

## Nutri-Cereals Farmers Mela Organized by KVK, Beed-I on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

A Nutri-Cereals Farmers Mela was inaugurated by Dr. Ashok Dhawan, Vice Chancellor, VNMKV, Parbhani on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2019. In his inaugural address, he gave more focus on promoting advanced climate smart technologies. He said that coarse grains should be incorporated in existing cropping pattern. Nutri cereals processing and value addition may be promoted among farmers for enhancing their income. He mentioned different varieties of rabi sorghum like Parbhani Moti, Parbhani Super Moti, Parbhani Jyoti, Parbhani Shakti to grow under rainfed situation. Exhibition put up by the farmers' organizations, SHGs and individual entrepreneurs and displayed their products prepared through coarse cereals, was also inaugurated by the chief guest.

Dr. Lakhan Singh, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Pune spoke about project 'Nutri-sensitive Agricultural Resources and Innovations (NARI)' being implemented at each KVK for making nutritional security. Interventions on nutrition-sensitive agriculture, family farming, linking agriculture to nutrition, skill development among women and youth, bio-fortification of locally available food, round-the - year dietary pattern, nutri-thali, nutrition smart villages, etc. need to be planned at different levels. Farming system nutrition model, nutrition garden at each household, nutrition garden at each school, quiz competition in schools, display of problem with solutions at common places through wall paintings, hoardings, flexi-banners, wall newspapers, posters and cartoons, etc. should be utilized for wider awareness and orientation of villagers.

Shri Atul Jain, General Secretary, Deendayal Research Institute, New Delhi highlighted the importance of coarse cereals in fast changing climatic conditions and rainfall variations. Sorghum, bajra, minor millets have capacity to stand in all adverse conditions. His more emphasis was on recording folk songs related to agriculture, water conservation and learning from farmers.

Different experts like Shri Shivaji Jagtap, DSAO, Ahmednagar; Shri Arun Gutte, Extension Agronomist, VNMKV, Parbhani; Dr. Swati Ardhapurkar, Asstt. Professor; Dr. Saurabh Sharma, Head, KVK, Beed and other Subject Matter Specialists delivered lectures on production and protection technologies of nutri-cereals. Relevant extension literature was also distributed among participants.

In total, 569 farmers including 85 farm women of different villages were attended the programme. At this occasion, progressive farmers, producers of nutri-cereals viz., Shri Kerba Vharkate and Smt Aprana Yeske were felicitated by the chief guest.



Source: ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Pune