

## **Press Release on IARI's 58<sup>th</sup> Convocation (February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020)**

IARI's 58<sup>th</sup> Convocation will be held on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Hon'ble Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu ji, will be the Chief Guest of the Convocation,. Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar ji; Minister of State, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Sri Kailash Chaudhary; as well as the Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR; Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra ji will also grace the occasion.

Having accorded the status of a Deemed University in 1958, so far the Post Graduate School of IARI has awarded degrees to 10,005 students (4148 M.Sc., 69 M.Tech. and 4885 Ph.D.) that include 399 international students from 14 foreign countries. In the 58<sup>th</sup> Convocation, 245 students including foreign students will receive their degrees. During the convocation, besides the degree, 5 merit medals and 1 Best student award both for MSc and Ph d students will be bestowed upon. Further, Best Teacher Award; Sukumar Basu Memorial Award; Shri Harikrishna Shastri Memorial Award; Best Extension Scientist Award; and Dr. A.B. Joshi Memorial Award will be conferred on outstanding scientists.

IARI has been the flag-ship organization in developing high yielding crop varieties/ hybrids with resilience to several biotic and abiotic stresses and enhanced nutritional quality. The increasing breeder seed demand of the Pusa varieties is testimonial of their popularity among the farmers.

Basmati rice varieties like Pusa Basmati 1121, Pusa Basmati 1509 and other improved Basmati varieties such as Pusa Basmati 1718, Pusa Basmati 1637, etc developed by IARI are grown in nearly 1.5 million ha area and during 2018-19 they helped in securing Rs. 32800 crores of foreign exchange. Wheat varieties HD 2967, HD 3086 and other varieties released by the IARI together contributed about 60 percent of total wheat production of the country worth for Rs. 81000 crores.

During the convocation a total of 34 varieties/hybrids will be released which include 9 varieties of wheat, 4 of maize, 2 of chick pea, and one each of lentil, mungbean and soybean. Eleven (11) varieties/hybrids of vegetables (brinjal-1, cucumber-1, summer squash-1, ridge gourd-1, cauliflower-3, tomato-1, spinach-1, and muskmelon-2) will be released for better nutrition as well as higher yield and income. Four (4) new varieties of fruit crops will be released which include two in mango and one each in pummelo and grape. One variety of gladiolus, Pusa Shanti will be released for timely sown conditions of NCR, Delhi.

Pusa Pickling Cucumber-8 (DG-8) will secure yield of 80-85 t/ha (800-850 / 100 m<sup>2</sup>) during winter season (off-season: Nov.-March) under low cost poly-house. Pusa Shreyash (DS-17) of Summer Squash will provide 20.0-22.0 t/ha in winter season under poly-house. Pusa Snowball Hybrid-2 (KTH-DH-1) is the first doubled haploid based F<sub>1</sub> hybrid. It has more uniformity as compared to the conventionally bred F<sub>1</sub> hybrids

Pusa Purple Cauliflower-1 (KTPCF-1) has intense purple colour and the pigmentation is present deep inside the bracts below the curd. The average anthocyanin concentration in the edible portion is 43.7mg/ 100 g of the edible portion. Average marketable curd weight is 0.76 kg.

Pusa Rakshit (DTPH-60) of tomato is a first F<sub>1</sub> hybrid of IARI for protected cultivation. Average fruit yield/plant is 15 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. The ripe red fruits have TSS 5.1<sup>o</sup> Brix and lycopene content 6.0 mg/100 g. Spinach variety Pusa Vilayati Palak is short in duration and gives two cuttings with yield of 12t/ha. It contains high ascorbic acid, iron and calcium (65, 8 and 186 mg/100g respectively).

Pusa Sunehari variety of Muskmelon is a first orange fleshed variety of Sarda melon and it will suitable for protected cultivation. Pusa Hybrid-3 (DCH 976) of cauliflower will help farmers to earn more as it will be harvested when demand continues to more but supply is lowered in the market. Its harvesting can be done in 2<sup>nd</sup> fortnight of December in Delhi condition with yield. of 37-39 t/ha

Pusa Manohari (Hybrid 8-11) of mango is a regular bearing a hybrid of Amrapali x Lal Sundari having field tolerance to mango malformation (10-15%). Pusa Deepshikha (Hybrid 11-2) is a hybrid of Amrapali x Sensation having regularity in bearing. Pusa Seedless Pummelo-1 is India's first seedless white fleshed pummelo mutant having high juice recovery (41.13%). Grape Hybrid Pusa Purple Seedless raised through embryo rescue, it is an extra-early berry ripening variety (75-80 DAFB) under sub-tropical region.

An Agricultural Innovation Centre is being established to promote innovation generation. Its Foundation stone was laid by Dr. P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India on 1 April 2019. This will be multidisciplinary centre for novel gene discovery, development of designer crops, bioprospecting of natural molecules to use as plant protection chemicals, biostimulants and nutraceuticals, validation of farmers' innovation and human resource development in the cutting edge science.

Integrated farming system (IFS) model can be helpful for farmers in enhancing income. IARI's model helped in securing net returns of ₹3,78,784/ha/year with an employment generation of 628 man-days.

Real time monitoring of the paddy residue burning in the three states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh using images from international satellites was undertaken at IARI. The analysis produced daily bulletins which were used by the MoA&FW and State Departments to evaluate the success of "Central Sector Scheme on in-situ management of rice residue". The analysis clearly brought out 18.8% reduction in rice residue burning in 2019 as compared to 2018 in the three States.

Considering the menace of crop residue burning, IARI has developed Pusa Decomposer for rapidly degrading paddy straw and different agri-horti-waste management. This technology has been licensed to 7 companies.

The Institute has supplied a total of 1150.2 tonnes of seeds including nucleus, breeder and truthfully seeds of more than 100 varieties of 12 field and 25 vegetable crops for different states. It is heartening to note that in case of wheat, rice and mustard, the IARI varieties have more than 33% share in the total breeder seed production of the country.