

## **INNOVATIVE FARMER MEET**

**September 24, 2015**

A one day Innovative Farmer Meet was organized on Sep 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at IARI, New Delhi where 85 innovative farmers representing 13 states of India participated in day-long deliberations to devise a strategy for Farmer Led Extension. Scientists, research managers, farmer innovators and lead marketing agencies participated. This initiative was intended to enhance awareness about the innovative capacities of the farmers, to identify farmer-led innovators having potential to be adopted for larger impact and to share the experiences of farmers-led innovations in the field of agriculture and allied sector. It was highlighted that identification of innovative farmers is not an end in itself, but how these farmers can be supported in improving their works and help them ensure sustainable livelihood and how best the spirit of innovativeness among the smallholder farmers can be cultivated. Dr. A.K.Singh, DDG (Extension) ICAR was the chief guest of the function and it was presided over by Dr. T. Mohapatra, Director, IARI. In his opening remarks, Dr. Mohapatra stressed the need for developing a closer network of all innovative farmers among themselves and also with the researchers.

The Chief Guest applauded IARI for the relevant theme and need to use Innovator Farmers as IARI ambassadors for technology transfer. Dr Mohapatra, highlighted the need to document these successful cases and declared that institute will be celebrating Farmer Innovator Day every year. The contribution of Innovative Farmers in Agricultural Development was highlighted by Dr. J. P. Sharma, Joint Director (Extension), IARI. It was decided that under the programme “*Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav*”, besides a team of four scientists (inter disciplinary), one innovative farmer may be included as an expert/farmer scientist. Every innovative Farmer should also adopt at least ten farmers for mentoring and effective transfer of relevant technologies. M.Sc. and PhD students must spend time with innovative farmers and learn from them. Adequate coverage in Doordarshan and other media must be given to the significant contribution of Innovative Farmers. A directory of innovative farmers and farmers visiting IARI will be prepared with all their contact details and other data to facilitate frequent interaction. Further, regular interface with State Department of Agriculture, innovative farmers, scientists of the institute and other stakeholders was suggested for the benefit of the farmers. Highlighting the importance of ICT, utilization of ICT to its full potential to develop a strong network of Innovative Farmers was agreed for the purposes of upscaling and outscaling innovations.

Dr. R. N. Padaria, PS and Dr. Rashmi Singh, P.S. coordinated the meet and Dr. Premlata Singh, Head , Division of Agril. Extn. offered vote of thanks.