



Training-cum-Awareness Programme on PPV&FR Act, 2001 organized at GBPUAT, Pantnagar on 25th July, 2023.



A Training cum Awareness Programme on “Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Right Act 2001” was organized jointly by G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar and Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Right Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India on 25-07-2023 at Dr. Ratan Singh Auditorium, College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, GBPUAT, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand for the farmers, students and faculty members. Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPV&FRA, Former Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, New Delhi graced the occasion as the chief guest. The programme was presided by Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Manmohan Singh Chauhan in the presence of Dr. Parvinder Kaushal, Vice-Chancellor, VCSG-UUHF, Bharsar as Special Guest; Dr. Lakshmi Kant, Director, VPKAS, Almora, Sri Umakant Dubey, Deputy Registrar, PPV&FRA, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director, Uttarakhand Council of Biotechnology, Haldi, Uttarakhand, Dr. Mamta Arya, Officer Incharge, ICAR-NBPGR Regional Centre, Bhowali, Deans and Directors of the University, faculties, staff and students of different colleges, and farmers from hills and plains of Uttarakhand.



Dr. J.P. Jaiswal, Director, Extension Education & SAMETI, Uttarakhand delivered the welcome address and gave a brief account of PPV&FRA’s historical background, purpose and the most likely benefits of the Act. He discussed about unique land races of Uttarakhand available with the hilly area farmers, their preservation and finally registration under PPV&FRA norms.

The chief guest discussed briefly about the rights of farmers and plant breeders. He described about the functioning of authority, registration criteria, method of registration, honours and awards etc. He highlighted the importance of registration of high yielding and climate resilient varieties with PPVFRA.





Dr. Parvinder Kaushal, Vice-Chancellor, VCSG-UUHF, Bharsar emphasized upon the use of diverse crops suitable to the region and solar fencing to protect the crop against wild animals. Furthermore, he suggested farmers to adopt high density apple orchard and use of Lantana weeds in the preparation of quality manure.

Dr. Manmohan Singh Chauhan, Vice-Chancellor, GBPUAT, Pantnagar, in his presidential address mentioned about the peculiar problems of hill agriculture i.e. rainfed agriculture, small and fragmented land holdings, vulnerability to natural calamities, least adoption of improved agricultural technologies etc. He emphasized that KVK scientists should make regular visit to the farmers' field and give appropriate solutions. He also suggested farmers to visit nearby KVK and other research centres for their effective exposure and knowledge enrichment.



In the technical session, Sri Umakant Dubey, Deputy Registrar, PPV&FRA presented an overview of the PPV&FR Act 2001 for the benefit of the farmers and scientists. He described various provisions in the Act, which protects the rights of the plant breeders as well as the farmers. He informed that 5276 registration certificates have been issued till date. DUS testing guidelines for 189 crop species have been completed. Authority has conferred 35 Community Plant Genome Saviour Awards, 51 Plant Genome Saviour Farmers rewards each and 80 Plant Genome Saviour Farmers recognition. He highlighted in detail different provisions

regarding Farmers Rights.

The training cum awareness programme was attended by >200 participants comprising of farmers, FPOs, SHGs, Government officials, scientists, students, faculty members etc. A number of issues were raised by the farmers viz., problem of irrigation in the hills, availability of seeds of millets etc. which were appropriately addressed. A representative of a Farmer Producer Organisation wanted seeds of white finger millet, which is being preferred by the consumers. Dr Lakshmi Kant, Director, VPKAS, Almora promised to provide the required quantity of their white ragi variety. Scientists of KVKs participated in the discussion and described their experience in providing solutions. The way forward for registration and commercialization of short grained aromatic rice varieties and a black rice variety being maintained by the



farmers was discussed in detail. It was agreed that the university will take necessary steps on these issues. Given that there is a lack of awareness about the Act and its provisions, particularly among farmers, the heads/scientists of KVK wanted conducting such programs in every KVK. The issue was discussed in detail and it was decided that PPVFRA will arrange for training of the trainers of KVKs so that they

can organise such training/awareness programs for farmers at their level.
