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on Growth, Equity and Sustainability
of Natural Resources**

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**Impact of Agricultural Technology on Growth, Equity
and Sustainability of Natural Resources**

Guest Editors

**Pratap S. Birthal
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Impact of Agricultural Technology on Growth, Equity and Sustainability of Natural Resources

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Preface

Indian agriculture has made significant progress since independence. But it is facing several problems including rapidly changing global economic climate. There has been a significant fall in public investment in agriculture, declining growth in the partial and total factor productivity, increasing inter- and intra-regional disparities, persistence of wide spread poverty and malnutrition and an alarming natural resource degradation. These are becoming explicit researchable issues. Stakeholders, donors and national policy makers are looking for the research programmes to help overcome these problems. Systematic impact assessment studies relating to investment made by the Indian NARS should provide critical inputs needed to address some of these issues. It would also form a strong base for higher research funding and to achieve specific research and development objectives.

Keeping the above in view, the AERA has chosen the theme, "Impact of Agricultural Technology on Growth, Equity and Sustainability of Natural Resources" for its XII Annual Conference being jointly organized by Department of Agricultural Economics, Rajendra Agricultural University (RAU), Pusa, Samastipur (Bihar) and National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP), New Delhi during 2-3, November 2004.

Papers received for the conference have been grouped under three technical sessions for the purpose of presentation and discussion during the Conference. The Proceedings include 16 full-length papers and 32 papers in the form of abstracts. A synthesis of these papers as well as the issues to be discussed during the Conference are also included in the Proceedings. Important recommendations coming out of the Conference will be published subsequently. The Association appreciates the keen interest shown by the researchers in the Conference.

Dr. P.S. Birthal, Dr. Anjani Kumar of NCAP, New Delhi and Dr. Praduman Kumar, Professor, Division of Agricultural Economics, IARI, have helped in editing the papers published in this communication. Ms C.P. Shiji has provided excellent editorial and other assistance. The Association is grateful to Dr. B.S. Aggarwal for this efforts in language editing and overall presentation of articles and Mr. Vijay Kumar for his help to bring the proceedings in time.

The Association is grateful to Dr. S.R. Singh, Vice-Chancellor, RAU, Samastipur, for kindly accepting to host the Conference and for providing all facilities at RAU, Samastipur. The help and assistance received from Dr. B.N. Verma, Organizing Secretary of the Conference and University Professor and Chairman and all his colleagues at the Department of Agricultural Economics, RAU, Samastipur, is thankfully acknowledged.

The Association is thankful to Dr. R.T. Doshi Foundation, Pune, for their support in awarding prizes to best research articles published in the *Agricultural Economics Research Review* (Volume 15) and presentation of research papers during the XIth Annual Conference.

The financial help received from NABARD for printing research papers and bringing out the proceedings of the Conference and the financial support of ICAR for organizing this Conference are gratefully acknowledged. The Association highly appreciates the continuous support from these institutions for undertaking various professional activities.

Mruthyunjaya
Secretary
Agricultural Economics Research Association (India)