

Third Group Meeting of All India Network Project on Vertebrate Pest Management Organized at Hyderabad

Third Group Meeting of All India Network Project on Vertebrate Pest Management, ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur was organized from December 27-28, 2019 at Prof Jaishankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJ TSAU), Hyderabad. The Inaugural Session was graced by Mrs R. Sobha, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head Forest Force, Telangana as Chief Guest. Dr Rajan, Astt Director General (Plant Protection & Biosafety), ICAR, New Delhi and Dr R. Jagdeeshwar, Director of Research, PJ TSAU, Hyderabad were the Guests of Honour. Dr V. Praveen Rao, Vice Chancellor, PJ TSAU, Hyderabad presided over the Inaugural function. The meeting was attended by about 50 delegates from various parts of country.

Dr Rajan, ADG (PP&B) presented the project background highlighting the problem of vertebrate pests and outlining future lines of research in view of the changing scenario. Dr R.S. Tripathi, Network Coordinator presented the Progress Report of the Project. He said that filing of patents, development of new formulations on rodenticides, repellents against rodents and higher animals, initiation of metagenomic studies, technologies of bird, rodent and higher vertebrate technologies, commercialization of bioacoustics and large scale extension programs including capacity building etc are a few major land mark achievements during this period. On this occasion more than 30 publications including technical bulletins, extension brochures, pamphlets and posters were released by the honorable guests.



Smt R. Shobha, PCCF, Telangana State, appreciated the efforts of ICAR in running such a novel program as a National Network devoted to management of vertebrates in agriculture. She outlined that due to faster urbanization and other infrastructural developments across the country, the habitat of wild animals is not only shrinking but also getting degraded, leading to increased problem of wild animals in agriculture. Besides several biotic pressures like free grazing policies, forest fires mostly man made, poaching etc has further accentuated the problem to a much greater extent. Our priority should be manage these animals in crop fields without harming them. She expressed satisfaction that AINP-VPM is working with the same spirit at national level.

Dr Praveen Rao, in his presidential remarks, highlighted the problem of wild animals in agriculture as a 'man- wildlife conflict' and congratulated entire team of AINPVPM for their sincere efforts in developing several technologies and documenting the same and wished that it reaches the



real stake holders. The studies on Vertebrates should be interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and trans-disciplinary. The degradation of forest eco system has disturbed the equilibrium and therefore we should look at entire food web then only all such programs will be meaningful. He suggested that there is a need to study the stakeholder's response for evolving problem solving technologies with ample societal relevance. Two day Group meeting was conducted in various technical sessions, wherein the progress of research was presented by all the centers. In the Plenary Session detailed discussions on recommendation emanating out of the achievements and future technical programmes were finalized. The Meeting ended with vote of thanks proposed by Network coordinator.