

Group Meeting on Pulses under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) inaugurated

29th March, 2017, Jodhpurs

A two-days Group Meeting (29-30th March, 2017) for Nodal Officers of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) was inaugurated at ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Jodhpur (Rajasthan).

Dr. M. S. Meena, Principal Scientist (Agril. Extn.) & PI of NFSM project welcomed the participants.

Dr S. K. Singh, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Jodhpur in his introductory remarks emphasised the involvement of major research Institutes of ICAR related to pulses and State Agricultural Universities in collaboration with KVKs improving pulses productivity through cluster frontline demonstrations (CFLDs) on pulses. He narrated that 57 KVKs of Rajasthan and Gujarat are actively engaged in CFLDs on pulses from different agro-climatic situations. Pulse crops are important for food, nutritional and agro ecological sustainability. The pulses fix more than 75 percent of nitrogen in soil and require less water in comparison to other crops in opined. He also mentioned that 60 percent of Indian population is vegetarian and as per ICMR recommendation the per capita pulse consumption is required to be 50-55 g/day and to ensure the availability of pulses a minimum of 22 million tonnes of pulses is required to be produced. He informed the participants that stress should be given to Pigeon Pea as no other country is producing the said crop and 95% of the pigeon pea producer and consumers are in India only. Among the major pulse producing states Rajasthan and Gujarat states are significantly contributing to the pulses production. He also stressed that KVKs play an important role to bring the location specific technological options developed by ICAR institutes and SAUs to farmers' fields. KVKs must focus on gap analysis, disease and pest incidences, rationalization of input at field level and documentation farmers' reactions, field results based on technological and economic indicators so that future strategies can be developed. He also briefed the scenario of pulses in the country and Major initiatives by the Government of India to boost up the pulses production. He stress that KVKs being the Farm Science Centre of their respective districts should properly implement the technology flow from technology generation to technology adoption.

Nodal officers of 30 KVKs from Rajasthan and Gujarat states have been invited to participate in this Group Meeting. Resource persons of Rajasthan from ICAR institutes and SAUs have also been invited for delivering interactive lectures on improved technologies and production practices of pulse crops.

(Source: ICAR-ATARI, Jodhpur)

