

## CIAE, Bhopal Organized 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ICAR Regional Committee No. VII

The 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of ICAR Regional Committee No. VII was organized by ICAR-Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 to identify issues related to agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and fisheries sector in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Goa, and to provide solutions for those issues.

Hon'ble Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR New Delhi, Dr. Himanshu Pathak inaugurated the meeting in the presence of Shri Ashok Barnwal, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh and the Deputy Director Generals of ICAR. Departmental Secretaries and other senior officers of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry & Fisheries Departments from the States of Chhattisgarh, Goa, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra participated in the meeting. The meeting was also attended by the Vice-chancellors of State Agricultural Universities, Governing Body Members of ICAR, Directors of ICAR institutes and ATARIs of the region.



The inaugural session started with welcome address by Dr. SN Jha, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Engineering) & Nodal Officer, ICAR Regional Committee-VII to the dignitaries and participants. Dr Jha also explained the background of constituting Regional Committees of ICAR in different regions. In his inaugural address, Dr. SK Chaudhary, Deputy Director General (NRM) expressed that this region is rich in agriculture and horticulture with diversified crops. He also stated that the aim of the meeting is to solve the problems faced by farmers of this region. Dr. T.R. Sharma, Deputy Director General (Crop Science) highlighted the achievements regarding crop varieties developed for this region during the last 5 years. He told that the ICAR Regional Committees are a link between ICAR and State Governments for dissemination of the technologies. Dr. RC Agrawal, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education) informed about the agricultural universities, education programmes and achievements under NAHEP in these four states. In his remarks, Dr. JK Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science) mentioned about development of fisheries in the country. He also highlighted on prevalence of disease and other challenges in



fishery and animal sector, and stressed that more collaborative work is needed for disease management. Dr. US Gautam, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension) informed about the status of KVKs in the country as well as in these four states of the region, and how to effectively utilize the resources of KVKs for benefits of the farmers.

Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary, DARE, GoI & Director-General, ICAR, New Delhi in his address, briefed about the objectives

and importance of the regional committee meeting. He explained that the meeting is an occasion where senior officials from central government and state government meet and arrive at solutions to the problems in agriculture and allied sectors in the region. He presented a brief report on achievement and status of the four states in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and fisheries. He also pointed out scopes for further development in crop, livestock and fisheries productions, and challenges to agricultural development in these four states. He also added that such meetings help scientists to reorient their research programmes to address immediate and futuristic problems expressed in the meeting.

Shri Ashok Barnwal, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh in his address stressed that we need to sustain the growth in agriculture in coming years in spite of many challenges. He expressed concern about less number of variety development in horticultural crops compared to cereals and other food-grains. He informed the house that some suitable short duration crops may be suggested for Madhya Pradesh for summer cultivation as an alternative to mung bean. There is also a need to develop standards for natural farming products and to encourage trading of such products.

Dr C.R. Mehta, Director, ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal and Member Secretary presented the action taken report (ATR) on issues raised in 26<sup>th</sup> meeting during the technical session under the chairmanship of Dr. Himanshu Pathak. It had 55 issues out of which 46 were completed and nine were partially completed. The partially completed issues were further discussed for possible solutions.

The ATR presentation was followed by interactive sessions with senior officers from state government Departments of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and fisheries. Commissioner of Agriculture, Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Directors from the Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Horticulture and Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal participated in



the session and raised various issues of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa and Chhattisgarh states. Dr. Pathak pointed out that these issues to be given top priority and necessary action may be taken by concerned institutes/SMD.

Dr. K.P. Singh, Assistant Director General (Farm Engineering) proposed the vote of thanks at the end of the meeting.