

### **3<sup>rd</sup> day of IARI Convocation: Professor's presentations on Significant Research Achievements of Post Graduate Students**

The third day of 55<sup>th</sup> ICAR –IARI Convocation week (Feb.6-9, 2017) started with presentation of professors of Social Science School about significant research achievements of Post Graduate Students. At the outset, Dr. R. K. Jain, Dean & Joint Director (Education) welcomed the chairman of the session Dr R.P. Singh (Former Vice-Chancellor, MPUA&T, Udaipur) and informed the nature and importance of researches in School of Social Science. Dr. Alka Singh, Pr.Scientist & Professor, Agril. Economics was the convener of the session.

This school presentations comprised of 26 M.Sc. and 13 Ph.D students' research work. School of Social sciences professor presentations under

The research areas for Agricultural Economics included efficient management of inputs by sugar mills and a link between sugar and sugar prices; Organized marketing channel being more efficient than traditional marketing channel as former involves higher producers' share in consumer rupee and lower price spread; price behavior; Kisan Credit Cards and trade facilitation, quality standards and infrastructure development

\Agricultural Extension highlighted the extent of participation and its relation with perception about Community Radio Station programmes were significantly influencing the extent of participation; identification of barriers in adoption and use of ICT among rural women; and effectiveness of Rice Knowledge Management Portal (RKMP). The factors namely felt need for convergence, strategic action for convergence, resource investment and structural flexibility are positively related to the extent of convergence; Organizational barriers were the most important barriers perceived by the extensionists in acquiring the desired competencies. For promotion of farmer-led innovations networking of KVKs for documentation, existing facility of state agricultural universities as referral centers for validation, ZTM&BPDs for commercialization and zonal level ATARIs for wider dissemination of farmer-led innovations were suggested.

The major themes for Agricultural Statistics were incorporation of neighbour effects into the model for diallel cross results; Bayesian framework model ; integration of SES with state space formulations in agricultural field; agricultural forecasting; the multiple outlier detection technique; etc. Bio informatics presentation included the incongruence in sequence and structure based phylogenetic trees which could be due to the influence of difference between global alignment and conservation of sequence signatures; while the genome browsers are very popular tools in the field of genome annotation by facilitating the graphical visualization of genomic elements on the genome. Computer application presentation included, Android application 'AGRIdaksh' which would be of great use to the farmers to deal with crop losses due to the biotic agents and making farming a profitable venture. Efficient implementation of quarantine was extremely emphasized to manage pests.

### **403<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Academic Council and Press Conference**

On the third day of 55<sup>th</sup> ICAR –IARI Convocation week (Feb.6-9, 2017), 403<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Academic Council and a press conference were organized in the Conference Hall, Prof. M.S.Swaminathan Library, IARI.

Dr. (Ms.) Ravinder Kaur, Director, IARI briefed the press about the significant activities of 55<sup>th</sup> convocation and also emphasized about significant varieties which were to be released on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Dr. J. P. Sharma, briefed about the IARI- post office linkage model, innovative farmers led extension delivery system and *Mera Gau Mera Gaurav* activities of the institute. Human resource development related issues were addressed by Dr. R. K. Jain. He talked about capacity building in Afghanistan and Myanmar; students' placement and fellowships related to higher education in agriculture.

### **Lectures by the Recipients of XVII Shri Hari Krishna Shastri Memorial Award and XXIV Hooker award**

This year the XVII Shri Hari Krishna Shastri Memorial Award was conferred to Dr. B. S. Dwivedi, Head, Division of Soil Science and Agril. Chemistry, ICAR-IARI for his outstanding contribution to research on soil health restoration. The session was chaired by Dr. H. S. Gupta, former Director, ICAR-IARI and former Director General, BISA, New Delhi. Dr. Ravinder Kaur, Director and Dr. R. K. Jain, Dean and Joint Director (Education), ICAR-IARI also graced the occasion. Dr. H. S. Gaur, former Dean and former Vice Chancellor, SVBPUA&T, Meerut and Dr. J. P. Sharma, Joint Director (Extension) IARI were also present in the occasion. Dr. Dwivedi in award lecture on “Soil health restoration for improving nutrient use efficiency under intensive cropping system” spoke about contemporary agriculture scenario of India as well as many part of the world, reeling under perpetual problem of sick and degraded soil, denuded of vegetation, devastated by erosion and losing its productivity due to non-judicious soil fertilization.

The second session was Chaired by Dr. Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, ASRB. The recipients of the XXIV Hooker award is Dr. Gauranga Kar, Principal Scientist, ICAR-Indian Institute of Water Management, Bhubaneshwar. He delivered a lecture on “Water foot-prints and virtual water trade in agriculture sector in India”. The awardee speaker elucidated the need for water audit for every agricultural activity in an era when acute shortage of quality water is being predicted for coming decades in India.