

## **Report on National Agriculture Conclave in collaboration with ICAR**

G H Raisonni University, Saikheda (M.P.) organized National Agriculture Conclave, in collaboration with Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) on 6th & 7th April 2018, on the theme “Agricultural Education” at Hotel Radisson Blu, Nagpur. The event aimed at creating connections and coordination between market-based, community-building action toward restoration and reconciliation in a world of hunger and poverty. The confluence of vivid professionals will bring together a diverse views and valuable inputs that will encourage the passion for agriculture. The conclave started with welcome and introductory remarks from Dr. Rajan Welukar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, GHRU. Dr. Akhilesh Pandey, Chairman, MP Private University Regulatory Commission, Bhopal; addressed the gathering about agro-processing industries and its influence on farmer's wholesome development.. Dr. Narendra Singh Rathore, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education) Division of Education, ICAR, New Delhi gave highlights on status of Agricultural education system in India emphasized on four Ts Tradition, Teaching, Testing and Training. Dr. Prof S. Parasuraman, Former Director & TISS, Mumbai, chief guest, shared his professional experiences and discussed about how to get out of niche and outperform to benefit the masses. The presidential address was given by the Hon'ble Chancellor, GHRU, Mr. Sunil Raisonni followed by vote of thanks by Dr. Mrunal Naik. After networking lunch straightway technical sessions were lined up as follows:

**Technical Session-I** was chaired by Dr. S. S. Chahal, Former VC, MPUAT, Udaipur. The theme for the session was *Status and scope of Human Capital Requirement in Agricultural and allied sectors*. Dr. B. Venkateshwarulu, VC, VRNMAU, Parbhani enlighten on the topic *Policy innovation and institutional reforms in building vibrant human resource capital* He highlighted perception about Agriculture subject in society in order of choice by the students. There is a need to bridge the gap by changing the profile of the profession. He emphasized introduction of Agriculture subjects in school curriculum. He said Agriculture education is changing like other streams of education – cellular agriculture (artificially producing food), vertical farming (growing food in containers) and secondary agriculture which is introduced. 30% liberase in changing the curriculum as recommended under 5th Dean's Committee is not being seriously addressed by most of the SAU's. Dr. G. Venkateshwarlu, ADG(EQU) ICAR, New Delhi; spoke on the topic *Major global initiatives in developing human resources in Agriculture*. He talked about, climate smart village/Agriculture farm. He emphasized that how the process of accreditation of private institutions also has been introduced to inculcate the sense of competitive news. He also informed about the initiation of ranking of institutions by ICAR. Also, highlighted about different fellowship programmes which can aid students for higher education. Finally chairman & co-chairman given their views about the two speakers.

**Technical Session-II** was on *Reforms in knowledge and skill requirement of agricultural Graduate*. This session was chaired by Dr. H.S. Gupta, Co-chaired by Dr. D.L. Maheshwar and moderated by convener Dr. K.K. Saharia. Mr. Lohit Asst. Manager, *e-Yantra* spoke on re-skilling digital India with robotics among the graduate students. He also explained of *e-Yantra* in equipping the undergraduate students with respect is the skill in using robotics in carrying out different agricultural operations including water management. The second speaker Dr. B. G. Mukhopadhyaya, Former CGB, NABARD, spoke on *Knowledge and innovation in agriculture entrepreneurship*. His speech centered on identifying innovations among the students themselves and using it for sensitizing the academic programmes in the Universities to promote entrepreneurship. Dr. Sharad Nimbalkar, former Vice-Chancellor, PDKV, Akola shared his personal experiences as to how to build up knowledge and skill in agriculture. The entire focus was on initializing scientific society in agriculture facilitate agricultures education for the future. At the

end, Dr. S.L. Gupta, Chairman also gave his concluding remarks on how to equip the students with required knowledge and skills to become more competitive.

**Technical Session-III** entitled *Enhancing agricultural productivity, competitiveness and rural growth* comprised four lead lectures. Dr. A.S. Nanda's, the Vice Chancellor of GADVASU, Ludhiana, Punjab talk on Possibilities for Doubling Farmers' Income through Animal Husbandry stressed upon embarking a National Mission on Buffalo and suggested to export the best animal germplasm, and further he extolled to bring middlemen into mainstream to provide pure milk to the people of India. Dr. P. G. Chengappa, the former Vice Chancellor of UAS, Bengaluru, in his talk entitled *Linking Farmers to Markets: Need and Challenges* lamented the fact that the ICT application in agricultural marketing is dismally low, and presently, the *Regulated Markets System* is not working well. He suggested to create *Super Markets* and cautioned that the intermediaries cannot be removed from the process. The lecture of Dr. H. S. Gupta, the former Director of Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, dwelt on the *Strategies We Need to Follow Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security in India*. While ascribing the strategies for increasing food including fruits and vegetables production in the country to (i) a free flow of materials and information, (ii) high yielding varieties, (iii) continued Research and Development Cooperation with United States universities culminating in efficient manpower generation and (iv) joint efforts of scientists, farmers, policy makers, etc. He also outlined the challenges in Indian agriculture. In the session, the last lecture delivered by Dr. R.M. Kummur, the former Chief General Manager of NABARD, Mumbai, was *Enhancement of Agricultural Productivity and Profitability through Watershed, Wadis and FPOs*. By growing vegetables vertically, the productivity and profitability can be increased several times. The government should provide funds for the development of watershed facilities in areas of rain fed in the country. NABARD has supported number of farmers in different areas. Finally chairman & co-chairman gave their views about the speakers. Session III was concluded followed by networking dinner.

## DAY 2

All the dignitaries were travelled from Nagpur to Saikheda for visit to GH Raisoni University facility and experimental field also, interacted with farmers and students. During visit to GHRU facilities dignitaries have visited apiculture, poultry, dairy units, goat farm, crop museum, agronomical and horticultural farms. After a diminutive inspection by the dignitaries; they appreciated the quantum of work done within a shorter days span since, the inception of the university. They also, quoted the areas of improvement like, vocational training sessions for farmers/student's, social activities like seed distribution, tree plantation through *shramadan* by students and faculties, development of organic vegetable and fruit cultivation which can be utilized for hostel residents, integrated farming system, mushroom cultivation, tissue culture laboratory, etc. All agreed on one point that this university should be established as an Independent Agricultural University. With promise to get back in the next edition of NAC-2019 conclave concluded.

