

## High level FPOs-FPCs-Farmers' Meet Chaired by the Hon'ble Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR

*April 7, 2023:* The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Jalpaiguri organized a program involving 155 farm men and women including the members of different FPOs, FPCs and SHGs under the patronage of ICAR- Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Kolkata and West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences (WBUAFS), Kolkata and on 7th April, 2023 at KVK Campus, Jalpaiguri, North Bengal to celebrate the 'Golden Jubilee Year of KVKs'. The Hon'ble MP of Jalpaiguri District, Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy praised the activities of KVK and urged for quality seed production and the need of infrastructure facilities like multipurpose cold storage facilities for the region to mitigate the problems of surplus production and forced selling of vegetables and other agriculture products. The Hon'ble Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, Dr. Himanshu Pathak shared his vision for sustainable agriculture development and better adoption of area specific modern technologies by the farmers through KVK extension network. He mentioned that such assembly of Policy makers-Scientists-FPOs-FPCs-farmers could be very important for agricultural development. He suggested low-cost environment-friendly zero energy cool chamber in the region to avoid distress selling of commodities by the farmers. The Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata, Dr. P. Dey outlined the importance of KVK activities for socio-economic development of the small and marginal farmers through undertaking various collaborative activities with the line departments in the convergent mode. He emphasised about the importance of FPOs/FPCs to achieve the scale of production as per market demand and thereby attracting the market towards farmers' doorstep. The certificates of appreciation and mementos were given by the Hon'ble guests to the lead farmers, FPOs, FPCs and SHGs members for their outstanding performance in different sectors of agriculture and allied disciplines. Earlier, the program began with the welcoming address by Dr. N. J. Maitra, Deputy Director of Research, Extension and Farm, WBUAFS, Kolkata and a brief presentation by the Senior Scientist and Head of KVK, Jalpaiguri, Dr. B. Das on various activities of KVK done for the benefits of the farming communities of Jalpaiguri district. The occasion was also attended by Dr. A. K. Sit, Pr. Scientist & OIC, ICAR- CPCRI, Jalpaiguri, along with the officials from other KVKs. On the auspicious occasion, the Hon'ble MP; Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR; Director and ICAR-ATARI Kolkata visited the KVK farm and different demonstration units accompanied by all the staff of KVK along with others and they appreciated the KVK works.

