

ICAR – IIRR Celebrated 7th Foundation Day on December 18, 2021

ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (ICAR-IIRR) celebrated its 7th foundation Day on 18th December 2021. Dr. R.M. Sundaram, Director, ICAR-IIRR gave a brief update of research achievements of the Institute and mentioned that nine, trait-added rice varieties have been developed by the Institute in the year 2021. The chief guest, Dr. T R Sharma, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi delivered the Padma Shri Dr. SVS Shastri Memorial Lecture on the topic “Rice Improvement: New Breeding Technologies”. He has emphasised how rice breeding has transformed over the last 65 years starting from conventional breeding, molecular breeding, GM rice and presently focussing on gene-editing techniques in order to increase yield, nutritional quality, resistance against biotic and abiotic stresses in rice. He gave an account of the rice varieties developed and released using the modern tool of molecular marker-assisted breeding and appreciated the contribution of ICAR-IIRR in this regard. He requested the rice scientists to reorient their approach and strategies by deploying cutting edge technologies to address the existing and emerging problems in the rice sector.

The Guest of Honour of this function, Dr V. Praveen Rao, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad highlighted the role of water saving technologies in rice cultivation. The Guest of Honour Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Director, ICAR-National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management, Baramati, Maharashtra urged the scientists to focus on enhancing nutrient use efficiency in rice through adoption of various agro-technologies.

Dr. B N. Singh, former Director, ICAR-National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, Odisha emphasized the need to reorient rice breeding in the country. Dr K Krishnaiah (former Director, ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad) mentioned that modern scientific tools should be deployed for solving the recalcitrant problems in rice as demonstrated by Dr SVS during the green revolution era.

The retired Directors, Scientists, technical, administrative and supporting staff of ICAR-IIRR were felicitated in this function and best research papers awards were given to rice scientists in the field of Crop Improvement, Crop Production, Crop Protection and Transfer of Technology. Four publications of ICAR-IIRR and IIRR Seed Portal were also released in this programme. The entire programme was compered by Dr L V Subba Rao and concluded with the vote of thanks presented by Dr R M Kumar.





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