

Press Note

Professors' Presentations during 61st Convocation of ICAR-IARI, New Delhi

22.02.2023

The significant achievements of the post-graduate and the doctoral students, who will be conferred degrees in this convocation, were presented by the respective divisional Professors on third day of the week long 61st Convocation (February 20-24, 2023) of ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. There were a total 9 presentations from the School of Horticultural Sciences and Social Sciences.

The welcome address was given by Dr. Anupama Singh, Dean & Joint Director (Edn.), IARI, New Delhi. The chairpersons of the different sessions were introduced by Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, Director, IARI, New Delhi. The sessions were convened by Dr Monika Joshi, Professor, SST, IARI, New Delhi.

The first session was chaired by Dr. Bir Pal Singh, Former Director ICAR-CPRI, Shimla. The School of Horticultural Sciences included discipline wise presentations of Floriculture and landscaping Architecture; Fruit Science; Post-harvest management and Vegetable science. Significant academic research achievements in Floriculture and landscaping Architecture were presented by the professor Prof. Kanwar Pal Singh, under the broad themes of comprehensive research programmes on crop improvement using conventional and biotechnology tools, production in open and protected environments, post-harvest management and value addition, technology dissemination in ornamental crops for the benefit of farming fraternity. Professor Manish Srivastav of Fruit Science highlighted the research findings advancement of horticulture by ushering in the frontiers of knowledge in fruit crops and providing practical solutions to the problems confronting fruit industry. A strong emphasis is given on human resource development for horticultural research through post-graduate teaching in frontline areas in production, breeding, and molecular research on fruit crops.

Prof. Ram Asrey of Post-harvest management discipline highlighted the integration of production with post-harvest management; development of appropriate storage protocols, valorization through processing, development and evaluation of postharvest packages, transfer of technology, consultancy to both public and private sectors.

Prof. R.K. Yadav of Vegetable Science applied and strategic research on improvement of vegetable crops; to impart postgraduate education and training for human resource

development; to disseminate information on recent advances in vegetable crops; to provide advisory and consultancy services on crop and seed production technology and improvement of vegetable crops; to collect, evaluate, purify and preserve the biodiversity material related to different vegetable crops; to utilize the desirable superior genotypes in the breeding programme.

During chairman remarks Dr Bir Pal said that there is need to work on development of rootstocks in fruit varieties. The research should be passed on to the next students like a baton is passed on in relay race to achieve the desired results in development of fruit varieties.

The second session of Social Sciences was conducted under the chairmanship of Dr. V.P.S. Arora former Dean & Vice chancellor, GBPUAT, Pantnagar. The presentations were from the disciplines of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Extension, Agricultural Statistics, Bioinformatics and Computer application. Prof. Alka Singh division of Agricultural Economics focused on farm business analysis, efficient allocation of resources, supply response, input demand analysis and marketing efficiency. Research on capital formation, labor employment, farm mechanization, rural credit needs, yield gap analysis, price policy and subsidy issues, efficient management of natural resources, issues related to national food and nutrition security, efficiency and of agricultural production systems, poverty alleviation, research impact assessment and priority setting, export potential of agri-products, etc. were accorded high priority. Prof. Rabindra Nath Padaria presented the basic and strategic research in the areas of extension education; to carry out post-graduate education programmes; to meet the trained man-power requirements of agricultural universities, research institutes and other development departments; to carry out advanced National and International training programmes to impart knowledge, skills and desired orientation to the persons engaged in teaching, research and transfer of technology so as to improve their efficiency and effectiveness and to selected farmers to enable them to assume the roles of community leaders; to render expertise support and advisory and consultancy services to extension activities of the institute.

Dr. Cini Varghese Professor of Agricultural Statistics emphasised basic and applied research in agricultural statistics which includes designing of experiment and methodologies for analysis of data, planning and organization of agricultural surveys, statistical modelling and agricultural system modelling and statistical genetics for enriching the quality of Agricultural Research.

Dr Alka Arora professor of Bioinformatics presented research work carried out to understand the biological phenomenon through innovative applications of statistics and computer science.

She also presented the significant findings of Computer Application division emphasising the research and application of software development using emerging Information Technologies in Agriculture and allied sectors.

Dr Arora chairman of the session made the remarks that during communication editorial accuracy is very important. He suggested that PG research may focus to develop mobile apps for entrepreneurship development as well as optimization of AI and Machine learning. He emphasized that the PhD research in Agricultural Economic discipline should be policy oriented.

At the end of the session Dr Monika Joshi, Professor SST and Convenor proposed a formal vote of thanks to everyone.

The programme was live-steamed on IARI's you tube channel and can be accessed at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQj0D9yac2A>