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CIFT Electronics for Agricultural Investigations

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has approved a research project for the application of electronic instruments developed by CIFT for investigations in the field of agriculture, especially in irrigation and drainage engineering.

The 3 year project with an outlay of Rs 8.27 lakhs aims to supply instruments from the Institute for demonstration and field operation along with training to the concerned scientists from different departments.

CIFT has identified the scope of electronics and instrumentation for different aspects in fishing technology and industry, and developed more than three dozen instruments for applications in fishing technology, fish processing technology marine environmental measurements, behaviour studies of marine

animals, coastal engineering, aquaculture etc.

Many of the instruments relevant to meteorology, water quality, water resources etc. are equally applicable to agricultural investigations. Further, the close contact and interaction of CIFT with agricultural institutes under ICAR helped to extend these technologies in those fields with minor alterations in the ranges and applications. The present project is to speed up the activities for agriculture.

The instruments developed in CIFT with fully indigenous components and technology are meant to acquire data from the remote agricultural sites pertaining to the environment and natural resources, namely water, level, water flow, discharge, soil moisture, soil temperature,

water evaporation, sedimentation, under water radiation, water salinity, water temperature, solar radiation, rain fall, wind velocity, wind direction, relative humidity, atmospheric pressure etc. The acquisition of these data using portable instruments and large data acquisition systems are found to be useful in different basic and applied aspects of agriculture namely, irrigation and drainage engineering, hydrology, hydrometrology, agro-climatology, agronomy, ecology etc. Since many of the sensors and instruments developed have quite different technique and features it is necessary to popularise these following systematic procedure including training, field demonstrations, detailed analysis of data collected, and comparison with other imported instruments.

—T. K. SIVADAS