

Memorial Award Lectures by Awardee Scientist at 58th ICAR-IARI Convocation

The third day of 58th ICAR-IARI Convocation week started with the presentation of significant achievements under different memorial award lectures made by recipients in the field of agricultural research, education and extension. On the eve 58th convocation four awards were given for outstanding and remarkable work in the field of agriculture namely 20th Hari Krishna Shastri Memorial Award, 21st Sukumar Basu Memorial Award, 1st Best agricultural Extension Scientist Award and 5th Dr. A.B Joshi Memorial Award. Dr. A.K. Singh, Director, ICAR-IARI welcomed the chairman of different lecture session as well as the dignitaries and audience. Dr. Rashmi Aggarwal, Dean & Joint Director (Education) started the session with the welcome address and highlighted the importance of Memorial Award Lectures. The presentations were made by the awardees of year 2019-20 are as follow:

20th Hari Krishna Shastri Memorial award lecture was delivered by Dr. T.K. Behera, Professor, Division of Vegetable Science, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi. The session was chaired by Dr. S.A. Patil, Former Chairman, Karnataka Krishi Mission and Former Director of IARI, New Delhi. Dr. T.K. Behera is renowned vegetable breeder he has bred 21 varieties and hybrids in brinjal and cucurbits with includes popular varieties such as Pusa Aushadhi, Pusa Rasdar, Pusa Vishesh. He is fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Indian Academy of Horticultural Science; Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding and Indian Society of Vegetable Science. He was conferred with several prestigious awards/honours namely Best Teacher Award for Higher Education; Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowship-USA, and Hooker Award of IARI; Dr Kirti Singh Gold medal of Indian Academy of Horticultural Science for Best Researcher in vegetable science etc.. In today's award lecture he talked about genetic improvement in bittergourd and cucumber. He mentioned that, bitter gourd is cultivated in 3,40,000 ha area in which India is having 31% share. Total area and total production of bitter gourd in India is 1 lakh ha and 10.5 lakh tonne, respectively. He also highlighted about health benefit offered by bitter gourd which includes its medicinal importance regarding its anti-cancer, anti-diabetic and anti-HIV properties. His presentation dealt with his work on improvement of yield, nutritional quality, earliness, improved shelf life and other traits of bittergourd and cucumber that made them market friendly.

21st Sukumar Basu Memorial Award lecture was delivered by Dr. S.V. Prasad, Head, ICAR-IARI Regional station, Indore, MP. The session was chaired by Dr H.S. Gupta, Former Director

General, BISA and Former Director of IARI, New Delhi. Dr S.V. Prasad is the recipient of many awards and honours including Prof. M. S. Swaminathan Best Scientist Award, Prof. S. Nagarajan Memorial Award. He is Fellow of NAAS, Indian Society of Genetics & Plant Breeding, New Delhi, Society for Advancement of Wheat and Barley Research, IIWBR, Karnal, Bose Science Society, Pudukkottai, Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh Academy of Sciences, Vijayawada. He was involved in development of 33 varieties (9 durum wheat varieties, 19 bread wheat varieties, 1 field pea, 2 lentil and 2 oats). He has lead role in production of ~18,000q breeder seed of released IARI-wheat varieties. He mentioned about importance of durum wheat cultivation. He delivered talk on Development of durum wheat varieties. He explained his work on improvement of durum wheat variety. He first highlighted the importance and specialty trait of durum wheat such as high resistance to virulent rust pathotypes, high protein content, high vitamin , Fe, Cu, Zn content. He covered their work on development of durum wheat higher yield, heat and drought tolerance along with good nutritional quality. He also talked about wheat variety HI 8663, HI 8759, HI 8713 having high per day productivity and water use .at the end of session Dr. H S Gupta put his valuable comments as durum wheat can be used as barrier for bread wheat rust diseases as it can tolerate abiotic stresses so its relevance will increase under the scenario of climate change. He lauded the effort with which the area of cultivation has been increased manifold. Dr. Gupta also suggested that, to increase its exportability, the full analysis of the phytonutrients may be done to make it competitive to Canadian and Australian wheat. The huge potential for its export to neighbouring countries should also be put in the ear of our policy makers as well as the neighbouring countries.

1st Best Agricultural Extension Scientist Award lecture was delivered by Dr. J.P. Sharma, Joint Director (Extension), IARI, New Delhi and the session was chaired by Dr. A.K. Singh DDG (Agricultural Extension), ICAR, New Delhi. Dr. Sharma designed, developed and executed innovative extension approaches like IARI-Post Office Linkage Extension Model (*KrishiDak*), Cyber Extension Model, Expert Systems, Cyber Extension Portal, E-learning Module, National Extension Programme (16 SAUs/ICAR Institutes), IARI-Voluntary Organization Partnership Programme (32 VOs) and Innovative farmer led extension system etc. for better and faster dissemination of technologies. Dr. Sharma received more than 60 awards/recognition including Dr Rajendra Prasad Puraskar and Hari Om Ashram Trust Award of ICAR, Rajbhasha Gaurav Puraskar of Ministry of Home Affairs, Shanti Prasad Goel Memorial Award, Manthan Award – South Asia and Dr. G. S. Vidyarthi Award for making outstanding contributions for the upliftment of the farming community. In his award lecture he highlighted about the key challenges of Indian agriculture such as decline land and resource availability, increased cost of cultivation, climate change, post-harvest losses etc. Dr. Sharma in his presentation narrated the genesis and execution part of each unique and pioneering programmes as mentioned before, which are working as the forerunner of many of today's government programmes.

5th Dr. A.B Joshi Memorial Award lecture was delivered by Dr. G.P. Singh Director, IIWBR, Karnal and the session was chaired by Dr. K.V. Prabhu, chairperson, PPV& FRA, New Delhi. Dr. G.P. Singh contributed for the development of 48 wheat and barley varieties including the trail blazer varieties like HD 2967 and HD 3086 in wheat which occupies around 15 mha of

area of wheat (nearly 50 % of the total area), benefitting numerous farmers, consumers and many industries. Dr. G. P. Singh was the recipient of Dr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award, Dr. BP Pal Award and, Dr. V.S. Mathur Memorial Award, BGRI Gene Stewardship Award, NanajiDeshmuk Outstanding team award, Dr. Amrik Singh Cheema Award and AIASA Agricultural Leadership Award. He is a fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding, and Society for Advancement of Wheat and Barley Research; and is presently President of the Society of Advancement of Wheat Research.