

BRICS-Agricultural Research Platform

Vision

BRICS-ARP as the natural global platform for science-led agriculture -based sustainable development for addressing the issues of world hunger, undernutrition, poverty and inequality, particularly between farmers and non-farmers income, and enhancing agricultural trade, bio-security and climate resilient agriculture.

Mission

To promote sustainable agricultural development and poverty alleviation through strategic cooperation in agriculture to provide food security in the BRICS member countries.

Mandate

To intensify cooperation in the areas of agricultural research, technology policy, innovations and capacity building including technologies for smallholder farming and to sustainably increase yields and farmers income in the BRICS member countries.

Objectives

- To enhance understanding of common challenges and opportunities through exchange of knowledge, collaborative capacity building, exchange of professionals and development of collaborative projects;
- To act as a platform to provide inputs for developing policies, strategies and projects for sustainability and competitiveness of agricultural sector in the BRICS member countries:
- To strengthen agricultural research and education to accelerate technology development and transfer through establishing networks' on agriculture and allied disciplines, among agricultural research, higher education and extension institutions, professionals, policy planners and other stakeholders: and
- To facilitate collaborative studies, inter alia, on agricultural marketing and distribution systems, harmonization of agricultural related standards, promotion of agricultural trade, and bio-security, risks and disaster management in agriculture.

Initiatives/Development so far:

- MoU for Establishment of BRICS Agricultural Research Platform was signed on 16th October, 2016. The ex-post facto approval of Union Cabinet of Republic of India obtained on 2nd August, 2017.
- The Coordinating Centre of the BRICS Agricultural Research Platform was inaugurated by Dr. T. Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & Director General, ICAR, at NASC Complex, New Delhi on 11th April 2017.
- Domain name for BRICS Agricultural Research Platform website agreed by Russia, South Africa and Brazil: www.bricsag.org.in. China suggested www.barp.org.in.
- Since 2016 onwards, the establishment and operationalization of BRICS-ARP has been reiterated in all the Ministerial Communique.

- On the advice of MEA, GOI, the domain name proposed by China (www.barp.org.in) has been agreed by India and concurrence from other Member Nations was sought. All Member States concurred the domain name www.barp.org.in in the Working Group Meeting held on 12-13 August, 2021. The development of BRICS-ARP is at its final stage.

Focal points for all the 5 Countries appointed/nominated:

- Brazil: Ms. Adriana Mesquita Correa Bueno, Multilateral Relations Supervisor, Secretariat of Intelligence and Strategic Affairs of the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA).
- Russia: Mr. Valery Sizov, Head of Desk, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation
- India: Assistant Director General (International Relations), ICAR, Department of Agricultural Research & Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare of the Republic of India
- China: Ms. KE Xiaohua, Deputy Director of Bureau of International Cooperation of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)
- South Africa: South Africa's Agricultural Research Council, South Africa

Additional action/activities undertaken with regard to BRICS countries

ICAR has been involved in the process of finalizing collaborative research activities/work-plans with BRICS-countries, as given below:

- **Brazil:** A Work Plan between ICAR and EMBRAPA, Brazil has been prepared and the inputs/views of the Brazilian side is awaited.
- **Russia:** First Working Group (WG) meeting on Agriculture under the Co-chairmanship of Secretary (DAC&FW) has been held on 29-31 August, 2018 in Russia under the framework of IRIGC-TEC. The ICAR has taken appropriate steps to initiate necessary follow-up action on the actionable points emerged out of the said meeting.
- **South Africa:** A MoU between ICAR and the Agricultural Research Council, Pretoria, South Africa has been signed on 26/07/2018. The draft Work Plan between ICAR and ARC, South Africa has been prepared and shared with ARC for their inputs.
- **China:** The ICAR has identified the areas for R & D Collaboration and shared with Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), China for preparing the Work Plan.