

## **Agrochemicals Research and Education in India: Appraisal and Roadmap for future**

A National Symposium on “Agrochemicals Research and Education in India: Appraisal and Roadmap for future” was held jointly by Society of Pesticide Science, India and Division of Agricultural Chemicals, ICAR-IARI, during 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2016. The symposium was inaugurated at National Agricultural Science Complex, New Delhi on 15<sup>th</sup> November by Shri Ananth Kumar, Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. In his inaugural address, Shri Ananth Kumar appealed to the scientists to come out with eco-friendly pesticidal molecules and biopesticides and assured that his Ministry would support such efforts through an MOU between Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. He opined that MOU would open a window for better commercialization and adoption of agrochemical technologies developed by ICAR and SAUs. Shri Ananth Kumar highlighted the efforts of his ministry in recommending Neem coated urea at National level. In this context the two Ministers felicitated the three scientists of ICAR-IARI, New Delhi viz., Dr. C. Devakumar (the then Principal Scientist, IARI and former ADG ICAR), Dr. B. S. Parmar (the then Head, Division of Agricultural Chemicals and former Joint Director IARI) and Prof. R. B. Singh (the then Director IARI and Chancellor, CAU, Imphal) for their contributions in the development and promotion of the neem-oil coated urea. The work on neem coated urea was jointly done by Dr. C. Devakumar, Dr. Dr. V. S. Saxena and Prof. Rajendra Prasad of IARI in 1990s and demonstrated by actual productions in the fertilizer industry. Shri Radha Mohan Singh, in his Presidential address, congratulated the scientists of ICAR for their pain staking efforts in the field of Agrochemical development and safety evaluation. He emphasized upon the need to strengthen research efforts in the direction of environment friendly crop protection products safe to human health. The symposium was celebrated to mark the Golden Jubilee Year of Division of Agricultural Chemicals, IARI, New Delhi, which was established on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1966. The three day symposium witnessed a number of dignitaries from industry as well as academia during its seven technical sessions. It is anticipated that the outputs from the symposium will help to fine tune the research in the fields of product development and safety aspects of agrochemicals for safe food, consumer safety and international trade and also serve as the road map for ICAR-industry led mission mode programs.