

Hon'ble Vice President of India visited Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad on 31st March 2018

To motivate and inspire agricultural scientists and young ARS probationers, Hon'ble Vice President of India Sri. Venkaiah Naidu visited ICAR Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad on 31st March 2018. He was the chief guest for an interactive meeting conducted to chalk out strategies for Doubling of Farmers Income especially in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Hon'ble Director General ICAR and Secretary DARE Dr. T. Mohapatra and Deputy Director General (CS) Dr. A.K. Singh graced the occasion. Padmasri Sri SVS Sastry, Padmasri Dr EA Siddiq, , Nat. Prof. Dr N. Sarla Vice Chancellor of PJTSAU, Dr V.Praven Rao and Directors of ICAR institutes based in these Telugu speaking states along with 350 ICAR scientists and ARS probationers took part in the meeting. Dr. Ch. Srivasa rao, Director NAARM welcomed the dignitaries and the participants while briefing them about the status of agriculture in both the states.

Dr. Mohapatra elucidated the efforts of ICAR in chalking out location specific and state specific strategies to double the farmers' level. He highlighted the significant achievements of ICAR in post independence era especially in last four years. While giving case studies in agriculture and allied sectors, he emphasized on the need for strengthening collaborations with State Agricultural Universities and other stakeholders to channelize the excellent products available with ICAR institutes to the farmer's fields. He categorically said ICAR technologies would contribute to 20% of the mission of doubling farmer's income where as 35% coming from better price realization, 25% from bridging the yield gaps and 20% from value addition and value chain. He assured the Hon'ble Vice President that no stone will be unturned in realizing the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.



In the Interactive session that followed, Padmasri awardees gave a brief account of strategies that could be adopted to make rice farming profitable. Directors of Indian Institute of Rice Research, Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Indian Institute of Millets Research, Directorate of Poultry, NRC Meat, NBPGR Regional Station, Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research, Agricultural Technology Application and Research Institute and Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture have given detailed account of how they could contribute to the mission of doubling of farmers income and what activities were already undertaken.



In his remarks, Honourable Vice President Sh. Venkaiah Naidu expressed his happiness about the progress made by ICAR Institutes and urged upon the scientific community not to be complacent with the achievements. He was happy about the fact that he hails from Nellore, literally meaning the village of rice, and the place where he stood today was the premier rice research institute of the country. He outlined the significance of agricultural research in the context of today's aspirations of Indian youth. While quoting Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, he said agricultural scientists should aim high and work hard to serve the farmers who are feeding the nation. To make agriculture remunerative and sustainable, we should work on farming systems approach by collating the technologies available with all ICAR institutes. After production we need to focus on strengthening the infrastructure for better storage and preservation. The entire supply chain needs a transformation and affordable and timely credit and insurance will help small and marginal farmers of the country.

He called upon the governments to strengthen eNational Agricultural Markets (eNAM) that will ultimately benefit Indian farmers in realizing better prices. He urged agricultural scientists to spend equal amount of time both in lab and land. He emphasized on harnessing latest digital technologies

in reaching out to farmers with timely knowledge and services. He concluded by saying that a happy farmer make a happy nation.

The event ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. S.R. Voleti, Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad.