

Press Note of Online National Agricultural Education Day

ICAR – Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi organized National Agricultural Education Day in an online mode on 3rd December, 2020. This day is celebrated to commemorate the birthday of first President of India ShriRajendra Prasad. The program was chaired by Dr A.K. Singh, Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi in the august presence of DrRashmiAgrawal, Dean and Joint Director (Education), IARI, New Delhi; Dr V.K. Singh, Joint Director (Extension), IARI, New Delhi; Directors of sister ICAR institutes, former Directors of IARI, Heads of Divisions, Professors, Scientist from IARI and other ICAR institutes have participated in the program. Dr S.L. Mehta, former Deputy Director General (Education), ICAR and ex – Vice Chancellor of MaharanaPratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur was the speaker of the day.

Dean and Joint Director (Education), welcomed the guests and audiences present on the occasion. Dr. A.K. Singh, Director, IARI, New Delhi introduced the speaker to the august gathering. To commemorate the day IARI have organized a debate competition on “Studying Agriculture at School Level will Revitalise Higher Agricultural Education”. PG Students have participated in the event. In the competition MsSimardeepKaur, a PhD student won the first prize. The second prize was shared between MrMayankTiwari from CESCRA and PankhuriSinghal from Plant Pathology. M. Sc. student from Division of Agricultural Extension got the third prize.

On this occasion, Dr Mehta delivered a talk on “Quality human resource development holds the key to Agricultural transformation”. Dr Mehta highlighted the significant contributions made by ICAR in the past and challenges ahead. The speaker stressed upon upcoming challenges of climate change, declining in factor productivity, technology intensive agriculture, artificial intelligence and need of quality human resource for future agriculture. Dr Mehta suggested to have rigor in assessment for public and private institutions, need of autonomy of the institutions, improving university administration through delegation and decentralization of powers and accountability. He also emphasized on recruitment of competent faculty and managers, assessment of faculty by students, high quality human resource development, digitization of universities, e-governance and adoption of experiential learning. He also called for strengthening the basic sciences stream in agricultural universities, multidisciplinary approach, financial support to the autonomy, linkages with national and international systems, revamping curriculum pedagogy including choice-based credit system and need of the farmers empowerment to make them globally competitive. Overall, the speech was very informative, fruitful, visionary and knowledge enriching.