EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Users have their own purposes for the need for information. In order to please or satisfy these needs they actively undergo the process of information seeking. The attempt of the user in obtaining the needed information has been resulted from the recognition of some need, perceived by the user. Information seeking behaviour is mainly concerned with who needs what kind of information and for what reasons, how information is found, evaluated and used, and how their needs can be identified and satisfied. It is a process in which the users with full determination search the appropriate sources of information by identifying, searching, selecting, interacting and analysing. Agricultural sciences constitute a major component of the existing universe of knowledge. Scientists, who are engaged in different branches of agriculture, can be taken into consideration as the agricultural scientists. They constitute one of the biggest components of the user communities who accumulate process and analyse, retrieve and disseminate information in the field. As a group of information users the agricultural scientists have their own nature and purpose of information needs. To meet their varied and complex information needs, also they undergo a number of strategies and activities in the process of seeking the right information in different environment. Their information needs have to be satisfied by the libraries, information centres, systems, etc. through their services and other facilities. In today's digital era, ICT-based services play an important role in serving the needs of the users. They can be benefited in many ways from the newly emerged digital environment. A new shift in the information seeking behaviour of the agricultural scientists has also been observing since last few decades.

In the present study "***Insights into Information Seeking and Communicating Behaviour of Agricultural Scientists of ICAR Institutes and Centres in Northeast India: A Study"*** undertaken to assess their information needs, information seeking behaviour in their agricultural environment, to know their allied specialization, study the information needs, use pattern and gathering behaviour, to correlate the adequacy of the collection and research needs of agricultural scientist, identify the various channels through which information is accessed by agricultural scientists, the problems and barriers encountered while seeking information and also to suggests some remedies through which the agricultural scientists can meet their information needs. Based on the objectives of the study the survey was conducted and findings were found. The study has adopted census survey method by distributing semi-structurally designed questionnaire, by interviewing and observing to some extent. For data analysis percentage technique has been adopted and same was coded, tabulated, computerized and analysed for statistical inferences and also for empirical interpretation with the help of computer using data analysis software MS Office Excel 2010.

The findings of the study thus have revealed us many indications that: *i) Information Seeking Behaviour is one of the core areas of study in the field of Library and Information Science, the phenomenon being global; ii) Different categories of Agricultural Scientists are working in such institutions and centres in different capacities who have their different purposes of information needs for which they undergo different strategies to seek and get the information; iii) The area of specialisation is found in their interest subjects viz. Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Soil Science, Agronomy, Entomology etc. who were engaged in their respective research works or activities; iv) The purposes of visiting library mainly for consulting the reference books and for getting books issued/returned; v) It is perceived that majority of the respondents usually consults*

scholarly journals, text books, research/govt. reports and conference proceedings as the main sources from the library; vi) It is also revealed that most users gather information 'to great extent' on the personal collections and other sources like internet or online source and 'to some extent' by subscribing journals personally, by access and downloading to open access journals for full text and also through other sources like JCCC@ CERA, Research Gate website, Pub Med, collecting through friends or colleagues were working inside and outside India etc.; vii) Majority of the users is of opinion that library collections in the centre and institute library are not adequate at all; viii) In all the Libraries, availability of digital resources in majority of these institutions and centres is not up to the mark. To serve varied groups of users in this digital environment they need to enrich their collections with digital resources; ix) It is observed in the study that most of users replied that they were facing problems in the library like lack of reading materials, lack of access to all information, finding or locating information in the library and some extent they were facing time problem also; x) In this prevailing situation, the Agricultural Scientists of all the states of northeast are not satisfactory at all with the resources available, services and other facilities rendered in such institutions and centres.

The findings of the present study also suggested us certain clues in this regard. As such, if implemented the proposed plan (ICARLIBNET) the Scientists under study would be in a position to get their desired information in the new digital environment. In fact the proposed plan would be benefited to the needy scholars and researchers in all field of knowledge not only the Agricultural Scientists but also other agricultural community and researchers in the fields of agriculture, in the long run. For additional utilization and accepting the appropriate ethics of library in today's information world, the special libraries of these institutes and centres must firstly digitized and assemble the most adequate materials which satisfy the users of those libraries. Therefore, fulfilling the needs

of the user's community will foster the academic and research pursuits, which will, in turn, contribute towards societal development.

Keywords: Agriculture, Scientist, Information, Information Seeking Behaviour, ICAR