



Awareness and sensitization programme on PPVFR Act 2001, conservation and registration of farmer's varieties and Farmers' rights, & exhibition at ICAR, KVK, Kottayam



An awareness programme for sensitizing farmers and officials of KVKs from Kerala, Karnataka and Lakshadweep on Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act 2001 was organized by ICAR-ATARI Bangalore in association with the IPR, Cell, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala at Kottayam on 14th October, 2023. The program was inaugurated by lighting of lamps by Dr. T Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPVFR Authority, Government of India New Delhi and the Dignitaries present on the occasion. Dr. Venkatasubramanian, Director, ATARI, Bengaluru welcomed the gathering and briefed about the need to conserve, protect and register plant genetic resources of the country. Dr. Dinesh Kumar



Agarwal, Registrar-General, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority, Government of India, New Delhi described the activities of PPVFR Act. He informed that out of 18192 applications received for registration under PPVFRA, 60% are farmers' varieties. He opined that KVKs can help characterization of genetic resources

and mapping of farmers' varieties in each District. Further KVKs and even the FPOs can facilitate multiplication of seeds of the valuable protected varieties and supply to the farmers. In his address, Dr. V K Singh, Director CRIDA, Hyderabad said that given the climatic constraints, Indian Agriculture should take advantage of the wide variation in genetic resources as available in Western Ghats. Organic cultivation of high value local variation has high potential for carbon sequestration and for making the farm climate resilient. In this context, PPVFRA and NICRA have common goals.

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority, Government of India, New Delhi in his inaugural address stated that farmers of the country have unique collection of germplasm that are very useful under climate change. He appreciated the role played by KVKs in protecting the genetic wealth available with the farmers and supporting them for getting it registered. He emphasized on building value chains



and linking farmer's varieties to markets for higher returns. Around twenty selected farmers were honored for their contribution in conserving, protecting and cultivating indigenous crop varieties. Dr. Jacob John, Director of Extension, KAU, Trissur proposed the vote of thanks and further assured to conduct workshop for scientists and farmers



on protection of plant varieties and farmers rights. The technical session was chaired by Dr. Jacob John. Dr. Ravi Prakash, Technical consultant, PPVFRA and Dr. Elsy, C. R, former in-charge of IPR cell of Kerala Agriculture University detailed the PPVFR Act 2001 and elaborated the guidelines for registering farmers varieties. An exhibition on indigenous plant varieties, seeds and planting material, and value added products from Karnataka and Kerala was also arranged.



Around forty-eight scientists from KVKs of Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep and more than thirty farmers from the state of Kerala participated in the programme.

