

Annual Group Meet of *Kharif* pulses organized

The annual group meet of *Kharif* pulses i.e. Pigeonpea, Mungbean, Urdbean and Arid Legumes under aegis of AICRPs on Pigeonpea, MULLaRP and Arid Legumes was organized through video conferencing from 2nd to 4th June 2020 at ICAR-IIPR, Kanpur. The Chief Guest of Plenary Session, Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & DG (ICAR) appreciated the efforts made by Pulses Fraternity for marching towards pulses revolution in the country. He emphasized on the need to sustain the gains witnessed recently in pulse crops via increasing the productivity in most of the pulse crops. While highlighting the larger scope and significance of the digital platforms enabling frequent interactions among research scientists, he appreciated the current efforts being made towards digital communications to deliver outcomes amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Dr. Tilak Raj Sharma, Deputy Director General (Crop Sciences), ICAR while reviewing the progress of different programs under the three AICRPs viz., Pigeonpea, MULLaRP and Arid Legumes, stressed upon intensifying research efforts on pre-breeding through embracing new tools and technologies to overcome a variety of barriers of wide hybridization. Dr N. P. Singh (Director, ICAR-IIPR, Kanpur) apprised about how technological breakthroughs in pulses research and development delivered by three AICRPs on pulses led to self-sufficiency in pulses production.



Invited crop experts including Dr Masood Ali (Ex-Director, ICAR-IIPR, Kanpur), Dr S. K. Sharma (Ex-Vice Chancellor CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur), Dr P. M. Salimath (Ex-Vice Chancellor University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur), Dr B. B. Singh (Ex-ADG, Oilseeds and Pulses, ICAR, New Delhi) also provided valuable suggestions/recommendations to further improve the efficacy of these AICRPs during three days long deliberations. Dr S. K. Jha (ADG, Oilseeds and Pulses, ICAR, New Delhi) co-chaired sessions and offered critical remarks on the current progress and future outlook of these AICRPs. Adoption of new technologies, like speed breeding, marker-assisted selection was recommended to enhance the genetic gains in breeding programs of these pulse crops. Specific crop-wise and section-wise deliberations and recommendations were also finalized in Plant Breeding, Agronomy, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Plant Protection, Seed production and FLDs.

During the 3-day virtual meeting, Dr. I. P. Singh, (Project Coordinator, ICAR-AICRP on Pigeonpea), Dr Sanjeev Gupta (Project Coordinator, ICAR-AICRP on MULLaRP) and Dr Shiv Sewak (Nodal Officer on Arid Legumes) detailed about the progress made during 2019-20 under the respective AICRP and also finalized the technical programs for ensuing *Kharif* season. The meeting was attended by nearly 110 participants from various parts of the country involved in research on these pulse crops through video conferencing. The meeting has expanded the horizon of interactions among stakeholders to address several issues of pulses research in the country.