



Meeting for collaboration between Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority and National Innovation Foundation-India held at Plant Authority Bhawan New Delhi on 14.10.24



A meeting was convened under the Chairmanship of Dr. T. Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPVFRA to discuss about the collaboration between Protection of Plant Varieties and farmers' Rights Authority and National Innovation Foundation (NIF) - India at Plant Authority Bhawan, New Delhi on 14.10.24. Dr Arvind C Ranade, Director and Dr. Hardev Choudhary, Scientist-E, from NIF were present. Dr. Dinesh K Agarwal,



Registrar-General, Shri Dipal Choudhury, Joint Registrar, Shri Uma Kant Dubey, Deputy Registrar, Dr. A.K. Singh, Plant Variety Examiner, Shri D.S. Pania, Technical Assistant and Dr. Ravi Prakash, Technical Consultant from PPVFRA participated in the meeting. Discussion started with the welcome to the chair and participants from both the side. Dr. T. Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPVFRA in his opening remarks thanked Dr. Ranade for proposing the meeting and visiting the authority office. He highlighted the importance of innovation in varietal development and role of farmers in conservation of plant genetic resources. He appreciated the efforts of NIF in facilitating farmers to register their varieties. Dr. Dinesh K Agarwal, Registrar-General, in his remarks thanked NIF for forwarding application for protection of Farmers' varieties under the PPVFR Act, 2001 and assured faster registration and issuance of certificate. Dr Arvind C Ranade, Director, NIF in his remarks thanked the Chairperson, PPVFRA for accepting his request for the meeting and highlighted various points for the collaboration between both the organisations. Dr. Hardev Choudhary, Scientist-E, NIF made a presentation on crop varieties specially vegetable crops such as brinjal, cauliflower, carrot, onion, potato, sweet potato, turmeric and Zinger; fruit crops namely apple, guava, grapes and mango, and cereals crops including wheat, rice, sorghum etc. Innovated by the farmers and facilitated by NIF for their registration with the PPVFRA. He indicated the difficulties

for submission of application through agricultural university and requested the Authority to accept the farmers' applications directly for registration.



Dr Choudhary presented the following points as areas of possible collaboration between PPVFRA and NIF;

❖ NIF could be recognised for endorsing farmers' plant variety applications based on field verification and test reports for

registration at PPV&FRA.

- ❖ A mechanism to be developed to utilise testing reports generated by NIF through state / central agricultural universities to expedite the registration process, thereby saving time, efforts, and resources.
- ❖ NIF could take the lead in developing suitable testing protocols for farmers' plant varieties that have been identified and field verified by NIF, particularly for crops that are not yet notified by PPVFRA.
- ❖ For perennial crops such as fruits, spices and medicinal plants, a mechanism to be established for on-sight evaluation of farmers varieties in collaboration between PPVFRA and NIF before submitting registration applications.
- ❖ Capacity-Building workshop to be organised for farmers' who's varieties have been registered, focusing on assessing commercial potential, quality seed production and understanding seed regulation.
- ❖ Jointly, PPVFRA and NIF may explore involvement of respective state seeds corporations in commercialising registered farmers varieties specific to local conditions.
- ❖ Collaboration with ICAR-AICRP is required for conducting multi-location trials of registered plant varieties having potential commercial value.

After detailed discussion on the above points, it was decided that an MoU will be signed between PPVFRA and NIF for the agreed points to work together in respect of registration of farmers' varieties and capacity building programme. Sharing the details of the farmers varieties registered through NIF which have been successfully branded and commercialized already was requested for proper documentation by PPVFRA.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks one and all.