

ICAR-DFR, Pune organizes 7th Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting

The 7th Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting of ICAR-Directorate of Floricultural Research (ICAR-DFR) was held on 26th and 27th December 2019 under the chairmanship of Padma Shri Dr. Brahma Singh, former Director, DRDO. The RAC reviewed the research conducted during the last year and provided inputs for strengthening the research at ICAR-DFR.

Dr. K.V. Prasad, Director, ICAR-DFR welcomed the committee members and detailed the salient achievements of ICAR-DFR during the last year. Dr. D.V.S. Raju, Member Secretary, RAC presented the Action Taken Report and project wise achievements. Dr. R.L. Misra, Dr. Satyanarayan Reddy, Dr. Promila Pathak, members and Dr. T.Janakiram, ADG, HS-I, Ex-officio member of RAC were present and gave their valuable inputs. The chairman and members stressed the importance of Floriculture in the country and how the floriculture could help in doubling the income of the farmers. The importance of floriculture in the various facets of life was explained in detail and DFR was advised to provide scientific interventions to these aspects like vertical farming, nutraceutical pigments, essential oils, fingerprinting to prevent bio piracy, highway and environmental horticulture for pollution management, nursery standards and landscaping. The committee appreciated the initiative taken by the institute to minimize the footprint of plastics by developing biodegradable protrays and pots in association with CIRCOT, Mumbai. The members were appreciative of the efforts of DFR in developing tool and gadgets to reduce the drudgery of the farmers especially the women farmers. The members encouraged the institute to intensify the evaluation of packaging technologies developed for its earlier adoption by the farmers. RAC also pointed out the spread of nematodes and other pathogen through soil media from nurseries and the loss of soil from nursery hubs like Pune and Kadiyam and appreciated the experiments at DFR for utilizing industrial and agricultural wastes as alternate media for plant growth. The committee members visited the entire farm and appreciated the developments made DFR and cherished the chrysanthemum collection in the field.



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