

‘Research should benefit common man’

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) director-general and secretary, department of health research, government of India Dr V M Katoch has said ‘symbolic science’ practised by scientists would mean nothing if the benefits of research do not reach the common man. Katoch was speaking at the 45th national conference of the Nutrition Society of India (NSI) at the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) here on Thursday.

“It’s time to work together with different sectors so that the benefits of research will reach more people across the country. It’s not enough to implement the research benefits at a few places. That would just be ‘symbolic science’. A war has to be fought on the ground not just from the war room only,” Katoch remarked. Katoch made some remarks that would surely make politicians happy and bureaucrats a bit unhappy. “The political class is best at doing its job. I have not seen any lack of political will. Politicians are the best. Bureaucrats come next,” Katoch said.



ICMR director general V M Katoch (right) with former NIN director B Sesikeran as Prof Barrie M Margetts, president, World Public Health Nutrition, University of Southampton (UK) and Anura V Kurpad, President, Nutrition Society of India look on at the 45th national conference of NSI in the city on Thursday.

NIN director Kalpagam Polasa said the NSI and the NIN would further discuss the Food Security Bill and go into the finer details of it. Former NIN director Kamala Krishnaswamy said in the evaluation surveys, it was found that only 40% of people were benefited from various government programmes. “This is because of mismanagement and corruption,” she remarked.

NSI president Anura V Kurpad said the stunted growth in the country was an area of concern and this had to be studied. He said issues like FDI in food retail should be discussed.

Former director of NIN and vice-president of NSI, B Sesikeran read out a message from the founder president of NSI, Dr C Gopalan on the occasion. Gopalan’s concerns about the need for micro-nutrients in the food supply and consumption were read out.

Earlier a debate on the Food Security Bill was held in which scientists and students participated. Prof Barrie M Margetts, of Public Health Nutrition, University of Southampton, and president, World Public Health Nutrition Association, UK, and Dr Prema Ramachandran, director, Nutrition Foundation of India, New Delhi were among those who spoke.