

**ICAR-IARI, New Delhi Celebrates International Women's Day**

ICAR-Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi in collaboration with Pusa Institute Ladies Association (PILA) celebrated the International Women's Day at Dr. B P Pal Auditorium, strictly adhering to the COVID-19 Guidelines. The theme of the event was "Women Leadership in COVID-19". Dr Rashmi Aggarwal, Dean & Joint Director (Education), IARI welcomed Chief guests Miss Shailaja Ilmi, Member, Bhartiya Janata Party; Mrs. Rajulaben Desai, Member, National Commission for Women; Mrs Kalpana Mohapatra, President, PILA; Dr. A. K. Singh, Director, ICAR-IARI; farm women, scientists and the august gathering. She mentioned that this is the day on which role of women in different fields from management of family and farm to space science is celebrated. Dr A K Singh, Director, IARI introduced the Chief guest of the occasion to the audience. He highlighted on the role of women in research, education and extension.

Miss Shailja Ilmi, a reputed journalist congratulated all women for their role in their respective fields. She opined that we all should have continuous dialogue with our inner voice and try to realize our hidden potential and ability. We should not give up on our dreams only because we are women. Women are creators of life and we have the potential to create a dignified future for ourselves. She talked about her journey in journalism and challenges she faced as a woman. Dr Shelly Praveen, Head, Division of Biochemistry highlighted the importance of Millets in fulfilling the mineral nutrition requirement and immunity development of human body. She talked about the research development in her division, the bajra flour branded as 'Hallur'. She also praised the role of other women scientists of the institute in developing various innovative technologies, like Pusa decomposer developed by Dr Livleen Shukla and Dr K. Annapurna, "Sun freeze" facility of Dr Sangeeta Chopra. Dr Sangeeta Chopra, Principal Scientist talked about the utility of the Sun freeze technology in storing the horticultural produce. She highlighted the Pusa Farm Sun Fridge, is a fully solar powered cold room and can preserve up to two tons of fruits and vegetables for 15 days and maintains the temperature between 4-12°C. On the eve of International Women's Day, she stressed on the importance of development of our decision-making ability to become empowered in true sense.

Smt Pooja Sharma, a successful women entrepreneur from Chandu village of Gurugram district, Haryana has started a women Self Help Group named 'Kshitiz'. The group is mainly involved in food processing and produces value-added products like cookies, biscuits from bajra, jowar, ragi, etc. She has successfully mobilised women farmers of the Chandu village and other nearby villages and thanked the role of institute in her career development. Chief guest Smt. Kalpana Mohapatra stressed on the need of local foods to boost immunity. Women as a mother plays an important role in bringing up a responsible child, so that they contribute towards development of nation. Dr Rajulaben Desai, Member, National Commission for Women highlighted on the role of commission towards sensitising the officers for empowerment of women at workplace. She spoke of the increasing cases of crimes at workplace and cyber-crimes reported against women. We should be aware of our own rights at workplace. She spoke at length on the crucial aspects of 'Digital discipline', the Do's and Don'ts of Social media. Vote of Thanks was presented by Dr Rashmi Aggarwal.