

Press Release on Inauguration of 59th Convocation of IARI

The 59th Convocation week (Feb.7-12, 2021) of ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute started with academic fervour on 7th February, 2021 with the presentations of significant post-graduate students' research by M. Sc. / M. Tech & Ph.D. students for merit medals and Best student of the year award in virtual mode under the chairmanship of Prof. B. D. Singh, Professor Emeritus, School of Biotechnology, BHU, Varanasi and convener Dr. S.K. Jha, Professor, Division of Food Science & Post Harvest Technology, IARI, New Delhi. Dr. A. K. Singh, Director, ICAR-IARI delivered the welcome address and introduced the esteemed jury members Dr. T. Janakiram, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Y. S. R. Horticultural University, West Godavari (AP); Dr. V. V. Ramamurthy, Former Professor, Division of Entomology, IARI, New Delhi; Dr. V. C. Mathur, former Professor, Division of Agricultural Economics, IARI, New Delhi; and Dr. P. Chandrasekhara Rao, former Dean, PJTSAU, Telangana, Dr. Rashmi Aggarwal, Dean & Joint Director (Education) in her opening remarks informed that there were total 37 presentations for merit medal including 21 M.Sc. and 16 Ph.D presentations. Complimenting the quality postgraduate research, she shared that that from the post graduate students' research, 350 research publications were published in reputed research journals.

On the inaugural day, the significant research achievements were presented by 21 M.Sc. students in virtual mode. The presentations for PhD would be held on Monday (February 8, 2021). The salient works of MSc students included effectiveness of extracts from *Eucalyptus globules* and *Cymbopogon flexuosus* against *Bemisia tabaci*, valuation of ecosystem services of paddy landraces and assessment of eco-compensation, impact of backwater flow and rainfall on soil and groundwater quality in deltaic region, porosity and pore size distribution on soil carbon mineralization under conservation agricultural practices, factorial experiments, integrated phosphorus management, profiling of nutritional composition, expression of coding and non-coding RNAs and post-translational modifications in wheat rust resistance, human physical drudgery index, molecular diversity of *Sesamia inferens*, evaluation of new growth regulators for quality grape production, characterization of a recombinant inbred line for pod and seed traits and validation of markers linked to flowering time genes in chickpea, symbiotic effectiveness of inoculation with *Bradyrhizobium* sp. on soybean genotypes, root-root interaction on root system architecture and expression of putative nitrate transceptor gene in bread wheat, pathogenic and genetic variation among *Fusarium* spp./isolates causing head scab of wheat, role of DUF1645 proteins in abiotic stress tolerance and grain yield in rice, shelf life extension of nectarine, phenol colour reaction in seed of rice (*Oryza sativa* L.), soil nitrogen transformation in pigeon pea and cotton, association mapping of heat stress related curding traits in Indian cauliflower and sensor-based wastewater irrigation scheduling for chrysanthemum.

The Chairman Prof. B. D. Singh complimented the quality of postgraduate research and exhorted the students to pursue in-depth analytical studies to generate quality information for the advancement of agricultural science.