

International Training on “Seed Production, Processing and Commercialization” during February 12th -26th, 2019 at NSRTC, Varanasi

National Seed Research and Training Centre, Varanasi has conducted International Training on **“Seed Production, Processing and Commercialization”** during February 12th -26th, 2019 at NSRTC campus. The programme has been inaugurated by Dr. Mangala Rai, former Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Education and Research & former Director General, Indian Council of Agriculture Research. The programme was comprised of 31 trainees from nine countries. Welcoming the trainees, Dr. Arvind Nath Singh, Director, NSRTC highlighted the importance of seeds and their testing viz., germination, vigour and viability along with the role of Central Seed Testing Laboratory. Dr Mangala Rai, Chief Guest of the programme, described the methods of production of breeder seed and hybrid seed of various crop like maize, mustard, paddy and banana. He also emphasized on fishery and the agricultural practices in different countries. Dr. Mangala Rai sharing with the trainees, experiences of his life, he focused on adopting the isolation distance methods to increase the quality of seed. He also told that seed is not only important for farmer in agriculture but also it acts as vehicle to carry new technologies.

Dr. Mahantesh Shirur, Deputy Director, MANAGE, Hyderabad, Sponsored Institution of fifteen day training program, oriented the Feed The Future India Triangular Training Program and conveyed various aspects of the programme.

The valedictory ceremony of International Training Programme has been successfully completed on 26.02.2019. Dr. Arvind Nath Singh, Director, NSRTC, Varanasi has welcomed the Chief Guest Mrs. V. Usha Rani, IAS, Director General, MANAGE, Hyderabad and Guest of Honour Mr. Mustafa L. Hamezoul, Director, Food Security Officer, USAID and other dignitaries with a flower bouquet and presented the highlights of the 15 days training programme. All the trainees gave their brief introduction and shared their experiences during the course of training. Certificates were distributed to the participants by the hon'ble chief guest and other dignitaries.

The Chief Guest of the day Mrs. Usha Rani said that the participants of the programme were very active during the training. India succeeded in sustainable food production through high yielding varieties and quality seed which were resulted from Green Revolution by Indian scientists along with the contributions of N. Borlaug. The governments of India and USA tied up for the establishment of FTF IIT and successfully organised 31 such trainings till date. She also emphasised on the need of food and opined that there is no meaning of freedom without food. Food is the basic requirement of life. To feed the ever increasing population, strengthening of agriculture sector is need of the hour and seeds hold the role of key component. Through using quality seeds, India not only became sustainable but also started exporting many agricultural products. Five thousand scientists and twenty thousand extension officers in India are actively

working in agricultural area only for its betterment. Training of farmers and extension workers determine the progress in agriculture.

Mr. Mustafa said in his address that the seed is the skeleton for the farmers. India has got success in achieving Green Revolution through quality seed. He also opined that Seed Law Enforcement plays a major role in checking adultery in quality seed.

This training program lasted for 15 days in which 31 trainees from nine countries were involved. In this programme about 27 scientists and experts presented lectures and conveyed various aspects of the seed. The trainees acquired profit by visiting different fields of various centres. Mr. Vamsidhar Reddy, USAID, Agriculture, Research and Development Specialist, Mr. A.C. Sharma, Joint Director (Agriculture), Dr. Arvind Kumar, Director, ISARC, Varanasi, Ms. Shilpa, USAID, Mr. Rajiv Kumar Jha, Deputy Director (Agriculture) were also present.

