

54th Annual Group Meeting of ICAR-All India Coordinated Research Project on Pearl Millet

54th Annual Group Meeting of ICAR-All India Coordinated Research Project on Pearl Millet was organized during 15-17th March 2019 at Dr.B.P. Pal Auditorium, IARI, New Delhi. Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary DARE & DG ICAR was the chief guest of the inaugural function.

Professor R.B. Singh, President NAAS and Former Director IARI, Dr.A. K. Singh , DDG (Ext) & Director IARI, Dr. C. Tara Satyawathi, Project Coordinator AICRP on Pearl Millet, Jodhpur and Dr. A.K. Singh, Joint Director (Res) were the other dignitaries present on the dais. It was followed by ICAR song, lighting of lamp of knowledge and welcome address by Dr A.K. Singh, Director, IARI extended a very warm welcome to the Chief Guest, all dignitaries, special invitees and participants of the annual group meet. Dr. Singh highlighted the role of Pearl Millet in our daily food. He told that government is also sensitizing farmers for adopting production of pearl millet and last year was declared as Year of Pearl Millet. He said that Pearl Millet should be included in daily meal as staple for its high nutritional value. He emphasized that more research is required to enhance the shelf life of Pearl Millet and hoped that the follow on sessions will bring out good recommendations for future research plan.

Dr. T. Mohapatra, Secretary DARE & DG ICAR congratulated the organizers for the 54th annual group meeting and successfully coordinating the various activities of AICRP on Pearl Millet. He also suggested that every journal should add a historical perspective for youngsters to increase their insight and interest in the topic. He said that Pearl Millet is an important crop as it can make a very significant role in nutritional security globally. He advised that the main focus should be on the production of heterotic hybrids with the germplasm from various countries other than ICRISAT. He also urged to break the barriers with latest technologies in context of climate change using precision farming techniques.

Dr. R.B. Singh, in his talk told the audience that Pearl Millet is the real pearl as it fulfils food requirement like no other crop. It gives a double satisfaction being the best nutricereal. He said that we can fight the fight the malnutrition with a weapon like pearl millet. He appreciated the efforts for biofortification. He also suggested that there should be a government policy to release high yielding and biofortified varieties.

Dr. C. Tara Satyawathi, Project Coordinator, AICRP on Pearl Millet gave an exclusive presentation of the research conducted during 2017-18. Various publications on Pearl Millet were also released during the inaugural session.

Dr. A.K. Singh, Joint Director (Res) proposed the formal vote of thanks.



Dr. T. Mohapatra, Secretary DARE & DG ICAR, Dr. A.K. Singh DDG (Ext) & Director IARI and Dr. A.K. Singh, Joint Director (Res) during the inauguration of 54th Annual Group Meeting of ICAR-All India Coordinated Research Project on Pearl Millet at IARI on 15.3.19



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