

## Valedictory Ceremony of Krishi UnnatiMela 2018

18<sup>th</sup> March 2018, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi

The three-days (16-18 March, 2018) Krishi Unnati Mela with the theme of 'Doubling Farmer's Income by 2022' organized at the sprawling campus of ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi closed today by felicitating 6 farmers with IARI-Fellow Farmer Award' and 46 progressive farmers with 'IARI-Innovative Farmers Award' which include women farmers also from across the India.

Hon'ble Shri Parshottam Rupala and Smt. Krishna Raj, Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare; Shri Surya Pratap Shahi, Agriculture Minister of Uttar Pradesh; Shri S.K. Pattanayak, The Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, The Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR); Dr. A.K. Singh, Director (ICAR-IARI) & DDG (Agriculture Extension); Shri Ramesh Shah, Chairman, FICCI; Dr. Ashok Dalwai, Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Dr. J.P. Sharma, Joint Director-Extension (ICAR-IARI) and other dignitaries are also present during valedictory ceremony.

Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister delivered the valedictory address and also launched a new mobile app called PUSA m KRISHI<sup>®</sup> for farmers in order to take the technology to farm fields. "With the use of this mobile app, farmers can get easy solutions to their problems. The app will provide farmers with information related to weather, new crop varieties, resource conserving cultivation practices as well as farm machinery and its implementation will help in increasing returns to farmers," Singh said in a statement.

In his address, he congratulated all the awardees farmers by Pusa Institute and said that these farmers are inspiration to us. He also congratulated farmers and scientists for record production of agricultural and horticultural crops this year. He asked farmers not to be impatient and the government is with them. "The government and scientists will support you from time to time with new technologies," he added. He reiterated the central role of new and innovative farm technologies in doubling income of farmers. He said modern technologies and crop varieties must reach to farmers without any time lag and must be demonstrated on farmers' fields for winning the confidence of farmers. Singh said the government is working towards increasing the usage of technology at the hands of the farmers under various schemes like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Soil Health Card Scheme and Traditional Agriculture development Scheme (Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana) in the light of doubling farmer's income by 2022.

Large number of farmers from across the country visited the fair and gained useful knowledge and information. Minister complimented organizers for the success of event and also appreciated farmers for their keen involvement.

*(Source: Media Cell, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi)*