

XXVI Annual Group Meeting of AICRP on Floriculture
ICAR-Directorate of Floricultural Research, Pune
held at IIHR, Hessaraghatta on August 3-5, 2017

The XXVI Annual Group Meeting (AGM) of AICRP on Floriculture was held during August 3-5th, 2017 at IIHR, Hessaraghatta, Bengaluru. Review of the research work done during the last year (2016-17) at coordinated centres (25 nos.) and preparation of technical programme for the years 2018-2021 are the major objectives of this AGM. There were eight technical sessions besides inaugural and plenary. In the inaugural session (on August 3, 2017), Dr. T. Janakiram, ADG (HS-II), ICAR was the chief guest, Dr. D. R. Singh, Director, ICAR – NRC for Orchids graced the occasion as guest of honour while Dr. M. R. Dinesh, Director, ICAR – IIHR, Bengaluru presided over the function.

Release of a Variety & Publications

Arka Savi, a rose variety developed at IIHR and few publications, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for conducting the experiments in AICRP on Floriculture; Annual Report 2016-17 of AICRP on Floriculture in the form of a CD; current issue of Indian Journal of Ornamental Horticulture and IIHR – Flower Seed Box were released on this occasion.

Unveiling of DFR logo

Dr. K. V. Prasad, Director, DFR explained about the idea/concept behind designing and developing a logo for ICAR – Directorate of Floricultural Research which was unveiled by Dr. T. Janakiram, ADG (HS-II) the chief guest of the function.

Chief Guest's message

Dr. T. Janakiram, ADG (HS-II) while addressing the gathering highlighted the scope of floriculture in India and the importance of providing strong technological base for sustaining the flower cultivation in India. The AICRP on Floriculture with its network of coordinated centres spread all over the country would certainly help not only in promoting floriculture but in enhancing/doubling the net returns from floricultural activities. Dr. Janakiram congratulated the Director & staff of IIHR on the occasion of their **Golden Jubilee year** (1967-2017), appreciated their contributions in floriculture (varieties – Arka Pride; Arka Parimala & Arka Sukanya in rose; Arka Aswa, Arka Krishika in gerbera; Arka Aadhya and Arka Archana in China aster). He also highlighted the recent contributions in floriculture from National Agricultural Research System viz., Varieties from IARI (Pusa Sindhura in gladiolus & Pusa Guldasta in chrysanthemum); Tuberose varieties from BCKV (Bidhan Rajni 1 & 2 Bidhan Srigda); Turf management course at NAU, Navsari, Value addition work at YSPUHF; etc. He has enumerated some of the *new areas in floriculture* (planting material for landscaping; Tissue Culture protocols, F1 hybrids; soilless media, vertical gardening, role of pollinators, MLOs & Phytoplasma, indoor air quality, skill development in floral arrangements like Ikebana, etc) which needs to be considered in R & D.

Salient achievements of AICRP on Floriculture during 2016-17

Dr. K. V. Prasad, Director, DFR made a presentation on salient achievements of AICRP on Floriculture in the year 2016-17. Dr. M. R. Dinesh and Dr. D. R. Singh emphasized the potential of floriculture in India and the need for support both in terms of technologies and infrastructural facilities.

Technical sessions for review of the work and compilation of technologies

In the first Technical session, Dr. K. V. Prasad, Director, DFR presented action taken report (ATR) on the recommendations of XXV AGM of AICRP on Floriculture held at CTRI, Rajahmundry. Dr. T. Janakiram, Chairman of the session emphasized that the testing of varieties at Centre of Excellence/KVKs shall be promoted and third-party evaluation of technology may be carried out for better acceptance of technology by the stakeholders and the proposals of identified varieties/advanced lines are to be prepared and submitted by the coordinated centres/breeders to enable their *release through CVRC*. He said that the process of *evaluating the performance of coordinated centres and their impact analysis* (as followed in AICRP on Fruits) has to be initiated in order to motivate the staff and to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the centres. In various technical sessions spread over three days, the deliberations were on the listing of *technologies in pipeline*, measures to improve the performance of centres, *preparation of technical programme* keeping in view the emerging challenges and priorities in floriculture and also the requirements of the industry.

Interface with the Industry and Farmers

In the technical session on Interface with Industry and farmers, the *success stories of the progressive farmers*, Shri Lakshminarayana, Bengaluru; Shri. P. J. Abraham, Bengaluru, Mr. Vikas Nalawade from Maharashtra and Mr. Siddarthan from Tamil Nadu were really inspiring and endorses that the floriculture is highly remunerative and certainly contributes in doubling the farmers income. These progressive farmers could be brand ambassadors for technologies of IIHR and NARS.

There were special presentations from Dr. Prakash Patil, PC, Fruits (on the AICRP system, its importance and modalities of execution) and Dr. Ms. Hema Patkar (on *Ikebana*, floral arrangement). Dr. T. M. Rao, Head, Floriculture and Medicinal Crops, IIHR and Organizing Secretary of the XXVI AGM proposed formal vote of thanks to all those who have contributed in the successful conduct of the Group Meeting.



