



DRDO

Press Release

Wednesday the 26th Sep 2012

DRDO Bhawan

NEW DELHI

DRDO Lab Bags CSIR Award for S&T Innovations for Rural Development (CAIRD)

Defence Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR), Leh Ladakh, a DRDO laboratory, was today honoured with the **CSIR Award for S&T Innovations for Rural Development (CAIRD) for the year 2010** for the "Development of cold arid agro-animal technologies for rural development in Ladakh region (J&K)". Dr R B Srivastava, Outstanding Scientist and Director DIHAR & Dr W Selvamurthy, Distinguished Scientist & CC R&D (LS&IC), DRDO received the award from Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh in a function held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 26th Sep 2012.

DIHAR, through its multidimensional R&D efforts has brought about qualitative and quantitative changes in agriculture, animal husbandry and cold desert flora of Ladakh. It has identified suitable varieties and developed agro-practices of 78 types of vegetables and 30 types of high altitude medicinal and aromatic plants to boost local production in cold desert region of Ladakh.

DIHAR has developed and successfully commercialized seabuckthorn products. The seabuckthorn berries had no commercial value in Ladakh region till the year 2001. However after setting up the first seabuckthorn processing unit in Leh, seabuckthorn collection is taken as an important activity and additional source of income for farmers.

The contribution of DIHAR has helped enhance the availability of fresh foods such as vegetables, fruits, milk, meat, eggs, supplementary herbal products and medicinal and aromatic plants to troops through local farmers in Ladakh, which has helped Ladakh achieving self-sufficiency.

It is intently hoped that this award to DIHAR will inspire all those engaged in the profession and business of innovation in the country to find S&T inputs and solution to enable rural development and help in economic development of our rural brethren.

Ravi Kumar Gupta

Scientist G & Director

Directorate of Public Interface,

DRDO Hqrs, Room 117, DRDO Bhawan

Rajaji Marg, New Delhi-110105

Ph 9111 23011073, 23007117, Mob 09868276099

