of Krishi Vigyan Kendra Interface Workshop on Interventions in Tribal Areas & Efficiency Enhancement

- ASRB participated in the Foundation Day function of ICAR on 29 July, 2014



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India interacting with the senior officers of ICAR, ASRB, DAC and DAHD



Dr S.K. Bandyopadhyay, Member, ASRB interacting with the Scientists of Regional Center of CIBA, Kakdwip

Honours/Awards/Recognitions

- Dr Gurbachan Singh was awarded the Award of Honour by the Chief Minister of Punjab in the Progressive Punjab Agriculture Summit-2014 organized by the Government of Punjab on 17 February, 2014 at Mohali (Punjab).



Sh. Parkash Singh Badal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab conferring Award of Honour on Dr Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, ASRB

- Bioved Research Institute of Agriculture & Technology, Allahabad awarded the Bioved Ratna Award to Dr Gurbachan Singh in the 16th Indian Agricultural Scientists & Farmers' Congress, Integral University on 22 February, 2014 at Lucknow



Chairman, ASRB receiving the Bioved Ratna Award

- International Union of Forestry Research Organization (IUFRO) and Indian Society of Tree Scientists, Solan awarded the Award of Honour to Dr Gurbachan Singh in the International Conference on "Sustainable Resource Management for Climate Change Mitigation and Social Security" on 13 March, 2014 at Chandigarh.



Chairman, ASRB receiving the Award of Honour from Dr. P.K. Khosla, VC, Shoolini University, HP

- Dr V.N. Sharda, Member, ASRB invited as Chief Guest at the Inaugural Function of the National Symposium on "Child Nutritional Security of India: Way Forward with Milk" on the occasion of World Milk Day on June 1, 2013 at NDRI, Karnal.



Dr V.N. Sharda, Member, ASRB addressing the faculty of NDRI on the occasion of World Milk Day

- Dr V.N. Sharda, Member, ASRB has been elected as Member of Sectional Committee-I (Civil Engineering) by Indian National Academy of Engineering from January 1, 2014.
- Dr V.N. Sharda, Member, ASRB appointed as Member of National Scientific Advisory Committee for International Conference on "Natural Resources Management for Food Security and Rural Livelihoods" to be organized during February 10-15, 2015 at New Delhi.
- Dr. S.K. Bandyopadhyay has been awarded the prestigious Dr. K.K. Iya Memorial Oration Award by NDRI, Karnal on 28 January, 2014 on the topic "Useful Science versus Science for Justifying Existence: A Key Issue for Performance Evaluation".

Miscellaneous Activities

- Notification to fill up 28 posts of Administrative Officers and Finance & Accounts Officers already issued. All India Combined Competitive Examination fixed for 23 November, 2014.
- Notification to fill up about 10 posts of Assistant Director Official Language (Hindi) already issued and competitive examination across India fixed for 22 November, 2014.
- Notification for all India competitive examination to fill up 270 posts of Assistants at ICAR Hqrs and its institutes already issued on 30 August, 2014.
- About 200 applications have been received for assessment of scientists under CAS from Senior Scientist to Principal Scientist grade to be processed in November/December-2014.
- Three meetings of Official Language Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, ASRB were held on 19.02.2014, 26.03.2014 and 29.05.2014 in compliance with Official Language Annual Program



Proposed layout plan for new office building of ASRB at Pusa Campus, DPS Marg, New Delhi

issued by the Dept. of Official Language, Govt. of India. In a significant recognition of ASRBs contributions, the Department of Official Language (DOL) has proposed the nomination of Dr Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, ASRB for the Chairmanship of Town Official Language Implementation Committees (TOLIC) North Zone, Delhi.

- ASRB's XII plan scheme for its strengthening at a cost of ₹130.00 Crores which includes ₹72.00 Crores for construction of new office building has been approved at ICAR level in the Hqrs. EFC meeting held under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR.

Personalia

Joining

- Sh. Gurnatha Gowda Harkangi, Deputy Secretary, NAIP, ICAR joined ASRB as Controller of Examinations-I.

Promotions

- Dr A.P. Ruhil promoted as Principal Scientist from Sr. Scientist under CAS w.e.f 3 December, 2012

Transfers

- Sh. M.K. Jain Controller of Examinations transferred to Horticulture Sciences Division of ICAR as Deputy Secretary.

Human Resource Development

- Dr Suresh Pal, Chief Technical Officer and Shri Umesh Gahlot, Section Officer attended a three days training program on Ethics and Values in Public Governance from 6-8 January 2014 at Institute of Secretariat Training & Management, New Delhi.
- Dr Suresh Pal, Chief Technical Officer attended 12 days training program from 10-21 February, 2014 on Capacity Building for Technical Personnel at Indian Institute of

Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi.

- Dr A.P. Ruhil, Principal Scientist, ASRB attended a training program in the area of "Online Education and Examination System" at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA from 3 February, 2014 to 7 March, 2014 under the NAIP sub project "Learning and Capacity Building".
- As a part of strengthening of ASRB under the XIIth plan scheme, the Board has initiated steps to establish linkages with the advanced institutions in USA/ abroad where senior functionaries may visit and interact as a part of HRD strategy to advance, upgrade and fine tune talent search systems through sharing of latest know-how in the field.

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Dr S.K. Bandyopadhyay, Member, ASRB

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