

Deputy Director General ICAR New Delhi inaugurated PPV&FRA programme at KVK Jammu



Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Jammu under the aegis of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) today organized One day Training-cum-Awareness programme on Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers Rights Act (PPV&FRA), 2001. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. A.K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Agril. Extension) ICAR, New Delhi in the presence of Prof. Pradeep K. Sharma, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu, Dr. Rajbir Singh, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Ludhiana Zone I, Dr. J.P. Sharma, Director Research, Dr. H.K. Verma, Director Extension, GADVASU, Ludhiana and Dr. R.K. Arora, Associate Director Extension & I/c KVKs.

In his address, Dr. A.K. Singh briefed the farmers about the benefits of PPV&FRA, 2001 for the farming community. He recognised the fact that farmers are engaged in conserving and improving age old varieties of crops and emphasized upon need to make farmers aware about the benefits of the Act. He informed that the Act has several provisions to reward such farmers/group of farmers, who have maintained multiple germplasm of crop varieties. He advised that progressive farmers should make other farmers aware of such issues in order to have holistic awareness about the provisions of PPV&FR Act, 2001.

Prof. Pradeep K. Sharma appreciated the efforts of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jammu for organizing the programme with the active participation of farmers from far flung villages of Jammu & Samba districts. He briefed about the efforts of the university in development of new technologies and also in conserving the available biodiversity. He informed that SKUAST-Jammu is in the process of developing a Gene Bank of all types of crop varieties and requested farmers to submit the germplasm available with them for maintaining the gene pool at University level.

Dr. Rajbir Singh, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Ludhiana elaborated the Distinctiveness, Uniformity and Stability parameters of crops in relation to PPV&FR Act. Dr. R.K. Arora, Associate Director Extension & I/c KVKs thanked the dignitaries for sharing the valuable information to the farmers and explained specific provisions of PPV&FRA, 2001 including identification of desirable characters in traditional crops & varieties, Farmers' Rights, registration process etc.

Dr. Vikas Tandon, Chief Scientist and Head, KVK Jammu formally welcomed the participants in the programme. An exhibition was also organized during the programme, where local varieties/land races of cereals and other crops brought by the local farmers were



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displayed. More than 100 farmers attended the programme and shared their experiences on cultivation of traditional varieties.

A booklet on the provisions of PPV&FRA, 2001 was also released on the occasion, both in Hindi and English language for distribution to the farmers of the district. The guests also unveiled the five-year progress report of KVK Jammu.

The farmers-scientists interaction was carried out by Dr. Puneet Choudhary, Dr. Rakesh Sharma, Dr. Sheetal Badyal, Dr. Vinod Gupta, Dr. Sanjay Khajuria and Dr. Pawan Kumar Sharma.



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