

ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi celebrated its Foundation Day on 1st April 2023 in BP Pal auditorium in the august presence of scientists, staff, students and farmers from different clusters associated with SCSP program. Dr Himanshu Pathak, Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR and speaker of the session graced the occasion as the Chief Guest of the function. Dr HS Gupta, Former Director, IARI and Dr RB Singh, Former Director, IARI and Former Chairman ASRB were also present as the Guest of Honour and Chairman of the session, respectively. At the outset Dr AK Singh, Director, IARI welcomed all the dignitaries on and off the dais along with staff, students and farmers who joined the program through offline and online mode. On the occasion, Dr AK Singh informed about the different programme organized by the Institute to celebrate the Foundation Day of the Institute. He also briefed about significant research activities of the Institute in the year 2022-23 carried out by the Institute for the benefit of different stakeholders. A short film was then played to give a glimpse of efforts, achievements and various activities of the Institute held for the staff, students and stakeholders at different occasions during the year. After it, the farmers from the clusters of SCSP program shared their views and experience regarding different activities being held at village level after being associated with the Institute under the leadership of the Director, Dr AK Singh. Then the Guest of Honour Dr HS Gupta, Former Director IARI shared his experiences during his association with the Institute, He highlighted the challenges being faced by Indian agriculture in the present scenario. .

It was followed by the formal introduction of the Chief Guest and speaker of the session Dr Himanshu Pathak, Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR by Dr RB Singh, Former Director, IARI and Chairman of the session. Dr Himanshu Pathak delivered the Foundation Day Lecture on "Indian Agriculture in the Amrit Kaal- Initiatives of ICAR". In his address, he pointed out the challenges faced by Indian agriculture as decreasing water availability, degrading soil, increasing pests and diseases, climate change and changing aspirations. He highlighted the projections and targets to be achieved in future in the field of agriculture. He mentioned about the initiatives for resilient, secondary and digital agriculture in the field of modern agriculture along with its integration with traditional knowledge to achieve maximum benefits. He said that to address the multiple and frequent challenges in agriculture ICAR has taken many initiatives. It included certifying production and protection of technologies, rightsizing ICAR and improving governance, revitalizing ASRB, collaboration with industry and global organization amongst many. He finished his lecture with the vision to develop new roadmap for development which will be climate friendly and in which developing countries will play crucial role with the approach of low carbon, nitrogen, water and energy and integration of rural and urban youth equipped with new skills.

After the lecture, dignitaries on the dais released publication developed by the Genetics, Agricultural Chemicals, Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry and Microbiology divisions of the Institute. It was followed by felicitation the students of different schools who won prizes in different competitions held from 27 to 29 March 2023 in lieu of Foundation Day Celebration of the Institute. Then PG students were also felicitated by the Chief Guest for winning the competitions organized for them. On this occasion, the technical, administrative staff and supporting were also felicitated by the dignitaries for their contributions towards the growth of the Institute. The team of Pusa Samachar of the Institute was also felicitated by the Chief Guest. After prize distribution, the guests of the function on the dais were felicitated by Director, IARI with the mementos.

The program ended with the formal vote of thanks by Dr RN Padaria, Joint Director (Extension), ICAR-IARI, New Delhi to all for the successful organization of the function.





