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### Twenty-third Meeting of ICAR Regional Committee No. 1

Dehra Dun, 18 June 2014. Twenty-third Meeting of ICAR Regional Committee No. 1, coordinated by Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute was



inaugurated by Minister of Labour, Khadi and Small Industries, Uttarakhand, Shri Harish Chandra Durga Pal, at Forest Research Institute. Shri Durga Pal highlighted the loss of apple production due to climate changes in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir. He called for effective technologies and field solutions for soil, water, forest conservation and climate resilient agriculture; and field solutions for soil, water and forest conservation on which development depends. Shri Durga Pal emphasized that water harvesting, flood control, soil conservation measures, organic farming and availability of seed and planting material for scientific inputs to boost agricultural, horticultural crops are prime needs of the region.

Dr N.K. Krishna Kumar (DDG, Horticultural Science) conveyed the message of the Secretary (DARE) and DG (ICAR) on the agenda note of the meeting. Dr Krishna Kumar highlighted the importance, composition and concerns of the meeting for the agriculture development in the hill states.

Shri Arvind R. Kaushal (Additional Secretary, DARE and Secretary, ICAR) focused on the facilities, role and strengths of ICAR; listing out the ICAR Research Institutes and Research Centers, Agricultural Universities, and Krishi Vigyan Kendra's that are addressing the challenges of agricultural problem in the region. The Secretary, ICAR remembered Dr Norman E. Borlaug and his contribution to agriculture. Importance of 'Family Farming', the theme of the year of FAO, was underlined. Five publications were released and ten progressive farmers of the region were honoured. The meeting identified major issues to be addressed by ICAR, SAUs and respective state departments on short-term and long-term basis.

### Review meeting of DRMR-NGOs Linkage programme

Bharatpur, 4 June 2014. The review meeting of the Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research (DRMR) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) linkage programme for popularization of improved technology of rapeseed-mustard cultivation was organized by the DRMR. This collaborative programme was initiated in September 2013 to have the close

linkages of DRMR with NGOs working at the grassroots level to reach large number of rapeseed-mustard farmers.

The meeting deliberated on the implementation of the programme, performance of improved technology, experiences of the farmers, constraints faced by the personnel during the implementation etc. The Director/(DRMR), Dr Dheeraj Singh, said that NGOs could play a vital role in transfer of technology thus bringing an effective change in the agricultural sector. Dr Singh outlined the efforts undertaken by the Directorate in its endeavour to popularize the technologies developed for rapeseed-mustard crop production. Dr Singh said that the initiative to rope in the services of NGOs to enhance technology adoption in rapeseed-mustard recognized the strength of these organizations in reaching the target farmers. He also emphasized the need to adopt a multi-pronged strategy involving frontline demonstrations, trainings, farmer-scientist interactions, farm schools, *kisan ghoshtis*, etc. to spread the awareness about improved technology and to ensure its wider adoption.



On the occasion NGOs were also felicitated for their contribution in popularization of improved technology of rapeseed-mustard cultivation during 2013-14. About 50 farmers and 10 NGOs representatives etc. participated in the meeting.

### Personality Development in collaboration with MANAGE

With the aim to develop personal/psychological profile of state agricultural functionaries and ICAR officials for self-analysis and to understand the ways and means of managing



self for obtaining better performance a four-day training programme was launched on 9 June 2014 in collaboration with MANAGE, Hyderabad at Regional Centre of ICAR Complex for NEH Region, Umiam, Meghalaya.

Dr S.V. Ngachan (Director, ICAR RC NEH, Meghalaya) extended his full support for organizing such programme for enhancing the working skill of employees. Dr Ngachan said that amidst rapid changes in organizational environment, there is a need to flatten, decentralize, a re-engineer the working pattern of different organizations and empowering

the employees to reap better output. Dr Vikram Singh (Director, Centre for Agri-Institution Capacity Building, MANAGE, Hyderabad) the Course Director of the training programme highlighted the importance of such training programme for one's self assessment through personal profiling, personal development plan and team building skills. The deliberations focused on the need and importance of personality development, emotional intelligence, empathy, interpersonal competence and personality development for developing and maintaining a conducive organizational climate which in turn helps in achieving the organizational goals and objectives. During the programme the trainees were imparted with inter-personal development skills and self-management techniques for development of their personal/psychological profile by involving resource persons from different organizations like MANAGE, Hyderabad; ICAR RC NEH, Meghalaya; Zonal Project Directorate, Zone III, Meghalaya and CPGS, Central Agricultural University, Meghalaya. Around 25 trainees from Asom, Meghalaya, Nagaland, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh participated in this programme.

### U.S. Charge d' Affaires visits Patna RC of ICAR RCER

Patna, 16 June 2014. The United States Charge d'Affaires, Michael Pelletier and Consul General in Kolkata, Ms Helen LaFave visited Sabajpura Research Farm of ICAR Research



Complex for Eastern Region to monitor the progress of Cereal System Initiatives for South Asia (CSISA) Research Platform activities funded by USAID and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The

Project activities are aimed at improving agricultural productivity of small-and marginal-farmers of Bihar through sustainable improvement in the cereal production systems under the emerging scenario of climatic stresses, Dr Abdul Haris (Principal Scientist, ICAR-RCER, Patna) explained the agricultural scenario in Bihar and highlights the CSISA research platform, A meeting of the officials of the United States embassy was arranged with CSISA hub officials, scientists of ICAR farmers, women self-help groups and service providers from different districts of Bihar. During their interaction with different stakeholders, foreign visitors enquired about the problems faced by service providers, demand of small- and marginal-farmers to access the services, conviction of farmers regarding the usefulness of small farm mechanization to mitigate labour and energy crisis and integration of women self help groups in mechanized agricultural operations. Foreign visitors were satisfied that (CSISA) project with its platform research and field level activities, are helping small farmers through access to cost and energy saving innovations and technologies. Foreign visitors appreciated the partnerships of ICAR with CIMMYT and state government as it is giving fruitful results in improving the cereal system productivity and sustainability in the region.



### DCR celebrates Foundation Day

Puttur, 18 June 2014. The Directorate of Cashew Research (DCR) celebrated its Foundation Day and organized 'Farmers Meet 2014'. The Chief Guest Sri A.B. Ibrahim (Deputy Commissioner, Dakshina Kannada district) stressed on the need for improving status of cashew cultivation, better income from cashew farming and called for focus on future avenues for cashew apple utilization. Sri Ibrahim informed the house that issues raised by cashew farmers such as marketing problem, low subsidy amount for cashew cultivation etc. will be taken up with the Department of Horticulture.



Prof. R.K. Pathak (Former Director, CISH, Lucknow) delivered the Foundation Day lecture on 'Jaivik Cashew for Export Promotion and Domestic Consumption'. Prof. Pathak exhorted the farmers of this region to make the full use of various organic farming systems and techniques to produce quality food products in an environmentally sustainable and profitable way. He stressed that we should not make optimal use of natural resources and also conserve them for the future generations.

Dr George V. Thomas (Director, CPCRI, Kasaragod) observed that large-scale area expansion under cashew could be possible only due to technologies provided by this Directorate. Prof. P.L. Saroj (Director, Directorate of Cashew Research) deliberated on the present status of cashew research and cashew cultivation in India. He called upon the farmers to follow the recommended technologies along with the proper precautions to reap higher benefits from cashew cultivation.

Three selected innovative farmers were felicitated on this occasion.

- (i) Smt Sathyabhama (farmer from Manchi, Bantwal) achieved highest productivity of 2,750 kg/ha in third year through adoption of ultra-high density and high density modes of planting. She has also made innovative products out of cashew apple, the major one being a cashew apple *halwa* with a longer shelf-life.
- (ii) Sri Deranna Rai (from Bettampady, Irde) is a pioneer in adopting ultra-high density planting in Karnataka and successfully demonstrating yield to the tune of 2,000 kg/ha in the third year.
- (iii) Sri Vittappa (from Bidarhalli village, Honnali taluk, Davengere) has demonstrated a yield of 3,600 kg/ha (@ 9 kg nuts/tree) in the tenth year from his high density orchard of variety Ullal-1 planted at 5 m x 5 m spacing.

The awardees also shared their experiences.

On this occasion two technical folders on 'Rejuvenation Techniques in Cashew' and 'Geru Maragala Punaschethana Tantrikathe' (Kannada) were released.

More than 150 cashew farmers participated besides nursery men, representatives of Krishi Vigyan Kendras, development departments, NGOs and scientists.

Dear All

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**Project Director**

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