

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Professor Ramesh Chand, Hon'ble Member, NITI Aayog delivered Key Note Talk at WTC, ICAR-IARI New Delhi on World Water Day**

On the occasion of **WORLD WATER DAY** on 22nd March, 2023, Water Technology Centre (WTC), ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) New Delhi has organized a brainstorming programme on “Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis” in the Chairmanship of Dr. Alok K. Sikka, Country Representative-India of International Water Management Institute. Professor Ramesh Chand, Hon'ble Member, NITI Aayog, Government of India and renowned Agricultural Economist of our country graced this occasion as Chief Guest. He highlighted the importance of efficient water conservation and management, to solve the problems particularly, the drying of ponds, wells, and other water bodies. He emphasized that the subsidy/incentives should be provided to efficient utilizers of water and to create awareness among others. He emphasized to develop most modern and advanced water management technologies, to solve the daunting problems faced by agriculture sector. He further stressed on role of scientific and prudent water management to enhance the water productivity and to reduce the carbon foot print and the need to reassess the water resource scenario of our country. He also suggested to evaluate the ground water scenarios after the implementation of Atal Bhu-Jal Yojana to have a realistic and scientific assessment of the ground water resources for their efficient planning.

Prior to this, Dr. C. Viswanathan, Jt. Director (Research) ICAR IARI New Delhi, has welcomed the Chief Guest and delegates. He shared his thoughts on optimum water use in agriculture by the farming community through modern methods of irrigation such as drip and sprinkler at large scale. Dr. P.S. Brahmanand, the Project Director, WTC, IARI while setting the context for the World Water Day, delivered presentation on current status of water resources and their utilization in agriculture - key issues. He gave an overview of the water resources scenario of India and highlighted the judicious use of surface and groundwater resources and phase wise crop diversification keeping low water requirement in mind. Shri Franklin L. Khobung, Joint Secretary (NRM/RFS), MoA & FW, Govt. of India has graced this occasion as Guest of Honour and he emphasized on importance of Government schemes such as Jal Shakti Abhiyan in water conservation. Later, a brief interaction on water management issues was held followed by Chairman remarks by Dr. A. K. Sikka. He mentioned that water connects different sectors including agriculture and we need to manage water resources as a whole and highlighted the joint efforts of International Water Management Institute and ICAR in successful management of drought and flood. The Meeting ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Man Singh, Professor WTC. Later the dignitaries and participants visited “Pusa Amrit Sarovar” at ICAR-IARI. About 130 participants including Heads of various divisions, Scientists, Professors and students of ICAR-IARI attended this event

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PD, WTC

New Delhi 22nd March, 2023

