

Foundation Stone Laid for ICAR-Directorate of Floricultural Research, Regional Station

The ICAR-Directorate of Floricultural Research, Pune organised the foundation stone laying ceremony of its Regional Station at Vemagiri Village, Kadiyam mandal, Andhra Pradesh on 21st January 2019 at 10.30 am. The programme was well attended by about 450 people involving people's representatives, farmers, nursery growers, state department officials, and university officials. The Foundation Stone was laid by the Chief Guest Shri **M. Murali Mohan**, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajamahendravaram constituency. The event was presided over by Shri. **Gorantla Butchiaiah Chowdhary**, MLA. ICAR Officials Dr. T. Janakiram, ADG (HS I), Dr. K. V. Prasad, Director, ICAR-DFR, Pune, Dr. Damodar Reddy, Director, ICAR-CTRI, Dr. R. K. Mathur, Director, IOPR, Pedavegi, Dr. P. Naveen Kumar, PS, Dr. D. V. S. Raju, PS, ICAR-DFR, People's representatives including Smt. P. Rajani Sesha Shai, Mayor, Rajamahendravaram, Smt. Kunche Shashi Rekha, MPTC, Vemagiri, Shri. Margani Lakshmi Satyanarayana, Smt. Margani Lakshmi MPP, Kadiyam Mandal, Shri. Velugubanti Nani, Vice MPP, Kadiyam, Shri. Pulla Satyanarayana, President Kadiyam Nurserymen Association, Shri. Palla Subramanyam, Ex-President, Indian Nurserymen Association, District Administration officials including Shri Sai Kanth Varma, Sub-Collector participated in the event.

While welcoming the gathering Dr. T. Janakiram, ADG (HS I) outlined the genesis of the Regional Station and steps taken by the ICAR to operationlise the station. He further highlighted the enormous scope the region holds for commercial floriculture. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest Shri M. Murali Mohan, Member of Parliament reminded the farmers the enormous contributions made by them in making Kadiyam a major nursery hub in the country in spite of limited technology backstopping. With the establishment of the Regional Station of ICAR-DFR he opined that the farmers would get access to advanced technologies to further boost science led nursery development in the region. In his presidential remarks , Shri. G. Butchiaiah Chowdhary, MLA, Rajamahendravaram Rural called up on the farmers to diversify in to more number of flower crops, adopt value addition to increase their income. Dr. K. V. Prasad, Director, ICAR-DFR, Pune proposed formal vote of thanks. A leaflet highlighting the genesis of the Regional Station was released by the dignitaries during the occasion. The event was widely covered in the press and electronic media.



Foundation stone laid by Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri. M Murali Mohan



Dignitaries on the dais



Release of publication on the genesis of Regional Station of ICAR-DFR



Glimpses of the audience