**Annual Zonal Workshop of ICAR-ATARI Kolkata KVKs held through videoconferencing at ICAR-ATARI Kolkata on July 1-2, 2020**

A 2-day long virtual Annual Zonal Workshop for 59 KVKs of ICAR-ATARI Kolkata consisting of the states of Odisha, West Bengal and Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands was held at ICAR-ATARI Kolkata on 01-02.07.2020. The workshop was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Minister of State for Agriculture &FW, Sh Kailash Chaudhary in the presence of Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR, Dr. T. Mohapatra; DDG (AE), Dr. A. K. Singh; Vice-Chancellors of Universities; Directors of ATARIs; Dean and Directors of Extension Education. Scientists from ATARI Kolkata, Senior Scientists and Heads of 59 KVKs and other staff from ATARI Kolkata were also present online. After a brief welcome, Dr. S.K. Roy, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata presented the achievements of this zone during last one year.

In his inaugural address, Sh. K. Chaudhary appreciated the performance of different activities of KVKs during COVID-19 Pandemic situation. He highlighted the importance and the guidelines to form of FPOs in every district for the benefit of farmers and the role of KVKs on that issue. Sh. Chaudhary urged upon ‘*One district one crop*’, ‘*Per drop more crop*’, ‘*Farmer FIRST Programme*’, replication of climate resilient technologies in climate vulnerable districts, developing IFS and cultivating medicinal plants in KVKs and villages, contract farming, Doubling Farmers Income etc. He advised the scientists of KVKs to be a part of ‘*Atmanirbhor Bharat*’ mission and to further increase the linkage with farming community.

Dr. T. Mohapatra pointed out that KVKs did excellent job in communicating advisories to the farmers during harvesting their crops under COVID-19 pandemics in different languages. He also focused on the developing integrated farming systems particularly role of horticultural crops, developing and using highly saline and deserted lands for agricultural production, adopting villages by KVKs w.r.t. doubling farmers income by the year 2022.

Dr. A.K. Singh emphasized upon the development of agro-tourism in KVKs, harnessing fish production in the state of Odisha and West Bengal, quality seed and planting materials production, processing, value addition and marketing. He also urged about the successful implementation of Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan in the zone.

Some publications like ‘*Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan: Towards agricultural development in Aspirational districts*’, ‘*Inspiring farmers through Farmer FIRST*’, ‘*ICAR-ATARI Kolkata News*’, ‘*NICRA Newsletter*’ etc. were released during the occasion.

The Director of ATARI-Jabalpur, Kanpur and Patna; Vice Chancellor of OUAT-Bhubaneswar, UBKV-Pundibari, RKMVERI, Belur Math; Dean and Directors of Extension Education from Odisha, West Bengal and RLBCAU, Jhansi also shared their views online.

Later, three concurrent Technical Sessions were on wherein all the KVKs presented their achievements during 2019-20 and Action Plan for 2020-21 online followed by a valedictory session in the last day under the Chairmanship of Dr. Randhir Singh, ADG(AE).

 

 