

## First Group discussion of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Fruits

- The First Group Discussion of the Scientists of All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Fruits was inaugurated on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2014 by Hon'ble Shri. Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, Pro-Chancellor, Dr



Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth (DBSKKV), Dapoli and Minister of Agriculture and Marketing, Government of Maharashtra. Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Assistant Director General (Hort-II), ICAR and Horticulture Commissioner, Govt. of India, New Delhi, Dr. A.S. Sidhu, Director (IIHR) and Project Co-ordinator (Fruits) and Dr. K.E. Lawande, Vice Chancellor of DBSKKV, Dapoli, were the dignitaries. More than 250 scientists participated in the group discussion from different parts of the country. The meeting was for four days and

was divided into eight technical sessions for reviewing the progress of work done at different centres and formulate a need-based technical programme. Dr. A.S. Sidhu, Director (IIHR) and Project Co-ordinator (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.

- Hon'ble Minister in his inaugural address emphasised the issues of climate change and crop stress factors, with a call to the scientists to be prepared for facing the challenges and also to make available suitable technology for the farmers to ensure their nutritional and economic security. The Vice Chancellor of Dr. K.E. Lawande highlighted the potentiality of Horticulture and he hoped that Horticulture will continue to benefit the farmers through the efforts of AICRP.