

Press Note”
59th ICAR-IARI Convocation (12th February 2021)

IARI, since its establishment in 1905, has been striving to help in realizing the importance of agriculture as a vocational, professional and academic endeavor for those engaged in practicing agriculture. IARI has served as a mother Institute in providing human resource to the national agricultural research system. The contribution of IARI towards human resource development for the national and international agricultural research and education systems is unparalleled. Today on 12th February 2021 annual celebration of 59th ICAR-IARI, New Delhi Convocation is coming to end and it is being celebrated at two platform. The important activities held during the Convocation week includes ‘Presentation of Significant Post Graduate Students Research’; ‘Presentation of Significant Educational Achievements by the Professors of different Disciplines’; ‘Lectures by the Recipient of Various Institute Awards’; and ‘Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture’.

The function of presentation of degree and award was done at Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium, NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi with very limited gathering. For other students and faculty members convocation was streamed live on Zoom and YouTube. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Chief Guest Shri Kailash Chaudhary, Honorable Union Minister of State, Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Raj Govt. of India along with Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR, Dr Trilochan Mohapatra and Secretary, ICAR; and Additional Secretary DARE and Secretary, ICAR Sri Sanjay Kumar Singh.

The Convocation was declared open by Dr. A.K. Singh, Director, ICAR-IARI, which was followed by the presentation of welcome address and Director’s report on the significant research achievements of the Institute during 2020. He shared that two bio-fortified wheat varieties namely HD 3298 with 43.1% iron content and 12.1% protein and HI 1633 with 41.6 ppm iron content, 41.1 ppm Zinc and 12.4% protein were dedicated to the nation by the Honorable Prime Minister of India on the occasion of 75th anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Dr. Rashmi Aggarwal, Dean & Joint Director (Education) presented the Dean’s report containing brief about PG students research achievements. She congratulated the distinguished students of Indian Agricultural Research Institute at the 59th convocation for the hard-earned degrees. In the wake of COVID pandemic institute continued the teaching of students through online platform. The Post Graduate School of this Institute has, so far, awarded degrees to 10246 students (903 IARI Associateship, 4306 M.Sc., 63 M.Tech. and 4974 Ph.D.), including 478 international students. In this convocation, 252 students including 9 foreign students, received their hard-earned degrees. The merit medals were presented to 5 students each of PhD and Msc; while Best Student medal was conferred upon one PhD and one MSc student for their outstanding postgraduate research, academic and extra –curricular activities.

Honorable Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India presented the Doctor of Philosophy, Mater of Science and Master of Technology degrees to the students. In the Convocation Address, Shri Kailash Chaudhary Ji exhorted to the students to dedicatedly engage themselves for socio-economic betterment of society through innovations. He applauded the efforts of the scientists for their commitment to sustain the pace of technology generation despite the global pandemic. The govt facilitated the harvesting of rabi as well as seeding and transplanting of kharif crops through necessary support as well as advisories at farm level during the tough time of COVID-19 pandemic. He mentioned that under PM KISAN scheme 1.15 lakh crore rupees benefit is directly given to 10.5 crore farmers. He informed that government has established custom hiring centers. He highlighted the government priorities in the field of agricultural research and farmers welfare. He congratulated all the students and award recipients. He also appreciates the effort of institutes for the development of new varieties and technology in the field of agriculture for doubling the farmers' income. He talked about the various measures taken by government in budget for the welfare farmers, farming and agriculture. He mentioned that under PM KISAN scheme 1.15 lakh crore rupees benefit is directly given to 10.5 crore farmers.

A total of 16 varieties were released by the chief guest during the convocation, which included released Pusa Basmati 1692 of Rice; HD 3298, HD 3293, HI 1633 and HI 1634 of Wheat; Pusa Baby Corn Hybrid-1 of Maize; Pusa Chickpea 20211 of Chickpea; PDL-1, PSL-9 and L 4729 of Lentil; Pusa Mustard 32 of Mustard; Pusa 1641 of Mungbean; DS 3106 of Soybean; Pusa Arhar 2017-1 and Pusa Arhar 2018-2 of Pigeonpea.

During the convocation, the scientists were honoured with institute's awards for their outstanding contributions in agricultural research. The degree of Doctorate of Science (*Honoris causa*) was conferred upon two eminent IARI alumni namely **Dr. Sanjaya Rajaram and Dr. Rattan Lal, the World Food Prize winners**, who have globally distinguished themselves in the field of science. Dr. Sharat Kumar Pradhan, Principal Scientist, Genetics and Plant Breeding, ICAR-National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack received XXVI Hooker Award 2018-19 for his outstanding research contributions in the field of "Crop Improvement". Dr. S.K. Jha, Professor, Post Harvest Technology, IARI, New Delhi received XXI Shri Hari Krishna Shastri Memorial Award for the year 2020 for his outstanding research contribution in the field of "Post Harvest Technology". Dr. G.P. Singh, Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal, Haryana received VIII Rao Bahadur B. Viswanath Award 2018-19 for his outstanding research contribution in the field of "Wheat improvement for abiotic stress tolerance and increasing profitability of wheat farmers". Dr. Anil Rai, Professor (Bioinformatics), ICAR-Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute received the Best Teacher Award in Agricultural Higher Education 2020-21.



Hon'ble MoS Agriculture & Farmers Welfare releasing improved varieties during 59th Convocation



Chief Guest Hon'ble MoS Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and dignitaries releasing publications during 59th Convocation



IARI student receiving degree from Hon'ble MoS, Agriculture & farmers Wekfare during 59th Convocation