

Second Group discussion of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Fruits

The second group discussion of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Fruits was organized at the Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture & Technology, Udaipur (Rajasthan) from February 26 to March 1, 2015.



Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary (DARE) and Director General, ICAR graced the occasion on March 1st 2015. In his address, Dr. Ayyappan emphasized the development of programmes to achieve the targeted production of fruit crops in India to the tune of 100 million tonnes, to ensure effective water and nutrient use, to implement efficient cultivation technologies across different regions, to enable use of the microbial consortia and to design a more detailed information system for post-harvest loss data. Dr. S.L. Mehta, former Vice Chancellor, MPUAT and former, Deputy Director General (Education), ICAR spoke about the training needs of the scientists at NARS and highlighted the future road maps developed by ICAR.



Dr. N.K. Krishna Kumar, Deputy Director General (Hort. Sci.) ICAR inaugurated the group discussion and complimented the progress made by AICRP on Fruits. However, he emphasized the need for refinement of technology in order for its acceptance among the farming community. The areas that need research attention include scientific documentation of organic production, assessment of post-harvest loss in major fruit crops, online data management and digitalisation, and assessment of the extent of our technological needs to address the needs of growers, he noted. The function was presided over by the Vice Chancellor, Dr. O.P. Gill, MPUAT, Udaipur. Dr Gill presented an analysis of the various issues related to fruit production. Dr. T Janakiram, Assistant Director General (Hort Sci.) highlighted the need for developing region-specific technologies. Dr. Prakash Patil, Project Coordinator (Fruits) presented the progress of work done at 39 centres across the country on nine fruit crops, namely mango, Citrus, banana, guava, litchi, grapes, papaya, sapota and jackfruit.

In the eight technical sessions that were conducted, the research achievements made during 2013–14 in relation to crop improvement, crop production and crop protection were reviewed in detail and the

research programme for the mandate fruit crops for the year 2015–16 was finalized. During this period, a total of 10 technologies that were found to be suitable for different regions in the country were recommended.

Dr. T Janakiram, Assistant Director General (Hort Sci.), ICAR, New Delhi, Dr. P.L. Maliwal, Director of Research, MPUAT, Udaipur, Special Invitee Dr. K Srinivas, Ex. Head, Division of Fruit Crops, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, Dr. M.M. Mustaffa, Director, ICAR-NRC for Banana and Dr. M.S. Ladaniya, Director, ICAR-NRC for Citrus (CCRI), Dr. Vishal Nath, Director, ICAR-NRC for Litchi and Dr. S.D. Sawant, Director, ICAR-NRC for Grapes and Dr. S. Rajan, Director (Acting), ICAR-CISH, Lucknow also attended the group discussion.

A total of 160 delegates from 28 SAU-based centres, 13 ICAR-institute-based centres, 3 CAU-based centres, including 1 private centre, and growers and nurserymen of Rajasthan participated in the four-day event.



Three publications—Crop Calendar on Fruits - Compendium of Technologies Developed by AICRP on Fruits and Different SAUs, “*Hi-tech Bagwani*” and “*aam aour amrud uttpatan prodhogiki*”- were released during the inaugural session of the Group Discussion. In the plenary session, the monograph titled “Insect and Mite Pests of Citrus in India” was also released.