**Farm Innovators Meet 2018 at ICAR-ATARI Kolkata**

A Farm Innovators Meet was organized on 24.03.18 at ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Kolkata. Innovative farmers from Odisha and West Bengal participated in this Meet with their innovations. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. S. S. Singh, Director ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata. The Meet was also attended by Dr. K. K. Satapathy, Former Director, NIRJAFT and Dr. D. C. Nayak, Head NBSS&LUP Regional Station, Kolkata. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. P. P. Pal, Principal Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata where he elaborated the basic purpose of the Meet, types of innovations brought by the farmers and importance of such innovations in reducing the cost of cultivation in agriculture. Dr. D. C. Nayak observed that farmer-scientist interaction is the essence of agricultural development process and such meet fosters the interaction process. Dr. K. K. Satapathy laid emphasis on the cross learning between farmers and scientists. He stated that work in partnership was the need of the hour for better dissemination of technologies in the farmers’ field. Dr. S. S. Singh, Director ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata while inaugurating the Meet appreciated the farmers’ zeal towards flocking in good number. He observed that organizing such Meet is of immense importance in knowing the farmers innovative activities towards a better and drudgery free agricultural practices. He also elaborated on the importance of innovations towards doubling farmers’ income as it reduce the cost of cultivation, drudgery and improve processing and value addition. He stressed on developing a marketing strategy to channelize the innovations for wider use by the farming community. At the end, all the participating innovators were provided with participation certificate in recognition to their hard efforts in displaying various innovations in the form of farm tools, implements, organic and bio-pesticides, innovative shed net, off-season vegetable cultivation and various process demonstrations. Altogether 28 farm innovators took part in the Meet. The innovative farmers demonstrated their innovations in the stall and interacted with visitors, scientists, KVK personnel and fellow farmers. Local media namely Dainik Jagaran and Bartaman newspaper covered the occasion on this day.

Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. F. H. Rahman, Principal Scientist, ICAR- ATARI, Kolkata.



