

Joint Annual Group Meeting (33rd AGM of AICRP-NSP Crops & 13th ARM of ICAR-SEED PROJECT) at PAJANCOA& RI, Karaikal, Puducherry during 09-11, May 2018

Joint Annual Group Meeting of 33rd Annual Group Meeting of AICRP-NSP Crops & 13th Annual Review Meeting of ICAR-Seed Project “Seed Production in Agricultural Crops” has been organized in liaison with PAJANCOA& RI, Karaikal, Puducherry from 09th -11th, May-2018. Inaugural session was graced by Hon’ble Agriculture Minister, Govt. of Puducherry, Shri. R. Kamalakannan and Dr. D. K. Yadava; ADG (Seed), ICAR, New Delhi. The inaugural session started with welcome address by Dr. V. Kanthaswamy, Dean (I/c) PAJANCOA& RI, Karaikal, who also briefed about the activities being undertaken by the institute. Delegates from State Agricultural Universities and ICAR institutes has been participated in the meeting.

Dr. D. K. Yadava; ADG (Seed), ICAR, New Delhi made the introductory remarks and briefed about the genesis of AICRP-NSP (Crops) and ICAR Seed Project and their contribution in bolstering the seed production, research, infrastructure capabilities and human resource development of SAUs and ICAR institutes in NARES. Dr. Yadava highlighted the fact that the food grain production has increased from a level of 131mt in 1979-80 to 267 mt in 2016-17, which has been made possible through appreciable increase in the breeder seed production over the years. He laid emphasis on issues such as share of Public and Private sectors in Indian seed domain, identification of alternative niches for seed production under climate change, amelioration of Varietal Replacement Rate and Seed Replacement Rate, maintenance breeding, maintenance of generation system, quality control, revision of IMSCS, seed health testing, strengthening of seed chain in NEH region, organic seed production and use of molecular tools for augmentation of seed production capabilities.

Dr. Dinesh K. Agarwal, Director (Acting), IISS presented achievements of AICRP-NSP (Crops) and ICAR Seed Project in brief. Estimated Breeder Seed Production is 1.16 lakh quintals during the year 2017-18. He further briefed the major achievements under STR component in seed production and certification, seed physiology and storage, seed pathology and seed entomology themes. He highlighted the reduction of mismatch in

breeder seed production and underlined the problem of non-lifting of breeder seed. The quality seed production in ICAR-Seed Project has been 6.08 lakh quintals in 2017-18.

During the inaugural function PAU, Ludhiana and TNAU, Coimbatore were awarded as the best performing centers under Breeder Seed Production and Seed Technology Research components of AICRP-NSP (Crops), respectively. ICAR Complex for NEH region, Manipur Centre, Imphal and UAS, Raichur were awarded as the best performing centers as ICAR institute and university centre, respectively under ICAR-Seed Project.

Shri. R. Kamalakannan, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, Govt. of Puducherry and the Chief Guest of the function welcomed all the delegates and lauded the significant achievements made by the scientists in seed domain. In his inaugural address, he emphasized the importance of seed in augmenting the agricultural production and productivity, enhancing employment opportunities in rural areas particularly for women. He also expressed the concern to improve the SRR and VRR, availability of quality seed at farmers door-step and dissemination of relevant technologies to the farmers.

The inaugural session ended with the formal vote of thanks proposed by Dr. R. Govindarasu, Prof & Head (Plant breeding & Genetics), PAJANCOA& RI, Karaikal.



Photographs related to inaugural session