

Press Note

The 28th Dr B.P. Pal Memorial Lecture

20th July, 2021

The 28th Dr. B.P. Pal Memorial Lecture has been successfully organised by Genetics Club and Post Graduate School, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi on 20th July, 2021. Dr. G.R. Chintala, Chairman, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) graced the event as speaker and enlightened the audience. The event was presided over by the Hon'ble Secretary, DARE and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Dr. Trilochan Mahapatra. Many dignitaries including former Directors of IARI, Ex-Joint Directors, Ex-Deans, Vice-Chancellors of various state Agricultural Universities, Deputy-Director Generals from ICAR were adorned the occasion. Dr Rashmi Aggarwal, Dean & Joint Director (Education) IARI, Heads of the Divisions, Professors, Scientists, Research Scholars, and staff members from IARI attended the online lecture. Dr A K Singh, Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi in his welcome address introduced the Chair to the participants and highlighted his significant contributions to the ICAR, IARI, and human resource development for the nation. Dr Mahapatra welcomed the dignitaries present in the webinar and introduced the Speaker to the audiences and made a detailed note of his contribution and role played in national economic development, strengthening rural financial institutions and infrastructure in an innovative and holistic manner.

Dr Chintala deliver lecture on “Resilient Agriculture: The Pivot of Sustainable Development”. In his lecture Dr Chintala first paid tribute to Dr. B.P. Pal by highlighting the pioneer services and role played by Dr Pal in transforming Indian Agriculture and also appreciated the pioneer role of IARI in revamping and transforming Indian Agriculture over the past century. Dr Chintala also emphasized the role of Indian National Agricultural Research System in strengthening food security and boosting horticultural sector in the nation and contributions of NABARD in India's agricultural and rural infrastructural development. He stressed on the needs and roles of policy support, institutions, human resources and partnership for sustainability of agriculture in India. Dr Chintala advocated for the reforms like Integrated Farming System (IFS) for year-round income, agricultural diversification, strengthening horticulture sector, production to post-production value chain, focus on fragmented holding, agricultural labours, migrants and small holder farmers, credit flow specifically to the fragile agro-ecosystems, and linking farmers to the market. He also emphasized on the need of agricultural research investments for developing agriculture in a sustainable manner and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) for paradigm shift in economic advancements of farm sector. In his comparison of research investment outputs and subsidies/ other investments outcomes he pointed out the need of immediate policy focus towards enhancing research fundings.

In addition, Dr Chintala also stressed on the growing need of trans-disciplinary research, more efficient natural resource use, watershed development, and called for strengthening the role of women and youth in agriculture and emphasis on growing needs to tackle barriers to technology transfer. He expressed concerns over ill-effects and threats of climate change on agriculture and ecosystem and as a future roadmap for sustainable agriculture, he urged for resource & climate smart agriculture, revisiting agricultural policies, strengthening the existing institutions and creating physical infrastructure, credit flow and adoption of world class modern agricultural technologies for upcoming agricultural challenges. Dr Chintala announced that NABARD is in the process of instituting three IARI-NABARD medals, two for PG students of IARI and one for budding Scientist, for their extraordinary contributions. In his Chairman's remark Dr Mahapatra appreciated Dr Chintala for presenting the Road Map for Sustainable Agriculture and highlighting the futuristic plans of NABARD for creative better infrastructure, credit and developmental ecosystem at grass-root level across the decades. The function ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair, the Speaker, and the dignitaries present in the function.