

# Foundation Day Celebration of ICAR-ATARI Kolkata

*9<sup>th</sup> August 2023, Kolkata*

ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Kolkata celebrated its Foundation Day here today. The programme started with ICAR song and watering of sacred plant followed by Vedic chanting; a discussion on Extension Approaches for 'Amrit Kaal' was also organised on the occasion.

Chief Guest of the programme Swami Atmapriyananda Maharaj Ji, Pro-Chancellor, RKMVERI, Belur Math encouraged all to work as a team for bringing synergy between ATARI-University-KVKs to carry out extension, teaching and research activities simultaneously. He emphasized that in this century skill is important along with a degree. He said that agriculture is not limited to any one subject. There are many innovative farmers who excel despite not having degrees in agriculture-related fields. He emphasised the concept of translational research in order to deliver more pertinent, useful innovation that directly address the "One Health" concept, the interdependent soil-plant-animal-human health.

Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata welcomed the guests and briefed about the Extension Approaches for 'Amrit Kaal' wherein KVKs will serve as a change catalyst and convergence hub for Indian agriculture to link Farm-Farmer-Farming in agro-ecosystem scale. He also stressed the need of KVK to serve as district agri-tech epicentre and ensure technology dissemination. While presenting the progress, he told that ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata is helping to harness the demographic dividend through ARYA, climatic resilience through NICRA, soil health through Soil Health Card, cereal system sustainability through CSISA, protein security through CFLD Pulses, yellow revolution through CFLD Oilseeds and precision farming through Agri-Drone. He mentioned that ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata through its KVKs is marching towards the nature friendly agriculture through Natural Farming, building capacity in the Aspirational districts through Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan (KKA), facilitating farm innovation through Farmer FIRST Project, skill development through training under ASCI, farmer-scientist interaction through MGMG, reaching the unreached and serving the unserved through STC/TSP and SCSP schemes.

Guests of Honour Dr. G. Kar, Director, ICAR-CRIJAF Barrackpore and Dr. D. B. Shakyawar, Director, ICAR-NINFET Tollygunge also addressed on the occasion. Dr. Kar discussed about the challenges of reducing quality of food, water and land resource as well as manpower. He highlighted the organized systematic planning starting from seed production to value addition and bio fortification of jute and allied fibres. Dr. Shakyawar highlighted the

route of technology dissemination and activities related to farmer oriented technology. He focused on the use of fibre bags considering the global concern of single use plastic bags.

Products from FPCs/FPOs supported by KVKs, publication and Institute video documentary were released during the occasion. Representatives of FPCs/FPOs were felicitated during the occasion.

The programme was anchored by Dr. P.P. Pal, Principal Scientist, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata and in the end vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. A. Halder, Principal Scientist, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata.

