



## **"Awareness Programme on PPV & FR Act, Fruit Diversity Show and Field Day on Mangosteen and Rambutan" held at CHES, Chettalli on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024.**



The Society for Promotion of High-Value Exotic Horticultural Crops, Central Horticultural Experiment Station (ICAR-IIHR), Chettalli, in collaboration with the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA), organized an "Awareness Programme on the PPV&FR Act, Fruit Diversity Show, and Field Day on Mangosteen and Rambutan" on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at CHES-



Chettalli. Dr. T. Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPVFRA was the Chief Guest on this programme and Dr. T.K. Behera, Director, IIHR, Bengaluru presided over the proceedings. The scientist and experts who took part in the programme included Dr. Sankaran, M., Principal Scientist & Head, Div. Fruit Crops; Dr. Naveen Kumar, P., Principal Scientist & Head, Div. of Flower and Medicinal Crops; Dr. Sreenivasa Rao E., Principal Scientist; Dr. T.H. Singh, Principal Scientist; Dr. Vasugi, C., Principal Scientist; Dr. Karunakaran, G., Principal Scientist; Dr. Sumangala H.P., Principal Scientist; Dr. Abirami, K., Principal Scientist; and Dr. Sridhar Gutam, Principal Scientist, all from IIHR, Bengaluru; Dr. Muralidhara B.M., Scientist, CHES-Chettalli; Dr. Rani A.T., Scientist, CHES-Chettalli; Mr. Prabhakara, B., Head & SMS, KVK, Gonikoppa; Mr. Bose Mandanna, Progressive planter; Mr. Ravishankar, B.P., Progressive planter; and Mr. Poonacha, N.N., Progressive planter.

The meeting commenced with a field visit and an avocado planting ceremony, led by the Director of ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, along with distinguished guests. The first



plant of the Avocado reference collection garden was planted by the Chief Guest Dr. T. Mohapatra. This was followed by an exhibition featuring a wide range of exotic and wild fruit crops, including varieties of rambutan, mangosteen, avocado, etc.. Over 38 farmers from the region

showcased their traditional and exotic fruit germplasm and more than 300 participants witnessed demonstrations on the cultivation practices of these high-value crops, emphasizing the importance of sustainable horticultural practices and the conservation of diverse fruit crop plant varieties. It was worth noting that Ms. Maithreye MS, pursuing MBA degree, who is from the village Nariyandada of Madikeri Taluk, South Coorg , Karnataka, explained the fruit crop diversity in her farmer's field, being herself involved in the conservation of a variety of local & exotic fruit crops.



Dr. Sankaran M., Principal Scientist & Head, Div. Fruit Crops, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru,

delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the role of CHES-Chettalli in advancing horticultural innovations, particularly with respect to fruit crops like mangosteen and rambutan, which are gaining significance in India. Shri Bose Mandanna, Progressive planter, highlighted the need for farmers to diversify their farms with traditional and exotic fruits, especially in the context of climate change. He also stressed the



importance of forming Farmers' Producer Organisations (FPOs) to better market their produce and increase farm income.



Prof. T.K. Behera, Director, ICAR-IIHR addressed the gathering, focusing on the critical importance of farmers' rights and the necessity of conserving and promoting plant varieties. This was followed by the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with Shloka

Agro Pvt. Ltd. for the licensing of the rambutan variety Arka Coorg Arun, and the release of farmers' varieties of jackfruit – Harigold and Thirumala.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Chairperson of the PPV&FR Authority, delivered an insightful address on the significance of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, particularly in safeguarding the intellectual property rights of farmers and ensuring their fair share of benefits through well-defined



Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism. He underscored the need for active participation by farmers and young students in the conservation of biodiversity.



Extension folders on the cultivation of rambutan and mangosteen were released during the event, followed by the felicitation of progressive farmers

who have made notable contributions to the cultivation and promotion of wild native and high-value fruit crops.

In the technical session, Dr. Vasugi C., Principal Scientist, provided insights into the PPV&FR Act, while Dr. Muralidhara B.M., discussed the production technology of mangosteen and rambutan. The day concluded with a productive interaction between farmers and scientists, where challenges were addressed, knowledge was shared, and expert



advice was offered on the cultivation of exotic horticultural crops. The best exhibits by farmers were recognized with cash prizes, awards, and certificates.

**The following recommendations emerged during the meeting:**

1. Conservation of wild and native fruit species from the Western Ghats, along with exotic high-value fruits from humid tropical regions, should be prioritized, including the establishment of field gene banks for these crops.
2. Morphological and biochemical characterization of the germplasm of rambutan, avocado, and other minor fruit crops should be undertaken to identify unique germplasm.
3. Steps should be taken to document landraces and heirloom varieties from the Western Ghats.
4. Development of DUS (Distinctness, Uniformity, and Stability) testing guidelines for rambutan is necessary.
5. Farmers should be encouraged to submit applications for the registration of plant varieties under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR)
6. Act, as well as to apply for awards under various categories.
7. Efforts should be made to educate school and college students about the importance of biodiversity and the bio-economy.

