

## **ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research Modipuram, Meerut-250 110, Uttar Pradesh**

### **XI Annual Group Meeting of Network Project on Organic Farming organized at ICAR-IISS, Bhopal**

The XI Annual Group Meeting of Network Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) was organized at ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal during 17-19 August 2016.

Prof. M. Premjit Singh, Vice Chancellor, Central Agricultural University, Imphal inaugurated the group meeting as Chief Guest. He highlighted the importance of organic farming in niche areas and crops along with important issues such as insect, disease and weed infestation under organic farming. He also urged to develop insect, disease resistant varieties for organic farming and promote the organic farming using farming systems approach with inclusion of the livestock. Dr. S. Bhaskar, Assistant Director General (AAF & CC) & Guest of Honour highlighted the importance of the organic farming and told that organic farming is a climate resilient production system and it should be promoted particularly in rainfed and hill ecology.

Dr Ashok Kumar Patra, Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal welcomed all the guests and participants and informed that ICAR-IISS, Bhopal has developed many composting techniques which are part of organic farming. While presenting the brief scheme report, Dr. A.S. Panwar, Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram highlighted that presently 16 states are covered through NPOF and 666 practicing organic farmers have been studied during the year for understanding the constraints of organic growers. Besides, these, he also highlighted that best performing varieties under organic farming for 20 crops have been identified and Integrated Organic Farming System (IOFS) models have been developed at Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu which promises to increase the income by 2 to 3 times and meet inputs up to 85-90 % within the farm. Dr. K.K. Singh, Director, ICAR-CIAE, Dr V.P. Singh, Director, ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal and Dr Himanshu Pathak, Director, ICAR-NRRI, Cuttak also graced the inaugural session.

In the first two days, review of on-going programmes and modification of technical programme was taken up beside a round table discussion on researchable issues in IOFS. On 19 August 2016, interface meeting of NPOF and selected AICRP on IFS centres with ICAR-Directorate of Weed Research, Jabalpur was held to discuss the issues related to weed management under organic farming. Based on the deliberations, an experiment on weed management under organic farming was formulated which will be implemented at NPOF and selected AICRP on IFS centres.

Dr Balraj Singh, Vice Chancellor, Rajasthan Agriculture University, Jodhpur, Chief Guest in the plenary session of the Group Meeting informed that organic farming is gaining momentum in India mainly due to soil, livestock and human health concerns and he appreciated the presentation of recommendations of the group meeting in 4 categories such as technologies for upscaling, policy, research and general issues. Dr S. Bhaskar, ADG (AAFCC) while giving his remarks on recommendations stated that outcome of the group meeting will be highly useful for researchers, policy makers and organic growers. Dr AS Panwar, Director, ICAR-IIFSR emphasized on time bound implementation of approved research programmes by all the co-operating centres.

Based on the overall performance, **Coimbatore (TNAU)** centre of NPOF was selected as best centre and a certificate were issued in the plenary session. The group meeting ended with vote of thanks proposed by Dr N. Ravisankar, National PI, ICAR-IIFSR.

**Source: ICAR-IIFSR, Modipuram**



Release of Publications of NPOF scheme



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Address by Dr S. Bhaskar, ADG (AAFCC) in Inaugural session



Presentation of best centre certificate to TNAU, Coimbatore by Dr Balraj Singh, Vice Chancellor, RAU, Jodhpur