

National Seminar on Contextual Relevance of ITKs in Plant Protection Jointly Organized by ICAR-NCIPM and ICAR-IARI from 28th to 29th October, 2015 at IARI campus, New Delhi

India is going through a transitory phase in perception of priority in Agricultural Policy making. The need for safe food for domestic consumption as well as export market is increasing with the growing global awareness of unhealthy fall out of synthetic inputs of agriculture. Keeping this in mind and the huge treasure trove of indigenous Technical knowledge accumulated over centuries in our country, a two day National seminar on Contextual Relevance of ITKs in Plant Protection was organized from 28 to 29 October 2015 by ICAR-NCIPM in collaboration with ICAR-IARI at New Delhi Campus of IARI. The inaugural programme was graced by Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR); Dr. J. S. Sandhu, Deputy Director General (Crop Sciences), ICAR; Dr. A. K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension), ICAR; Dr. T. Mohapatra, Director ICAR-IARI, New Delhi; Dr. C. Chattopadhyay, Director, ICAR-NCIPM; Dr. P. Chakrabarty, ADG, ICAR; Dr. J. P. Sharma, J.D. (Extension), ICAR-IARI. It was suggested by Dr. Ayyappan to initiate research, monitoring and validation of location specific ITKs for field as well as storage for their up scaling through the ICAR network. He pointed at the importance of deciphering hidden knowledge in rural hearsay, folksong and proverbs. He emphasized the need of research on ITKs in post harvest management and to chalk out a road map for ITKs documentation, validation, upscaling and outscaling to work out the do-how from the know-how thus archived.

Dr. Sandhu, in his presidential address, urged to prioritise key areas in the process of formulation of multidisciplinary projects for validating ITKs. Dr. A.K. Singh expressed the need for a Nodal Agency, as a hub of activities coordinating the nationwide network of KVKs, ATARIs along with active participation of PPV&FRA, DST, TIFAC and other organizations. Dr. T. Mohapatra reiterated the need of validation before their application and suggested convergence of modern technologies with tested traditional knowledge for balanced approach to agriculture. His views were acknowledged by Dr. C. Chattopadhyay, who urged the organizers to screen out ordinary laboratory investigations from true ITKs and their validations.

Dr. J. P. Sharma mentioned the importance of ancient religious and secular texts of India as gold mine of knowledge and focused on the need of a National Nodal Centre for ITK and participation of ICAR in developing Traditional knowledge Digital Library (TKDL).

The seminar was attended by a number of senior and nascent workers of this field from all over the country apart from farmers with rich experience in ITKs. A group from Kokrajhor district amazed the congregation with live specimen of plants and indigenous rat traps.

Dr. Anil P. Joshi, founder of HESCO, Dehradun was the guest of honour in the valedictory programme. He emphasized the need to save our country from erosion of social and moral values leading to overall degeneration of society, environment and food production system. The synergy of conscience, modern science and ancient knowledge encoded in rituals and social canons is the need of the time, he said. Dr. J. P. Sharma asked for celebrating Agriculture day to endorse the role of farmers in our daily life. He also urged to find out the key reason behind slow acceptance of ITKs. As inferred by the experts of various sessions, he opined to attach research scholars with ITK-expert farmers as a part of incorporation of ITK in Agriculture education system. Dr. Mohapatra suggested active role of scientist, especially those of the Division of Agricultural Chemicals, in the process of validation of ITKs through an institutionalized protocol of information gathering, searching for opportunities leading to prosperity of rural India.



Dr. A. K. Singh, DDG, Agricultural Extension felicitating woman entrepreneur



Dr. J. S. Sandhu, DDG, Crop Sciences felicitating innovative farmer



Dr. S. Ayyappan, DG, ICAR and Secretary, DARE delivering inaugural address



Dr. T. Mohapatra, Director, ICAR-IARI addressing the audience in the inaugural ceremony



Shree Anil Joshi, HESCO sharing his thought process with the audience of Valedictory programme



Souvenir of National seminar on contextual relevance of ITKs in Plant Protection being released by ICAR Officials