

***Valedictory function of International certificate course “Requisites of Seed Production, Processing and Quality Assurance” at ICAR-DSR, Mau-2016***

International certificate course on **“Requisites of Seed Production, Processing and Quality Assurance”** for eight Nigerian nationals was concluded at ICAR-Directorate of Seed Research, Mau. The said six month training programme was commenced on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at ICAR-DSR, Regional Station, Bengaluru. The valedictory ceremony was blessed by chief guest Dr. J.S. Chauhan, Assistant Director General (Seed), ICAR, New Delhi and guest of honour’s Dr. S.K. Rao, Director of Research Services, JNKVV, Jabalpur; Dr. M.A. Shankar, Ex-Director of Research, UAS Bengaluru; Dr. Ashok Gaur, Ex-Principal Scientist, DSST, IARI, New Delhi; Dr. S.N. Sharma, Emeritus Scientist (ICAR), RARI, Durgapura; and Dr. S.R. Maloo, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, MPUAT, Udaipur. Dr. S. Rajendra Prasad, Programme Coordinator & Project Director, ICAR-DSR, Mau welcomed the gathering and detailed about the progress of training programme.

The international certificate course was executed in three phases: first phase began in ICAR-DSR, Regional station, GKVK Campus, Bengaluru; second phase focussed on exposure visits to various institutions and private seed enterprises at Hyderabad and Delhi; and third phase was instituted at ICAR-DSR, Mau. The training programme focussed on expert talks and practical sessions on varied aspects of seed science and technology *viz.*, seed production technology in field and horticultural crops; seed processing; seed testing and certification; seed storage and handling; seed quality enhancement; seed health management and seed economics, marketing and management. Trainees were also exposed to methodology of seed production through hands-on training in seed production technology, wherein trainees were engaged in seed production of OPV/Hybrid of varied crops. As a part of project appraisal, four project proposals were brought up by trainees targeting seed entrepreneurship for the holistic upliftment of seed scenario in major crops of Nigeria. *In toto*; 462 expert talks, 128 practical sessions, 68 field visits and 52 exposure visits covering five states were instigated during six months period.

Dr. J.S. Chauhan, ADG (seed), ICAR took the honour of distributing certificates to participants and all guests congratulated trainees for successful completion of six months training programme. Programme ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. S. Rajendra Prasad, Project Director, ICAR-DSR, Mau.

