

## ICAR – IIRR Celebrated 3<sup>rd</sup> Foundation Day 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2018

ICAR – Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR) Hyderabad, celebrated ‘‘3<sup>rd</sup> Foundation Day’’ on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2018. Prof.Gummadi Nancharaiah, Emeritus Professor, University of Hyderabad and former Vice Chancellor, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Central University, Lucknow was the Chief Guest for the Function. Prof. P. Anand Kumar, Emeritus Scientist, ICAR – IIRR was the Guest of Honor for the function. The programme started with welcome address by Dr. S.R. Voleti, Director, ICAR – IIRR. Director apprised the participants about the historical progress of the institute from AICRIP to Directorate of Rice Research culminating to the present upgradation to IIRR. Director also highlighted the attainment of two padmasri awards to our earlier Directors Dr.SVS.Shastry and Dr. E.A. Siddique. He also presented the detailed report on the institute activities carried out in the last year. Prof P. Anand kumar highlighted the significant contribution of IIRR in terms of development and release several rice varieties.

The theme for the Foundation Day address was: Agrarian Change and Agrarian Crisis in Rural India: A Perspective. Prof. G. Nancharaiah in his foundation day address highlighted various factors that brought about agriculture change in the country. He opined that the benefit of agricultural technology could not be fully reaped by the farmers of lower strata, tenant farmers and agricultural labourers. He elaborate upon the factors leading to ‘Reverse tenancy’ in India, which is a situation in which small landowners lease land to better-off tenants such as large land owners or agricultural entrepreneurs. He also mentioned the contribution of agricultural exports to the total exports of India. He expressed that the farmer suicides in the country is of a great concern and the land and tenancy reforms could help in averting the farmer suicides.



Four 'Best Research Paper Awards' were conferred to the scientists on this occasion. Dr.M.Sheshu Madhav, Principal Scientist (Crop Improvement), Dr.A.P.Padma Kumari, Principal Scientist (Crop Protection), Dr.B.Sailaja, Principal Scientist (Crop Production) and Dr.B.Nirmala, Senior Scientist (Social Sciences) received the Best Research Paper Awards from the Chief Guest and other dignitaries.



The representatives of local ICAR institutes as well as Institute scientific, administrative and supporting staff participated in the celebrations. The function ended with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. L.V.Subba Rao, Principal Scientist and Head, Plant Breeding section. The program was compeered by Dr.B.Nirmala, Senior Scientist, TTT.