

## **25th Annual Workshop of All India Network Projects on Pesticide Residues held at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology-Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Srinagar on July 14, 2017**

Shri N.N. Vohra, Governor, Jammu and Kashmir and Chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology-Kashmir, (SKUAST-K), inaugurated the “25th Annual Workshop of All India Network Projects on Pesticide Residues” on 14 July 2017 at the Shalimar Campus, Srinagar.



The two-day workshop was organized by SKUAST-K in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi. Highlighting the serious challenges confronting our agricultural sector, Governor emphasized the need of striking a harmonious balance between ensuring food security, food safety and protection of the environment. He observed that it is extremely important to safeguard biodiversity from getting unfavourably affected due to inimical human activities and emphasised that productive agriculture cannot sustain in the absence of environmental balance.



Governor observed that after the advent of the first Green Revolution, the intensive use of fertilizers and excessive exploitation of underground water has led to the emergence of deficiencies in micro nutrients, soil erosion and many other problems. As the country is working to usher in the 2nd Green Revolution it is important that we achieve near perfect balance between food security and environmental balance. Governor complimented Prof. Nazeer Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of the University, for establishing quality research

infrastructure and faculty at the University and stressed the need for carrying out quality research in identified areas of agriculture and allied sectors. He thanked Dr. J.S. Sandhu, Deputy Director General (Crop Science) ICAR & Director, ICAR-IARI; Dr. P.K. Chakrabarty, Assistant Director General, (Plant Protection & Biosafety) ICAR and Dr. K.K. Sharma, Project Coordinator, ICAR-All India Network Project (AINP) on Pesticide Residues for providing ICAR's strong support to SKUAST-K.

Dr. Jeet Singh Sandhu, Dr. P.K. Chakrabarty, and Prof. Nazeer Ahmed gave scientific inputs about the ongoing efforts in minimizing pesticide residues in food crops. Dr. K.K. Sharma, stated that the project focusses its attention on safety evaluation of pesticides for fixation of MRLs, safe waiting period/PHI, label claims at national and international level. During last 8 years, 442 multi-location supervised field trials on 148 new and existing molecules-crop combinations were conducted which has led to fixation of 55 MRL's by FSSAI along with their safe waiting periods and label claim fixed by Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee (CIB&RC). Human resource and skill development of the stakeholders continue to be the key activity of the project.

(Source: Project Coordinating Cell, ICAR-All India Network Project (AINP) on Pesticide Residues, IARI, New Delhi)