IARI Celebrates Kisan Diwas at Pusa Agri Krishi Haat

ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi celebrated the Kisan Diwas in its Pusa Agri Krishi Haat ground from 11am to commemorate the birth anniversary of Late Chaudhary Charan Singh, the fifth Prime Minister of India and revered nationwide as the messiah of Indian farmers. Chaudhary Charan Singh was born in 1902 at Noorpur, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh and became a colossal figure championing the cause of the farmers throughout his life. As the Union Government has laid emphasis upon creation of Farmers' Producer Organizations (FPOs) for the socio-economic betterment of the farmers, the theme of the Kisan Diwas celebration was kept as "Empowering FPOs through Technologies of Pusa Institute".

Dr. R. N. Padaria, Joint Director (Extension), IARI welcomed the dignitaries, farmers and media personnel. The Chief Guest of the function, Dr. A. K. Singh, Director, IARI, highlighted the contributions of Late Ch. Charan Singh ji for the upliftment of farmers through several policy measures and land reforms. He informed the audience about the "Vikasit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" initiated by the Government of India and urged all attending farmers to participate in it and draw benefits. He urged the farmers to join FPOs, which would help in increasing their bargaining power both for input purchase and sale of produce. He motivated the farmers to venture into value addition and at the same time cautioned them for maintaining adequate quality standards for loyal consumer base and better remuneration. He appreciated the efforts of the entrepreneurs who have opened their outlets in Pusa Agri Krishi Haat. Dr. Aunpama Singh, Joint Director (Education) and Dean, ICAR-IARI, stressed upon the importance of agricultural education for rural youth and various capacity-building programs for farmers and farm women. Dr. Gyanendra Singh, the In-Charge of SPU, emphasized the significance of high-quality seed material and the development of a robust value chain in seed production. Dr. Markandey Singh, Head, Division of Floriculture and Landscaping, highlighted the technologies of cultivation and value addition of flowers as a means to augment farmers' income. Dr. B. S. Tomar, Head of Vegetable Science, highlighted the importance of crop diversification with cultivation of vegetables and fruits, as well as value addition process for increased income. He also emphasized the pivotal role of fruits and vegetables in enhancing nutritional security. Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Head, Food Science and Post Harvest Technology, sensitized the farmers Dr. Rajiv Singh, Principal Scientist of the about the value addition-based enterprises. Agronomy division, educated the farmers about button mushroom cultivation and the Integrated Farming System model for enhancing farm income. Dr. Brahmanand, PD of WTC, shared thoughts on on-farm water conservation techniques with farmers. Mr. Ajay Nayak from NABARD discussed NABARD's role in formulating Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and its support for their sustainability. Sri Achalaram Choudhary, an IARI innovative farmer awardee from Jaisalmer, shared his experiences of FPOs for the betterment of the farming community. He recounted the success story of the FPO developed in his area.

Dr. J. P. S. Dabas, In-Charge, CATAT has delivered the vote of thanks to the experts, research leaders and the farmers.



