

ICAR-AICRP ON PEARL MILLET ORGANIZED 55th VIRTUAL ANNUAL GROUP MEETING ON PEARL MILLET ON APRIL 29, 2020

The 55th Annual Group Meeting of ICAR- AICRP on Pearl Millet was organized through Video Conferencing on April 29, 2020.

Dr. Tilak Raj Sharma, Deputy Director General (Crop Sciences) inaugurated the AGM. He addressed the group through video conferencing and emphasized on carrying out the basic and strategic research to enhance the crops' production, productivity and its sustainability. He also stressed upon prebreeding using the diverse gene pools to develop parental lines with resistance to major pearl millet diseases like blast, downy mildew and rust. He also suggested to explore the possibility of fixation of heterosis using apomixis in pearl millet.

Principal Investigators of different disciplines presented the results of the experiments carried out during 2019-20 and presented the technical programmes for 2020-21. The Programme Advisory and Monitoring committee (Dr. H. Shekhar Shetty, Dr. D.C. Uprety, Dr. M.L. Lodha and Dr. R.K. Pannu) under the chairmanship of Dr. P. Raghava Reddy gave valuable suggestions for betterment of the ICAR- AICRP on Pearl millet.

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & DG (ICAR) was the chief guest of the plenary session. Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Project Coordinator, ICAR-AICRP on Pearl Millet gave an exclusive presentation of the various activities taken up and research conducted during 2019-20. Publications on Pearl Millet were also released during the plenary session. ICAR-AICRP on Pearl Millet presented various awards to best performing centers & scientists in different categories.

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & DG (ICAR) & Dr. Tilak Raj Sharma, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), ICAR New Delhi congratulated all the participants for successfully coordinating the various activities of ICAR-AICRP on Pearl Millet and stated that this online 55th AGM of Pearl Millet, inspite of the lockdown is very successful.

Dr. Vilas A Tonapi, Director, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, Dr. Y.P. Singh, Assistant Director General (FFC), ICAR New Delhi, Dr. Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Director, IIOR, Hyderabad, Dr. V.K. Yadav, Director, IGFRI, Dr. A.K. Roy, Project Coordinator, ICAR-AICRP on Forage Crops also attended the online AGM through Video Conferencing.

Around 100 participants from various parts of the country representing public and private sectors involved in Pearl Millet R&D participated in various sessions of the 55th Annual Group Meeting on Pearl Millet through Video Conferencing.

Dr. Vikas Khandelwal, Senior Scientist (GPB) proposed the formal vote of thanks.



