

ONLINE Celebration of Foundation Day at ICAR-IIPR

ICAR-Indian Institute of Pulses Research Kanpur celebrated its **28th Foundation Day** on virtual mode due to COVID-19 pandemic on 05th September 2020 following its establishment in 1993. **Dr Trilochan Mohapatra**, Secretary, DARE and Director General ICAR, New Delhi was the Chief Guest of the function. The programme was presided over by Dr T.R. Sharma, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), ICAR, New Delhi. On this important occasion, various constraints related to pulses production targeting at 32 million tonnes (m t) by 2030 and 39 m t by 2050 by the country remained in focus. Director, ICAR-IIPR and staff members of the institute, eminent scientists, research scholars and farmers from different areas of Pulses Research participated in this ONLINE event.



The Chief Guest **Dr Trilochan Mohapatra**, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR in his special remarks, congratulated the scientists and staffs of ICAR-IIPR for the accomplishments made by the institute under the able guidance of its Director, Dr N.P. Singh. He also praised all the pulse scientists for achieving an average record production of 23-25 million tonnes of pulses consecutively for the last 4 years. He urged the scientists to work for the all round benefit of the farmers and stressed on minimizing production cost and bridging in productivity gaps in pulses. He reiterated that farmers ought to be partners in various research based programmes and the fruits of participatory research and extension should be translated on large scale for realization of higher yield and income.

Chairman of today's function, Dr Tilak Raj Sharma, Deputy Director General (CS), ICAR widely applauded the remarkable works & efforts made by ICAR-IIPR for all round development of the institute. He added that there is still a lot yet to be done in respect of diverse aspects in pulses especially breaking the current stability in production. He said that farmers are the SOUL of a nation and being the owner of his land, they should be self-sustained in order to enable our country self-sufficiency in pulses in time to come.

While delivering his remarks, Dr N.P. Singh, Director, ICAR-IIPR stressed on the importance of pulses, current scenario, research activities and future strategies. Dr Singh also discussed research advancements and priorities in achieving the self-sufficiency and nutritional security in pulses. In the last few years, he informed that the various projects/programmes under National/international collaborations have given us rich dividends and were again carried forward to achieve the desired targets by 2030. In addition, a **Brainstorming Session** on *Strategies for self-sufficiency in pulses: Introspection and Correction* to address the issue of sustained growth in pulses further was held in the afternoon of foundation day wherein eminent scientists from India and abroad participated on virtual mode.

During the Foundation Day function, Dr. M. Senthil Kumar, Principal Scientist (Best Scientist Award 2020 under Senior Category), Dr Debjyoti Sen Gupta, Scientist Sr Sc. (Young Scientist Award 2020), Mr RS Mathur (Best Technical Officer), Mr.Brij Kishore Verma (Best Worker in Administrative Category), and Mr DK Agnihotri (Best Worker in Accounts & Audit) were awarded for their outstanding work on research and institutional activities. The Best Team Award went to Dr Yogesh Kumar and his team viz., Drs AK Srivastava, UC Jha, B Mondal, KR Soren Manjunatha L, Archana Singh (Bhopal Centre) and Revnappa Birader (Dharwad station).

Dr G.P. Dixit, Project Coordinator (Chickpea) offered vote of thanks while Dr CS Praharaj, PS & Head, Crop Production Division conducted the Foundation Day programme.
