

## XXXI Annual Group Meeting of AICRP – National Seed Project (Crops)

XXXI Annual Group Meeting of AICRP-NSP (Crops) was organized during 19-21 April, 2016 in Cochin, Kerala under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR Dr. T. Mohapatra by ICAR - Indian Institute of Seed Science in collaboration with Kerala Agriculture University, Trissur. In the meeting, status of breeder seed production in the country and research in different disciplines of seed technology were discussed. The



Director General, ICAR emphasized the need to map the seed requirement of the country and development of seed hubs to achieve the targeted seed replacement rate (SRR). He also accentuated the time to promote pulses and oil seed production to attain the self-sufficiency in the near future. The Vice Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur Dr. P. Rajendran highlighted the necessity of enhancing the productivity up to 50 % to meet the food requirement of expected population of 141 crores in 2025 and 164 crores in 2050. The ADG (Seeds), ICAR Dr. J.S. Chauhan stressed the need for systematic seed storage and hygienic seed production to meet the growing demand of seed. Dr. S. Rajendra Prasad, Director, ICAR – IISS, Mau emphasized inevitability of achieving seed security to attain food security and nutritional security. He also mentioned that the breeder seed production under AICRP – National Seed Project (Crops) reached the tune of 1.25 lakh quintals in all the crops during 2014-15 and highlighted the need of barcoding of seeds to develop efficient seed production system in the country. In the meeting, the frontier areas of seed science viz. use of Ultra-thin Layer Iso-electric Focusing (UTLIEF), mitigation of climate effect on seed production, development of hydrogel for dry lands / rainfed conditions, etc. The three seed scientists viz. Dr. M. Bhaskaran, Vice Chancellor, TNOU, Chennai; Dr. Vilas A. Tonapi, Director, ICAR – IIMR, Hyderabad and Dr. R. C. Agrawal, Registrar, PPVFRA, New Delhi were awarded for the outstanding contributions made for seed science. AICRP –NSP (Crops) consist of two main components viz. breeder seed



production and seed technological research. The Indira Gandhi Agricultural University (IGKV), Raipur awarded as best centre for breeder seed production and University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru

awarded as best centre for seed technological research during the year 2015-16. In addition, three books on seed production and seed pathology were released in the function.