

Press Note

ICAR- Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, in collaboration with Confederation of NGOs of Rural India (CNRI) and Price Water Coopers Private Limited (PWC) organized one day **“Round Table Conference on Sustainable Development Goals and Making Indian Agriculture sustainable, Productive, Profitable and Opportunities Ahead”** on **14th September, 2018** at Water Technology Centre (WTC) auditorium **at IARI, New Delhi**. Shri. Parshottam Bhai.Rupala (Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Panchayati Raj) and Shri. Som Pal Shastri (Former Union agriculture Minister) graced the occasion. Dr.J.P.Sharma Joint Director (Extension) of IARI , senior officials of CNRI and PWC Shri.Ravindra Dharia, Dr. Praveen Tripathi, Shri.Yasir Ahmad, Shri. Paritosh Joshi, were Guest of Honours in the occasion.

Shri Som Pal Shastri highlighted the contribution of agriculture in countries development and the issues concerning the sustainability of agriculture. He congratulated the organizing partners IARI, CNRI and PWC for choosing the theme of the conference as it is important to deliberate in this time. He emphasized that increasing the productivity and balancing the income of the farmers is the need of the hour. Different type of agro-climatic zones provides the opportunity to the farmers for different type of agri enterprises which will further help the country in exporting agro produce and to achieve the sustainability.

In the inaugural address, Chief Guest Shri. Parshottam Bhai Rupala, appreciated the role of NGOs in bringing in the upliftment of rural society and emphasized that NGOs can help in achieving the Government objectives by implementing various rural development schemes, mobilizing the farmers to form FPOs or collective farming and help in gathering real time data on agriculture.

Dr. J. P. Sharma concluded that research institutes in collaboration with the stakeholders who are working for agriculture and allied enterprises have important role towards sustainable development goals. He expressed his confidence in different government schemes aiming towards doubling the farmers' income. Among other prominent speakers in the technical programme were Dr. A. K. Srivastava, Chairman ASRB, Sh. Mohan Kanda Former secretary to Union minister of Agriculture, Dr. V V Sadamate, Former Advisor (Agri), Planning Commission, Sh. R G Agrawal , Group Chairman Dhanuka Agritech, who shared their

knowledge and experience in agriculture and allied enterprises in achieving the sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with the august audience.