PREFACE

The centre witness serious set back with the untimely demise of its former Director Dr. M. A. Ansari. During that hour of need, I took over the charge and supported the smooth functioning of the centre maintaining the standard it set over the years.

During this period the centre has scaled a new height and is visible in the various scientific activities it performed through out. The centre is likely to initiate six new, but promising research projects covering different challenges to achieve good health. Add to this, the centre also received extramural funds for five new projects from the agencies like ICMR, NACO, WHO-SEARO, MP Council of Science and Technology, UNICEF, etc. In the recent past the centre was also visited by the Hon. Minister for Health, Government of Madhya Pradesh. He expressed his enthusiasm in the scientific activities of the centre and the role it can play in the broader perspective of improving the health. He has invited four challenging projects of the centre for financial support. This achievement has undoubtedly raised the moral of the scientists and other scientific staff. It is worth mentioning that during this period six scientists of the centre attended and presented paper in the prestigious international conferences held abroad.

For the first time, we have organized a National Symposium on Tribal Health- an interdisciplinary forum which amasses delegates, scientists, academicians, and scholars, etc. from all over the country and abroad. The standard of the deliberations at this conglomeration can be very well understood by the grand participation of delegates and experts from the prestigious CDC, LSTM, LSHTM, WHO, USAID, etc. Shri. V.K. Batham, IAS, Director, Tribal Welfare, Government of Madhya Pradesh took keen interest and supported this symposium both financially and its scientific activities. More than 250 attendees and 140 papers were presented in this gathering. The symposium proceeding is likely to be published soon.

Needless to mention the constant support and guidance provided by Lt. Gen. D. Raghunath, SAC Chairman is a source of inspiration for the scientists. I place on record and express my sincere thanks to Prof. N. K. Ganguly, Director General, ICMR for his interest, encouragement and motivation to all of us, without which the centre would not have seen the light of the day.

Neeru Singh

Officer-in-Charge