

Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Horticulture Society of India: Doubling Farmers Income through Horticulture

Horticulture Society of India (HSI) in collaboration with ICAR and Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare will be celebrating its Platinum Jubilee with the theme of "*Doubling Farmers Income through Horticulture*" under 7th Indian Horticulture Congress at Dr B. P. Pal Auditorium, IARI, Pusa, New Delhi from 15th-18th November, 2016.

The society was established at Lyallpur in 1942 and has been successfully continuing its activities even after partition and is regarded as a premium society with 1800 life members. It has been organizing International, National symposiums, seminars and congresses on important issues of the national and international interest.

In the series of Indian Horticulture Congress which started in 2004, the society is now organizing the 7th Congress at IARI, New Delhi. Nearly 120 eminent speakers would be making their presentations on important aspects besides nearly 700 poster presentation being made by horticultural workers from across the country. The society will be honouring eminent workers, farmers including Sh. Sopan Kanchan, a well known grape exporter from Maharashtra; Sh. S. S. Mehta, promoter of *ber* & *aonola* cultivation in southern Indian states; Mr. Suresh Agrawal, a well known promoter of hybrid vegetable seeds; Maj. Man Mohan Singh, a fruit grower from Punjab and Mr. Narayan Chawda, a famous horticulture cultivation promoter and innovator from Chhattisgarh. This year's, HSI Shivashakti Award will be conferred to Dr B.M.C. Reddy, Vice Chancellor, Dr YSSRUH, Andra Pradesh. Other awardees include, Dr Shailendra Rajan, Dr Giridhari Lal Chadha Memorial Gold Medal in fruits ; Dr S.K. Malhotra, Dr Kirti Singh Memorial Gold Medal in vegetable; Dr T.K. Behera, Dr Kirti Singh Memorial Gold Medal in vegetable; Dr Ram Asrey, Dr Y.C. Gupta, Dr Manmohan Attawar Memorial Gold Medal in floriculture and Dr J.C. Anand Memorial Gold Medal for post harvest technology;

Sh. S.S. Ahluwalia, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare; Sh. Purushottam Rupala, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare; Dr M. S. Swaminathan, Eminent Agricultural Scientist; Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary-DARE & DG-ICAR; and Dr Gurbachan Singh, Chairman-ASRB will grace the occasion as guest. Dr V. Prakash, former DG-CSIR would be giving the Foundation Day address on 15th Nov., 2016 at 7.00PM. The lecture will be chaired by Dr R.B. Singh, former president, NAAS.

The programme includes 21 technical sessions. There will be deliberations on different issues related to horticulture viz. i) Improving availability and quality of planting material and seeds; ii) high tech horticultural interventions; iii) reducing cost of production, iv) promoting innovative production system, v) managing emerging pest and disorders, vi) climate risk management, vii) reducing post harvest losses and adding value to produce, viii) insuring higher price to farm produce and value added products etc. as envisaged by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India towards doubling the income by 2022. The congress aims to identify important areas required to be focussed during the next 6- years to achieve the mandated goals of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

A Horticulture Exhibition is also be organizing by Centre of Agriculture and Rural Development during the congress to show case the potential technologies.



Glimpses of 7th Indian Horticulture Congress Inaugural Session at Dr B. P. Pal Auditorium, IARI, Pusa, New Delhi on 15th November, 2016.