

ICAR-AICRP ON PEARL MILLET ORGANIZED 56th VIRTUAL ANNUAL GROUP MEETING ON PEARL MILLET ON MARCH 22-23, 2021

56th Annual Group Meeting on Pearl Millet was organized through Video Conferencing on 22-23, March 2021.

Dr. T.R. Sharma, DDG (CS), ICAR, New Delhi was the Chairman and addressed the Plenary Session through Video Conferencing. Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Project Coordinator ICAR-AICRP on Pearl Millet, Jodhpur extended a very warm welcome to the Chairman, all dignitaries, invitees and participants of the annual group meet. In the plenary address, Dr. T.R. Sharma stressed that product profiles should be prepared for different agro ecologies. Pearl millet breeding programmes should work as per the product profiles and plan their crossing programmes with clear objectives.

Dr. Y.P. Singh, ADG (FFC), ICAR, New Delhi, appreciated the efforts and suggested that SOP should be followed for plant protection experiments. Dr. Tonapi, IIMR, Hyderabad in his remarks emphasized on sharing of parental lines and improvement in the programme for developing better hybrids.

Dr. Raghav Reddy, Chairman, PAMC appreciated the research work and presentation made under various sessions. He suggested to look into the narrow genetic base and identify diverse lines in the germplasm stock available in ICRISAT and NBPGR. Dr. R.K. Pannu suggested for collecting experimental site weather data, soil physico-chemical parameters and study them in detail for their effect on crop performance. Dr. Shekar Shetty in his remarks said about the five most important diseases of pearl millet. Dr. M.L. Lodha in his remarks appreciated the performance of the centres and emphasized on quality publication. Dr. Upreti in his remarks suggested to record metrological data related to change in weather conditions in association to diseases and pest and suggested analysis of large volumes of data available at PC unit.

Dr. C. Tara Satyavathi, Project Coordinator, ICAR-AICRP on Pearl Millet gave an exclusive presentation of the research conducted during 2020-21. ICAR-AICRP on Pearl Millet. Awards were presented to best performing centers & scientists in different categories. Various publications on Pearl Millet were released and retiring scientist were felicitated.

The results of the research activities taken up and progress report during the past year was discussed, reviewed and future technical programme for the coming year was finalized in the technical sessions.

A special technical session on New initiatives in Pearl millet research was held in which latest advances in research related to pearl millet rancidity, genetic gains, material and technology development for arid regions and digitalization/database development in pearl millet were presented. This initiative was highly appreciated.

Around 170 participants from various parts of the country representing both public and private sectors involved in Pearl Millet R&D participated in various sessions of the 56th Annual Group Meeting on Pearl Millet through Video Conferencing.

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

