

**Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Hon'ble Secretary (DARE) and DG (ICAR) laid the Foundation Stone of
Farm Office cum Field Laboratory of ICAR-DFR, Pune on 3rd August 2019.**

The foundation stone of ICAR-DFR's Farm Office cum Field Laboratory was laid by Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Hon. Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR at its Hadapsar campus in the afternoon of 3rd August 2019. This momentous occasion was graced by senior functionaries of ICAR, State Agricultural Universities, staff from ICAR sister institutes, KVK's and few farmers.

Dr. K.V. Prasad, Director, ICAR-DFR welcomed all the dignitaries to the maiden event to start the first phase of construction at ICAR-DFR after relocating to Pune in the name of Farm Office cum Field Laboratory. He explained about the efforts being made in making of DFR so far. He presented a concise summary of work being carried out by ICAR-DFR with the help of inter institutional projects with ICAR sister institutes. Aiming at farmer centric interventions ICAR-DFR is striving to develop novel varieties, on farm diagnostic kits, reduce the footprint of plastics in nursery industry by developing biodegradable portrays, utilize industrial and agricultural byproducts as potting media, developing tools and gadgets to reduce the drudgery, development of foldable crates for efficient transportation of flowers, harnessing the potential of nutraceutical pigments he explained. Some of the technologies were showcased during the occasion.

Dr. T. Janakiram ADG (HS I) briefed about the genesis of ICAR-DFR and also highlighted the potential of Floriculture in India. He explained the initiatives of Horticultural Science Division at ICAR towards promoting floriculture for doubling farm income. He also stressed on the initiatives on vertical farming and importance of indigenous and native ornamentals in reducing import of floricultural products by the country.

Dr. K.P. Vishwanatha, Vice Chancellor, MPKV while congratulating the Team DFR complimented the Director for the remarkable progress made during a short period in spite of many hurdles. He ensured all out support for making of ICAR-DFR.

Dr. S.D. Sawant, Vice Chancellor, DBSKKV, Dapoli cherished his time of working with ICAR DFR while he was the Director of NRC for Grapes and desired to work in association with ICAR-DFR on interesting areas.

Dr. A.K. Singh, DDG (Agril. Extn), congratulated team DFR for touching a milestone in its developmental journey. He expressed his pleasure for being the inspiration behind the construction of farm office cum field laboratory while he was holding the charge of the Horticultural Science Division of the ICAR.

Dr. T. Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR congratulated Dr. K.V. Prasad and team for sustained developmental attempts made at ICAR-DFR at its new location. He addressed all the ICAR Institutes in Pune and emphasized the importance of following up the flagship programmes of Govt. of India. He urged all the ICAR institutes to actively gear up the research towards achieving the five years vision set for ICAR. He called upon the ICAR institutes and SAU's to integrate higher education in agriculture with high quality research. He appreciated the unity of ICAR Institutes and Universities in and around Pune in this context. He further highlighted the role of ICAR in shaping the agriculture education and research and education in some of the neighbouring countries. He emphasized the importance of convergence of agriculture and allied subjects through a single window to address needs of farmers. He stressed upon the integrated

system approach in empowering the farmers to achieve doubling farm income. He also directed the scientists to work towards import substitution and enhancing export through utilizing the rich and diverse resources available in our country. While appreciating the farmer friendly research initiatives taken up by ICAR-DFR he advised to enrich the germplasm as a first step towards inducing novelty, popularize the tools and gadgets and foldable crates developed through the ATARI and KVS's. He stressed upon the importance of diagnostics in quarantine and appreciated the efforts made by ICAR-DFR in taking the lead in ornamental crops. While complimenting the focus on innovative areas like nutraceuticals he called upon the scientists to identify new molecules of medicinal importance and food grade colours to replace the harmful synthetic colours. He also directed ICAR-DFR to interact with all the stakeholders in floriculture in the country and channelize the research programmes for the next plan period of 5 years. He encouraged the Team DFR to prepare a futuristic research agenda with adequate budget provisions for research infrastructure and facilities in view of the enhancement of the cadre strength of ICAR-DFR from 16 to 33 during the cadre review.

Floricare, an Android mobile app developed by ICAR- DFR and few publications (Genesis; Healthy Soil: Healthy Crop; and Quality Water for Quality Flowers: Irrigation Water Quality for Flower Production) prepared by ICAR-DFR were released by the Chief Guest Dr.T.Mohapatra on the occasion.

The programme ended with official vote of thanks by Dr. P. Naveen Kumar, Principal Scientist, ICAR-DFR, Pune.



Dr.Trilochan Mohapatra laid foundation stone of ICAR-DFR, Farm Office cum Field Laboratory in the presence of senior functionaries of ICAR, Vice Chancellors and Directors of ICAR institutes.



Lighting of the lamp to mark the event.



Dr.T.Mohapatra witnessing some of the technologies generated by ICAR-DFR



Dr.A.K.Singh -DDG (AE) addressing the gathering



Dr.T.Janakiram addressing the gathering.



Release of publication Genesis and Floricare App



Chief Guest address by Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra