

## **ICAR-IARI, New Delhi celebrates World Water Day**

On the occasion of 'World Water Day' on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026, Water Technology Centre, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi organized a technical programme on the central theme "Water and Gender". Dr. S.K. Ambast, Hon'ble Member (NRM), ASRB graced this occasion as Chief Guest who emphasized on the significant contribution of women in all spheres of Indian society. He briefed regarding the challenges faced by women in collecting fresh water from long distance especially in saline and water scarcity zones and the need for developing best management practices for sustainable water resource management with active participation of women farmers. Dr. Ambast also sensitized the gathering regarding current status of over-exploitation of groundwater and effective steps for strengthening groundwater recharge.

A Rapid Brainstorming Session on the theme "Empowering Farm Women through Water Literacy and Governance" was also organized in collaboration with Dhan Foundation, Madurai, Tamil Nadu in which 17 farmers (including 8 women farmers) from 6 states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, Bihar, Odisha and Delhi shared their field experience in efficient utilization of water resources including tanks.

Dr. Anupama Singh, Joint Director (Education) & Dean, Dr. C. Viswanathan, Joint Director (Research) and Dr. R.N. Padaria, Joint Director (Extension) graced the occasion as Special Guests. Dr. Anupama Singh mentioned about the importance of traditional water harvesting structures in ensuring better water security and active women participation. Dr. C. Viswanathan elaborated about the positive impact of automated irrigation and climate resilient water management in reducing the drudgery of farm women. Dr. R.N. Padaria spoke about the significant role played by women in maintenance of 'Jal Sahelis' in Bundelkhand region and steps needed to strengthen the scope of women in decision making in water management. Earlier, Dr. P.S. Brahmanand, the Project Director, WTC, IARI delivered welcome address and set the context for the central theme i.e. 'Water and Gender' and explained about the significance of women farmers in sustainable water management. The publications of WTC, ICAR-IARI were released by the Chief Guest in this programme. About 140 participants comprising of farmers, HoDs, Professors, scientists, staff and students representing Delhi

University, NRAA, ICAR-NBSSLUP, ICAR-NIAP, ICAR-IARI and Dhan Foundation attended this event.



(Source: WTC, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi)