

## **Zonal Workshop of KVKs of Zone-I organised**

28-30 December 2017, Jammu

A three day Annual Zonal Workshop to review activities of KrishiVigyanKendras (KVKs) of Zone-I was organised by ICAR-ATARI, Ludhiana during 28-30 December 2017 at SKUAST, Jammu (J&K). The workshop was aimed at reviewing the work done by 74 KVKs and 6 ATICs of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand. Sh. GulamNabi Lone, Minister of Agriculture, Jammu & Kashmir was the Chief Guest. In his inaugural address, he emphasised the role of KVK improving the economic conditions of farmers by taking latest technologies and improved agricultural practices to the farmers. He also talked about various issues of farmers and agriculture in Jammu & Kashmir and the role of agricultural Universities and KVKs in addressing those issues. He promised to extend all the possible support to the agricultural university in performing its duties.

Dr. A.K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Agril. Ext.), ICAR, in his presidential remarks, highlighted the significance of KVKs at the grass root level. He detailed the house about the national contribution of KVKs in terms of distribution of soil health cards, directly or indirectly contacting the two crore farm families, rising production of pulses from 18 to 22 million ton, etc. He urged the KVKs to educate farmers about use of soil health cards while realizing the dream of doubling farmers' income. He also talked about nutrition sensitive agriculture and need to popularize bio-fortified varieties. He insisted on developing model villages in term of different enterprises and technologies.

Dr. P.K. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST, Jammu also addressed the delegates and lauded the role played by KVKs in the development of agriculture. Dr. Rajbir Singh, Director, ICAR-ATARI, presented an overview of activities of KVKs in the Zone-I and presented few cases of technological interventions which have made a strong impact in the region. Earlier, while welcoming the delegates and dignitaries, Dr. R. K. Arora, ADE & In charge KVKs, SKUAST, Jammu expressed his views about strengthening the technological backstopping to the KVKs in performing their duties.

There were six technical sessions, viz. Technological backstopping to KVKs, Progress Report and Action Plan of KVKs of each state and Progress Report and Action Plan of ATICs of Zone-I. Lectures were also arranged in each session by experts of various ICAR Institutes/SAU. Major recommendations emerged during three day workshop were presented by Dr Rajbir Singh, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Ludhiana during valedictory function.

About 200 delegates including Directors (Ext) of SAUs, Programme Coordinators of KVKs, ATIC managers, Scientists of KVKs and farmers participated in the three day deliberation. More than a dozen farm publications and DVDs were also released during inaugural session.

Dr. Arvind Kumar, Principal Scientist (Agril. Ext.), ICAR-ATARI, Ludhiana proposed formal vote of thanks.

**(Source: ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Ludhiana)**