

Agriculture education Day Celebrations at IARI

ICAR- Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, observes December 3 of every year as "Agricultural Education Day", which is the Birth Day of the first Union Minister of Agriculture of India in 1946 and first President of independent India, Bharat Ratna Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

On this day long programme, several events were organized in Dr. B.P. Pal Auditorium, IARI, New Delhi. In the forenoon, painting was organized for the school children, in which total 73 students from 9 schools had participated. There were two groups for painting competitions i.e. junior group (Class V-VIII) and senior group (Class IX-XII). An essay competition on the topic "Role of Agriculture in Society in 21st Century" was also organized for school children. Simultaneously, a debate competition was organized for Post Graduate students of IARI, and the theme of debate was "Mechanization in context of Indian Agriculture."

The afternoon session, started with the lighting of lamp by the dignitaries and invocation song by IARI PG students. In the beginning of programme, Dr. Rashmi Aggarwal, Dean & Joint Director (Education), welcomed the speaker of the Day, Prof. R. B. Singh, Former Director IARI, Chairman ASRB, Chancellor CAU and President NAAS. Prof. R B Singh felicitated the winners of painting competition (6No.), essay completion (3) and debate competition (4 No.). Dr A.K. Singh, Director (ICAR-IARI) & DDG (Agriculture Extension) briefed the audience about the event and also introduced the speaker. He emphasized that Dr Rajendra Prasad is remembered for his simplicity, honesty and his excellence in education and teaching. Therefore, ICAR-IARI is celebrating this auspicious day. He told that the new education policy is in the making, which has to be implemented in near future so that students must get values and ethics. He said that it is better to learn, to work and live together in a group.

Prof. R.B. Singh delivered Agricultural Education Day Lecture on the topic "Transforming Agricultural Education to Build New India". During his lecture he emphasized the need of education in agriculture and its implications in the transformation of existing agriculture system. The education will help in utilizing the information related to weather, new crop varieties, resource conserving cultivation practices as well as farm machinery and its implementation for increasing farmers returns. He emphasized that if anything can help to make India free from hunger and poverty that is only agriculture and the face behind technology has to be focused in agriculture education to humanize the science. We need to allow science to guide us in life. Our education should be based on scientific evidences. He said that our goal is to alleviate hunger and poverty by 2030 and to achieve this we have to shift from Land grant system to World grant system.

At the end of the programme Dr. K M Manjaiah proposed formal vote of thanks.



Painting competition of school children organized on Agricultural Education Day



Post Graduate student of IARI, taking part in debate competition on Agricultural Education Day



Professor R B Singh, President NAAS delivering Agriculture Education Day Lecture



Dr A K Singh, Director (IARI)and DDG (Extn) felicitating Professor R B Singh, Speaker of Agriculture Education Day Lecture