

### **Maintenance Breeding: Training –cum-Exposure Visit-2015**

ICAR-Directorate of Seed Research (ICAR-DSR), Mau in collaboration with Indian Agricultural Research Institute-Regional Station (IARI-RS), Karnal organized a two day training programme entitled **“Maintenance Breeding: Training –cum- Exposure Visit”** for scientific staff of cooperating centers involved in Breeder Seed production activity under AICRP-NSP (Crops) and ICAR-Seed Project during 03-04 March, 2015 at IARI, RS, Karnal. Twenty two participants from various cooperating centers attended the training. Under the able guidance of Dr. S.S Atwal Head, IARI-RS, Karnal; Dr. R.N. Yadav, and Dr. R. Seth, Principal Scientist (s), IARI-RS, Karnal co-ordinated the training programme.

The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. S.S. Atwal; Dr. R. Seth welcomed all the participants and introduced them to the chair. The chairman in inaugural dialogue stressed upon importance of maintenance breeding, role played by IARI in green revolution, emphasized upon stations role in producing & making available quality seed popularly known as “Pusa Beej” because of its archetypal quality to the farmers and highlighted about Farmers Participatory Seed Production (FPSP). Dr. R.N. Yadav appraised about highlights and schedule of training programme. The inaugural session concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. V.S. Lather, Principal Scientist, IARI-RS, Karnal to the chair, participants and conveyed special acknowledgments to Project Director, ICAR-DSR, Mau for identifying and entrusting responsibility of organizing training programme to IARI-RS, Karnal.

The inaugural session was followed by the lectures in which Dr. S.S. Atwal bequeathed about importance of Maintenance Breeding in quality seed production, Dr. R.N. Yadav detailed about variety maintenance in wheat and barley, Dr. V.S. Lather briefed about importance of maintenance activity followed by variety maintenance in pulses and Dr. R. Seth detailed about activities involved in maintenance of rice varieties with special prominence to basmati varieties. The lecture series were followed by interactive session, in which scientist(s) from the IARI-RS, Karnal shared their decades of experience gained in maintenance activity as a response to the specific queries of the participants. All presentations highlighted the technique involved in maintenance breeding of concerned crops, factors responsible for varietal deterioration with special emphasis on residual heterozygosity & environmental stresses and its manifestation in occurrence of offtypes in the maintenance plots. The lecture series was followed by visit to the maintenance breeding and seed production plots of station were participants accompanied by all scientific staff of the station.

The second day began with visit to seed production plots of Sardar Gurcharan Singh under FPSP of ICAR Seed Project, farmer himself briefed about the varied activities involved in seed production and coordinators highlighted about the significance of FPSP which led to phenomenal increase in quality seed production of wheat, garden pea, chickpea, berseem and briefed about the marketing structure (procurement policy & price fixation) along with benefits accrued by farmers under FPSP. After the successful visit to the village, participants were accompanied to seed processing plant and seed storage facility at the station were Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Senior Scientist, IARI-RS, Karnal explained about the various activity and set of checklist followed for obtaining the seeds of highest physical purity and also briefed about protocol followed to reduce the incidence of Karnal bunted seeds below permissible limit in wheat seed lots. The programme was concluded by distribution of certificates to the participants, who shared their experiences & knowledge gained during training, Dr. V.S. Lather conveyed valedictory vote of thanks.