

## **STRENGTHENING OF NARS**

Strategy for building NARS capacity must deal with building the capacity of scientific staff to stay abreast of scientific developments. In particular, training, leveraging of networks, and information dissemination are essential ingredients for NARSs' effectiveness. Another important constraint is the decreased funding for agricultural research and extension programmes and a reversal of this trend must take place if NARS has to contribute effectively in the foreseeable future. PARC recognizes this situation and proposes to work with a broader range of stakeholders to make NARS an effective instrument and engine of economic change.

Work in this area focused on sharing knowledge & gaps and formulating future strategies through annual planning meetings, traveling seminars, germplasm sharing, testing, conducting participatory research and establishing infrastructure.

### ***Annual Planning Meetings and Traveling Seminars***

- The traveling seminars of wheat, rice, oilseeds, pulses and sugarcane provided opportunity for interaction with farmers and to record the general crop situation and insect pest and disease problems in different parts of the country.
- Traveling seminar provided the participants an opportunity to visit various research stations/ institutes, commercial farms, progressing and common crop growers farms.
- Twenty five fodder scientists observed the livestock feed requirements in a joint national traveling seminar.

### ***Germplasm Sharing & Testing***

#### **Sorghum and Millet**

- Under participatory approach, the seed of improved varieties of sorghum and millet was disseminated in all the four provinces and AJK.

#### **Pulses**

- A total of 120 yield trials/nurseries and segregating populations of mung, mash, chickpea and lentil were acquired from the international centers and distributed to 20 different provincial and federal cooperators in the country. Forty cross combinations in mash, mung, chickpea and lentil were harvested to create the genetic variability for various economically important traits.

#### **Fruits**

- New varieties of apple, peach, plum, almond, apricot, grapes and cherry received from various research institutes of Pakistan have been planted at KARINA and are under observation.
- Two fruit nurseries one each at Chilas and Juglot were developed.
- Nursery raising facilities have been established at Shinkiari, Swat and Battagram where 0.5 million plants were produced during 2005 for distribution to the farmers.

## **New Establishments**

- Pusa Insect Collection housed at CABI Regional Bio-Sciences, Rawalpindi was shifted to Crop Science Institute building, NARC. This national asset will be permanently housed at National Insect Museum building, NARC after completion.
- The fruit orchard area at NARC has been expanded to 70 acres by planting olive on 10 acre.
- Establishment of Nucleus Herd of Holstein Friesian Cows at Govt. Dairy Farm Quetta