

ICAR-Directorate of Floricultural Research organised Stakeholders Meet on 06.12.2019

ICAR – Directorate of Floricultural Research organised a Stakeholders Meet in association with other ICAR sister institutes located in Pune on 6th December 2019 in the conference hall of the ICAR-National Research Centre for Grapes. Dr.A.K.Singh, Deputy Director General (HS&CS) ICAR was the Chief Guest. Number of Stakeholders representing farmers involved in floriculture, grape growing, onion cultivation, nursery and entrepreneurs participated in the deliberations. Representatives from College of Agriculture, College of Horticulture, Pune, scientists from ICAR institutes, AICRP members from MPKV also actively participated in the proceedings and clarified a number of issues raised by the growers.

In his opening remarks Dr.A.K.Singh, highlighted about the steady growth of horticulture sector and its significant contribution to Indian economy. Proactive policies of the government and untiring efforts of farmers ensured that the horticultural crop production surpassed the food grain productions for five consecutive years he opined. He lauded the enterprising farmers of Maharashtra for their significant contribution in the growth of horticulture sector. He reminded the stakeholders the leadership role played by the Maharashtra farmers in onion, grape, pomegranate and flower production besides enormous volumes of planting material produced in the nurseries of Maharashtra state.

A number of issues raised by the stakeholders pertaining to the current crisis of onion shortfall, rising input costs, IPR and plant breeder's rights, import of new varieties, media formulations, graft compatibility, requirement of seed villages, quality planting material, emerging pest problems, traceability were effectively dwelt by Dr. Singh. He further informed the house that Policy issues including subsidies on cladding material, planting material cost, higher GST on some of the components, structural changes in greenhouse designs etc are being addressed in the ministry at appropriate level. He urged all the growers to frequently interact with the ICAR institutes and adopt the latest technologies and interventions so as to maximise the returns.

While interacting with the stakeholders, Dr.K.V.Prasad (Director,ICAR-DFR) clarified the issue related to Plant Breeders Rights and IPR. Dr.Major Singh (Director, ICAR-DOGR, Rajagurunagar) urged the farmers to adopt the technologies developed by DOGR to minimise the extent of losses in onion. Dr. Jagdish Rane (Director, ICAR-NIASM, Baramati) highlighted the imminent threats of climate change. Dr.Anuradha Upadhaya (ICAR-NRCG) informed the house about the efforts made by ICAR-NRG about the development of new varieties and Dr. Indu Sawant (former director, ICAR-NRCG) brought to the fore the need for adopting bio control measures developed so far.

The meeting was followed by field visit to some of the progressive nurseries like Krupa Nursery and Tukoi Exotics by DDG Dr.A.K.Singh and others.



Dr.A.K.Singh, DDG (HS&CS) addressing the Stakeholders



Stakeholders meet in progress at ICAR-NRC Grapes, Pune



An amateur rose breeder interacting with the DDG (HS&CS)