

**World Pulses Day 2023 celebrated with inauguration of International Conference on  
Pulses: Smart Crops for Agricultural Sustainability and Nutritional Security  
(ICPulses2023)**

ICAR-IIPR, Kanpur celebrated World Pulses Day 2023 with all solemnity at C Subramaniam auditorium, National Agriculture Science Complex, Pusa, New Delhi on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb., 2023. As a part of the celebrations, an International Conference on ``Pulses: Smart Crops for Agricultural Sustainability and Nutritional Security`` was inaugurated on the occasion. The conference scheduled from 10-12 Feb 2023 by Indian Institute of Pulses Research (ICAR-IIPR), Kanpur and Indian Society of Pulses Research and Development (ISPRD) in collaboration with National (MoA &FW, GoI; NAAS,IPGA, NAAS, NABARD) and International (ICARDA, World Veg, GEF, UN Environment program, Alliance for Bioversity International) partners. Director ICAR-IIPR, Dr. Bansa Singh welcomed the delegates and stressed on the significance of World Pulses Day. Hon`ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Kailash Chaudhary was the Chief Guest of the occasion who addressed the gathering virtually. He lauded the efforts of Indian farmers and ICAR for achieving a record pulse production in the country. He highlighted the efforts of scientists for developing 313 varieties during 2014-22 and implementing a robust seed hub model for ensuring seeds sufficiency in pulse crops in the country. He also highlighted various government policies and schemes that supported farmers for achieving better pulse productivity.

The celebrations were also attended by the Secretary DARE and DG ICAR, Dr. Himanshu Pathak, DDG (CS) Dr. T.R. Sharma; DG DAR Myanmar, Dr. U. Niang Kyi Win; ADG (O&P), ICAR Dr. Sanjeev Gupta, as the Guests of Honour. The celebrations were attended by Director ICAR-IIPR Dr. Bansa Singh and President ISPRD, Dr. I.P. Singh along with farmers and Academia from the nation and abroad.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR, Dr. Himanshu Pathak congratulated all and highlighted the multiple benefits of pulses for nutrition security, climate change, soil health, water conservation, cropping system and animal health. He urged all scientists to strive towards further reducing the yield gaps in pulses and reducing the dependence on imports for meeting the domestic consumption demands of pulses in the country.

Dr T.R Sharma, DDG (Crop Sciences), ICAR provided a detailed road map of the Indian Pulses Revolution since 2016 and highlighted the need to leverage the newer tools like speed breeding, genome editing to find solutions to challenges in pulses. Further he stressed for focusing on value addition and entrepreneurship development in pulses.

Four progressive pulse farmers from Fatehpur district of Uttar Pradesh were felicitated on the occasion. Further, scientists were awarded in different categories for excellence in pulses R&D. The Lifetime achievement Award of ISPRD was conferred to Dr. P.M. Salimath, Ex VC UAS Dharwad and UAS Raichur.

The inaugural session ended with the vote of thanks from the President ISPRD, Dr. I.P. Singh.

In the plenary session, DG DAR Myanmar Dr. U. Niang Kyi Win spoke on the pulse research set up of Myanmar and government strategies to leverage pulse production and marketing returns. He stressed on the need for stronger collaborations in pulses research and development with India. Dr. Michael Baum from ICARDA, Morocco highlighted the partnership and contributions of ICARDA in collaborative research with the NARS institutes while addressing the SDGs. ADG (O&P), ICAR Dr. Sanjeev Gupta presented an illustrative account of the Pulses Revolution in India and the future strategies to sustain it.

A special session dedicated to the World Pulse Day 2023 was organised on theme “Farm to fork: Planning, policy, perspectives”. Eminent speakers presented intriguing aspects of pulses research to the gathering. Dr Pratap S Birthal, Director, ICAR-NIAP, New Delhi discussed on the challenges in the pulse farming and bottlenecks regarding technology development. Dr. P.K. Joshi from IFPRI, New Delhi provided an account of the shifting consumer patterns of different pulse commodities and how they regulate the market price. Veteran journalist of The Hindu Mr. G. Chandrasekhar discussed the issues those impeded the pulses revolution and stressed on more strategies to stabilize the pulses price for benefit of pulse growers. Dr R Jaganmohan, Head, National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management, Thanjavur talked of novel processed products of pulses and presented less explored avenues like 3D printed foods, pulse based protein formulations etc. Dr. A. Amarendra Reddy from CRIDA highlighted the resilience of the pulse production inspite of bad weather in last cropping seasons and prospects of long term contract in international trade regarding pulse crops. Mr Bimal Kothari, President,

India Pulses and Grains Association, Mumbai analysed critically the gaps in policy making, direction of R&D and trends in national and international markets with respect to pulse products.