

Farm Level Stress and Innovations- Farm Innovators Meet

7-8 October, 2017

ICAR-ATARI, Pune and ICAR-IARI, New Delhi organized a two days Farm Innovators Meet on '**Farm Level Stress and Innovations**' at KVK, Baramati (Pune) during 7-8 October, 2017. Innovative farmers of three states namely Maharashtra (Vidarbha, Marathwada and western Maharashtra), Andhra Pradesh and Telangana were invited to share their innovative interventions towards fighting the farm level stress and enhancing their income. In this event, about 80 participants including innovative farmers, KVK experts, scientists and Farm Producers Organizations' representatives were participated. Dr. A.K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Agril Extension), ICAR, New Delhi was the chief guest of the function. In his address, he gave more focus to develop farm technologies as per need of the farmers and varied agro-climatic conditions. His concern was for fighting with stress. Farmers are very innovative and they develop different farm technologies to minimise adverse effect of adverse climatic conditions and long dry spells. Sharing experiences of innovative farmers/model villages should be documented and up-scaled in other areas. He said that short video clippings of farm innovators may be developed and up-loaded on ICAR website/KVK portal. He appreciated the courage shown by farmers at bad times and highlighted the issues such as sustainable production and happiness.

Dr. N.P. Singh, Director, ICAR-NIASM, Baramati highlighted the coping strategies of abiotic stress in agriculture. Dr. Lakhan Singh, Director, ATARI, Pune said that farmers are real scientists as they are 24 hours vigilant and take observations of their crops growth. The innovations of farmers are unnoticed, so documentation and sharing at large scale is necessary. Dr. S.D. Sawant, Director, ICAR-NRC on Grapes, Pune advocated the farmers to adopt practical based solutions in grape cultivation. The grape growers are feared. In rains, the grape crop is infested with powdery mildew. The crop is to be protected from untimely rains. He said that farm level stress is too much. Processing based value addition at growers' level is important for higher return. Dr. Y.G. Prasad, Director, ATARI, Hyderabad highlighted the issues of crop diversification, climate resilience, multiple cropping systems, framework for documentation of innovations, etc. Dr. J. P. Sharma, Joint Director, IARI, New Delhi highlighted the issues of value addition and processing, quality management, marketing, livestock management, etc. Dr. R.K. Pal, Director, NRC on Pomegranate, Solapur suggested the farmers to go for value addition in pomegranate especially for juice and seed oil for higher return.

Presentations were made by various ICAR institutes about best technologies for abiotic stress management, floriculture, grape, pomegranate and onion & garlic cultivation. Cross learning was taken place between farmers and scientists. The farmers of three states viz. Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra especially from Vidarbha, Marathwada and western Maharashtra presented and shared their innovations and good agricultural practices. Shri Popaturo Pawar presented a successful model of Hivere Bazar village. In this model, village watershed developed with active people's involvement. The villagers banned the more water required crops. Social cohesion developed. Water budgeting was done. Soil and water conservation was focussed. Most of the farmers adopted moisture conservation practices, drip irrigation, sprinkler system, water harvesting, crop diversification, contingency planning, weather forecasting, prediction farming, etc.

Dr. Rashmi Singh, Principal Scientist and Dr. Shakir Ali, Head, KVK, Baramati coordinated the event. Smt Sunanda Pawar, Shri Vishnu Pant, Dr MS Nain, Dr JR Mishra, Dr GR Reddy, Dr. Mohapatra, Dr. DV Kolekar were also present at the occasion. 28 Heads of KVKs were also present.

Source: Director, ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Pune



