



Launching of
ICAR- Network Program on Precision Agriculture (NePPA)
on
September 08, 2021, 09.30AM

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR has launched ICAR- Network Program on Precision Agriculture (NePPA) on September 08, 2021 at 9.30am through virtual mode. Dr. Suresh K. Chaudhari, DDG (NRM & Agriculture Engineering) and Chairman, Steering Committee of the program, Dr. Tilak R. Sharma, DDG (Crop Science), Dr. Ashok K. Singh, Director, IARI, Dr Anil Rai ADG (ICT), ICAR and Dr P. Krishnan, Head, Division of Agricultural Physics, IARI were present in the launching program. Senior officials of ICAR, i.e. DDGs, ADGs, Directors and project team members from different partner Institutes and a large number of scientists participated in the program.



The network program is developed initially involving 16 partner Institutes (covering 7 SMDs) with IARI as lead. Considering challenges in Indian agriculture and opportunities in advances of technologies, digital ecosystem and recent government initiatives, the program is well designed to develop precision AG-Techs for sustained enhanced input use and production system with safe environment and quality produce to make agriculture a profit making enterprise.

Dr Ashok K Singh welcomed to all the dignitaries emphasizing timely initiative of such research program in the country. Dr Anil Rai, Co-ordinator of the Program from the Council briefed about genesis of the program and also about structure of monitoring and evaluating system of the program. Dr. Rabi N Sahoo, Principal Investigator and Principal Scientist, IARI made a brief technical presentation of the program. Dr. Chaudhari, Chairman, Steering Committee of the program highlighted major opportunities to harvest for better farm including precision livestock farming and precision aquaculture. Dr. Sharma, DDG (Crop Science) emphasized national importance of this program and aptly tailored to present scenario and needs collaboration beyond the ICAR for better research and also capacity building. He indicated also that the program should have quantifiable indicators for monitoring and effective delivery. Dr. Mohapatra, Hon'ble Director General, Chief Guest of

the program urged to be proactive fast and timely delivery of committed activities having better understanding of constraints in farmers' field and strength we have with each research Institute from years of research at their end. Proper scientific positioning of each team with respect to capabilities and deliveries committed needs to be exercised and may interact with fast growing Agri-start ups and other tech Institutes for objective driven collaboration through Precision Agri-conclave to be organized soon. ICAR Data Centre will be used for all data repository and data analytics to develop DSS/SDSS for knowledge transfer to farming community. Strengthening the team with respect to technical know-hows, capacity building through Indian and Foreign Universities may be encouraged by the Education Division of the Council. He concluded with best wishes for every success of the program. Dr Krishnan, Head, Agricultural Physics, IARI proposed voted of thanks to the Chair, all invitees and participants.