PRESENT STATUS OF STATISTICAL EDUCATION IN INDIA

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Dedicated to Prof. A.M. Mathai on his 80th birth anniversary

Abstract: In the present paper a brief account of Indian Statistical System and contributions of Indians to development of statistics are presented. Statistical education at school and undergraduate levels is discussed in detail. Educational and research activities in statistics at premier institutions and universities are highlighted. In the end some suggestions for future planning in statistical education are made for discussion.

Key words and Phrases: Agricultural statistics; survey techniques; design of experiment; analysis packages; and data mining.

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification: 62.

1. Introduction

Statistics as a subject is just a century old science. During last few decades it has penetrated into almost all sciences like agriculture, biology, business, social, engineering, medical sciences, etc. Its wide and varied applications have lead to the growth of many branches, such as Industrial Statistics, Biometrics, Biostatistics and Agricultural Statistics. These branches have emerged as distinct entities or subjects with a bulk of statistical techniques specific to their application areas.

Agricultural Statistics comprises the area of statistical science that deals directly with the problems of field experimentation and interpretation of results in agricultural sciences. It was R.A. Fisher whose dedication and continued efforts put the statistical science on a strong mathematical foundation. The theory of experimental designs and other statistical techniques developed by Fisher constitute the backbone of the Agricultural Statistics.