

Technological Options for Agricultural Water Management

ICAR- IARI, New Delhi

A Brain Storming session on ‘**Technological Options for Agricultural Water Management**’ was organized at ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi on 28th January, 2016. The program was attended by eminent experts in the field of agricultural water management from different institutions in the Country. Dr T. Mohapatra, Director, IARI welcomed all dignitaries and discussed about the importance of agricultural water management in the present context for sustainability in agriculture. He stressed the importance of dissemination and capacity building of developed technologies to the stakeholders for enhancing water productivity in different agro climatic regions. Dr Ravinder Kaur, Project Director, WTC in her stage-setting presentation flagged various issues concerning agricultural water management, at both local and global scales and highlighted that how agricultural water management could so far help meet rapidly rising food demand and the growth in farm profitability leading to poverty reduction and the overall regional development and environmental protection in the country. In view of the slow pace of irrigation development, due to increasing social and environmental concerns, she stressed the need for wide scale adoption of integrated basin management approaches and demand management measures for increased water productivity, particularly in the rainfed regions and the strengthening of the participatory irrigation management and public-private partnerships. Dr J.S. Samra, former DDG (NRM) & CEO, NRAA while appreciating the presentation of Dr. Kaur highlighted on the importance of the energy and its connection with the water and food. He also emphasized the need for strengthening of agricultural water management in the Eastern India for attaining national food security. Dr Sandhu, DDG (Crops) emphasized the need of the involvement of different organizations in the formulation of sustainable policies for judicious use of water in agriculture. Dr Sikka, DDG (NRM) suggested the need for the conduction of basic and strategic research and an on-ground interfacing of the on-farm research with the government policies. He also stressed on the climate smart water management interventions, more consideration for safe reuse of wastewaters in agriculture and integration of the breeders with the NRM fraternity for long term agricultural water management. Deliberation and presentations by experts *viz.* Dr P.K. Mishra, Director, ICAR-IISWC, Dr C. S. Rao, Director, ICAR-CRIDA, Dr P.S. Brahmanand, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIWM, Dr P. Bhatnagar, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CAZRI and Dr RPS Malik from World Bank triggered a plethora of issues and solutions for the irrigated, rainfed, waterlogged and the coastal regions of the country and reinforced the need for the scaling up of proven technologies, showcasing of good practice examples to the policy makers, formulation of policy instruments in consultation with water experts, proper interfacing of scientists/ economists and the policy makers, strengthening of wastewater use and management under PMKSY, promoting un-gridded solar energy in irrigation sector, integration of canal with micro irrigation systems, research on micro-irrigation products leading to their cost cutting and increased water use efficiency, use of ICT for irrigation automation, breeding of varieties with higher water productivity, diversification of agricultural water management protocols to the livestock and fisheries, besides horticultural crops and quantification of ecosystem services from good agricultural water management. The session was inaugurated by Dr J.S. Sandhu, DDG (Crops), Dr A.K. Sikka, DDG (NRM) in presence of Director, ICAR-IARI, Dr T. Mohapatra; Dr. JS Samra, former DDG (NRM) & CEO, NRAA, Dr (Mrs) Ravinder Kaur, Project Director, Water Technology Centre, experts from various ICAR institutions, IWMI/ World Bank and various Heads of the NRM and the Crop Science divisions of the Institute.



