

Celebration of 2nd World Honey Bee Day at ICAR-IARI

Project Coordinating Unit, AICRP on Honey Bees and Pollinators in collaboration with Integrated Bee Development Center (IBDC), Division of Entomology, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi celebrated 2nd World Honey Bee Day on 25th May, 2019 at Conference Hall, Division of Agricultural Extension. Dr. P.K. Chakrabarty, Hon' ble Member, ASRB was the Chief Guest of the function. Dr. A.K. Singh, Director, IARI presided over the function and Dr. B.N.S. Murthy, Horticulture Commissioner was Guest of Honour on the occasion. Dr. Rajan. ADG (PP & BS), ICAR, Dr. Rashmi Aggarwal Dean, PG School, ICAR-IARI, Dr. Balraj Singh, Project Coordinator, AICRP (HB&P), Dr. R. K. Sharma, Head, Division of Entomology and Heads of other divisions, scientists, students and progressive bee keepers participated in the event.



Dr. Balraj Singh, Project Coordinator in his opening remarks and brief about the programme emphasized on the genesis of world honey bee day and role of honey bees as crop pollinators with special reference to wild honey bee species *Apis dorsata* and *Apis florea*. Dr. Rajan, ADG (PP&BS) stressed on the activities of AICRP (HB&P) and applauded Integrated Bee keeping Development center of IARI and other institutes for creating necessary infrastructure of bee research and training.

Dr. B.N.S Murthy, Horticulture commissioner briefed about the bee keeping promoting activities under National Horticultural Mission and progress of integrated bee keeping centers. He also underlined the issues of adulteration of Honey and FSSAI notified quality standards for Honey. Further, he mentioned about commissioning of National Bee and Honey Mission with approved budget of Rs.200 crores with components of Bee keeping research, promotion and processing for furtherance of bee keeping in India.

Dr. Rashmi Aggarwal spoken about bee keeping development activities under IBDC project at IARI. Dr. A.K. Singh, Director, IARI appreciated IBDC and AICRP (HB&P) for organizing the event and stressed on need of raising awareness among the farmers and other stakeholders on pollination services of the bees. He further emphasized on sustaining the activities of the IBDC at IARI by additional funding from ICAR or IARI or NHM.

Dr. P.K. Chakrabarty in his Chief Guest address emphasized on the activities of AICRP on honey bees and pollinators and role of honey bees and other pollinators in crop pollination. He also stressed on creation of job opportunities in IBDCs and KVICs for the M.Sc degree holders in Apiculture, establishment of national level quality control labs and fixing of minimum support price for honey for sustainability of bee keeping as a livelihood option for poor farmers.

Progressive bee keepers were awarded on this occasion by dignitaries. The programme ended with proposal of vote of thanks by Dr. R.K. Sharma.

