

Dr. Paroda meets Mr. Bill Clinton



Dr. R.S. Paroda, Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog and former Director General, ICAR and Secretary, DARE, who is presently on a personal visit to the United States, had a chance meeting with former President of the United States, Mr. Bill Clinton during the Memorial Day celebrations in Chappaqua, a suburb of New York on May 29, 2011. During the brief discussion, Mr. Clinton evinced keen interest in the present agricultural scenario and admired the way India has made great strides in the field of agriculture, which he felt was a shining example the world over. He also expressed his concern for not achieving a similar success in Africa despite all out efforts of various organizations, including his own Foundation. He did emphasize that Africa can gain a lot through south-south cooperation, where role of India could be substantial. He fully agreed with Dr Paroda that for a similar success in Africa, three

cradles of Green Revolution i.e. political will, scientific collaboration at international level and the capable human resource (scientists, extension workers and farmers) are a must to achieve similar successes elsewhere.



Mr. Clinton's initiatives through agriculture and related developments throughout the world have resulted in salvaging of the down-trodden. He said "We should go back to a policy of maximum agricultural self-sufficiency. While there would always be a global market for crops like rice, wheat and corn, it is crazy for us to think we can develop these countries without increasing

their capacity to feed themselves."

Indeed, the meeting was a memorable event both for Dr. Paroda and Dr(Mrs.) Shashi Paroda. At the end, Mr Clinton desired to strengthen global research partnership in the field of agriculture for the benefit of more than one billion people who still need both food and nutrition security.

