

## **Successfully Conducted 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Zonal Workshop on KVKs of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Organized by: ICAR-ATARI, Kanpur & Inaugurated at IISR, Lucknow**

XXIII Annual Zonal Workshop on KVKs of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand was inaugurated by Sh. Ram Naik, Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh at ICAR-Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow on May 26, 2016. While addressing the gathering, Sh. Ram Naik highlighted the coincidence of the date of the workshop as it falls on the occasion of completion of two years of Modi Government. He expressed the significance of farmers and farming of Uttar Pradesh, which has the potential to guide the agricultural development of the country. Sh. Naik added that KVK as a grass root level institution have immense potential for strengthening agriculture and related industries for bringing prosperity to the villages which ultimately may culminate to national prosperity. Terming the KVK as lighthouse for the farmers which are capable to offer scientific direction to the farmers, especially in the current changing scenario of Indian agriculture and to play an effective tool for disseminating welfare schemes of the farmers started by the Central Govt. Sh. Naik urged the KVK scientists to go to the fields to demonstrate the impact of the improved scientific farm technologies. Highlighting the contribution of laborious role of the persons of the state working in Mumbai for making it financial capital of the country, he also urged the people of the state to make similar sincere efforts to make the Uttar Pradesh as *Uttam Pradesh*. He also appreciated the efforts of ICAR-Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research in developing technologies.

Dr. A.K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Ag. Extension), ICAR expressed his concern over the vacant positions of KVKs in U.P. and Uttarakhand in spite of cent per cent financial assistance by the ICAR. Dr. Singh advocated for more autonomy for KVK Heads and more facilities for KVK staff. He expressed his satisfaction over demonstrations on pulses and oilseed crops in 60,000 acre area by KVKs, sending of SMSs to 1.5 crore farmers of the country and production of 1.5 lakh tonnes of seed/planting material. He also highlighted the major schemes of ICAR launched for the benefit of farmers like *Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav*, Farmers' First, *ARYA*, *Pre-Kharif* and *Pre-Rabi Kisan Sammelan* and *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojana*.

Expressing concern over declining soil fertility and water table, scarce production resources, climate change and making Indian agriculture profitable and sustainable, Dr. Mangala Rai, Ex. Secretary, DARE & Ex. DG, ICAR and VC, GBPUA&T, Pantnagar highlighted the role of KVK scientists in addressing the problems. Dr. Rai also shared the history of the genesis of KVKs and the remarkable progress during X and XI five year plans with the audience.

Welcoming the Chief Guest and delegates, Dr. U.S Gautam, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kanpur informed that the three days event shall be very focused and include the activities like capacity building of Heads of KVKs, streamlining the Home science related activities and zone-wise review of KVKs, finalization of technological modules for the women farmers for drudgery reduction, enhancing efficiency of women farmers, entrepreneurship development and income enhancement of women farmers. Informing about activities of KVKs during last year, Dr. Gautam added that 1.65 lakh trainings were imparted to farmers in U.P. and Uttarakhand and 5-6 location-specific technologies were developed by each KVK. With the distribution of soil health card, the consumption of fertilizer specifically urea has been declined considerably. Only Muzaffarnagar district has saved the consumption of urea to the tune of 180 tonnes. Dr. Gautam expressed the commitment of the ICAR to strengthen the frontline extension system of KVKs and doubling the income of the farmers within next three years. He also apprised that this workshop is being organized to review the work progress of KVKs of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand during the last year (2015-16) and finalization of action plan for the next year.

Dr. A.D. Pathak, Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research highlighted the research and development contributions of the Institute for the economic development of sugarcane farmers and the state and proposed the formal vote of thanks to all the delegates and dignitaries.

Hon'ble Governor of U.P., Sh. Ram Naik Ji also facilitated three farmers/farm woman viz., Sh. Anand Singh of village Chamouli, Smt. Savitri Devi of Sitapur and Sh. Ram Sharan Katiyar of Kanpur for their adoption of innovative technologies. Sh. Naik also released the Annual Report of the KVKs for the period 2015-16. Governor also visited the Exhibition organized on the occasion.

During the Workshop, Dr. Gaya Prasad, VC, SVPUA&T, Meerut; Dr. K.M.L. Pathak, VC, DUVASU, Mathura; Dr. S.L. Goswami, VC, BUA&T, Banda; Dr. S. Rajan, Director, ICAR-CISH, Lucknow; Dr. Ravindra Kumar, Director, ICAR-NBFG, Lucknow; Dr. Mathura Rai, Ex. Director, ICAR-IIVR, Varanasi and Heads of 81 KVKs from both the states were present.