

SUMMARY OF AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON NCS-TCP AT KOLKATA

Awareness Programme on NCS-TCP for West Bengal and Eastern Region was organized on June 10, 2016 at Floatel, 9/10 Kolkata Jetty, Opposite SBI Head Quarters, Eastern Region, Strand Road, Kolkata.

A total of **71 persons** from various segments attended this programme as listed below:

- Official from State Agriculture/Horticulture/
Biotech Department: 18
- Representatives of tissue culture
companies: 23
- Entrepreneurs: 5
- Progressive farmers: 9
- Officials from Institutions: 7
- Speakers/Experts of NCS-TCP and organizers: 9

The programme started with a welcome address by **Dr. Purnima Sharma**, Managing Director, Biotech Consortium India Limited. **Dr. Sanjeev Chopra**, IAS Additional Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal Department of Agriculture delivered the special address and highlighted the potential of tissue culture technology in development of agriculture and horticulture in the region. The programme was inaugurated by **Dr. Renu Swarup**, Senior Adviser and Scientist H, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. Dr. Swarup informed the gathering about the background of establishing NCS-TCP and its role in distribution of quality tissue culture plants to farmers in the country. **Dr. Shiv Kant Shukla**, Assistant General Manager proposed the vote of thanks.

Interaction was held with representatives of tissue culture companies and farmers from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. Industry appreciated the role of NCS-TCP in strengthening their capacity. They also raised concern over non-availability of ammonium nitrate, which is major ingredient of tissue culture media, difficulty in sending samples to Accredited Test Laboratories, need of certified stock culture etc.

Presentation on Overview of NCS-TCP and the importance of certification of tissue culture plants was delivered by **Dr. Shiv Kant Shukla**, Assistant General Manager, BCIL. **Dr. V. K. Baranwal** Principal Scientist, IARI, New Delhi & Member Accreditation Panel of NCS-TCP delivered presentation on Mechanism of Recognition and Renewal of Tissue Culture: Production Facilities/ Hardening facilities. Presentation on Procedure of testing & certification, procedures under SOPs was delivered by **Dr. Sanjeev Kumar**, Coordinator, Accredited Test Laboratory, ICAR- Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow. **Mr. Shnehasis Koley**, Technical Director, Sristi Agro Biotech Pvt Ltd, West Bengal-a Recognized company under NCS-TCP delivered presentation on Recognition under NCS-TCP: A perspective of tissue. **Dr. T. J. Jana**, progressive grower of tissue culture plants delivered presentation on Cultivation of tissue culture plants: Certified Vs Non-certified.

Interactive session with the stakeholders including State Government, Tissue Culture Companies and farmers was chaired by **Dr. Vibha Dhawan**, Distinguished Fellow and Senior Director, The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi and Expert Member, Accreditation Panel of NCS-TCP. **Dr. Manoj Kumar Modi**, Scientist-D, Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi; **Dr. Shiv Kant Shukla**, Assistant General Manager, Biotech Consortium India Limited, New Delhi; **Dr. V. K. Baranwal**, Coordinator, Referral Centre for Virus Indexing at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; **Dr. Amol U. Solanke**, Project Investigator, Referral Centre for Genetic Fidelity at National Research Center for Plant Biotechnology (NRCPB), New Delhi, **Dr. Sanjeev Kumar**, Coordinator, Accredited Test Laboratory (ATL) at ICAR- Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow; **Dr. Samarendra Nath Khara**, Deputy Director of Horticulture, South 24 Paraganas, Government of West Bengal and **Shri A. K. Lahiri**, Joint Director of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal are the panellist for answering any queries of the participant.



Lighting of the auspicious lamp in the inaugural session



Dr. Renu Swarup, Senior Adviser and Scientist H, DBT delivering the inaugural address



Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal Department of Agriculture



Participants of the programme



Companies interacting with experts/ panel during the Interactive session



Panel discussion in the Interactive session