Mahila Kisan Divas was celebrated on October 15, 2020 by ICAR-IIRR to signify the important contribution of Women Farmers for achieving food and nutritional security of the nation. Three levels of programs were organized by the institute on this occasion under the guidance of the Director, Dr. SR Voleti. An e-poster competition was organized on the themes of, “Role of Women in Agriculture & Technologies for Women Farmers” which drew enthusiastic participation by the scientists and project personnel of the institute.

Posters (e-posters) highlighting the significant role of women farmers were presented by scientists and project personnel with interesting titles, Role of Women in Indian Rice Farming, Women in Agriculture- the unsung warriors for food security, Farming a GIFT of WOMEN - call it a legacy, Developing She Teams and Empowering Farm Women with Soil Testing Kits, Agro techniques for welfare of women in rice cultivation and Women’s entrepreneurship development through Rice Based Health Care Products.

The services of women farm workers of IIRR were appreciated with a memento for their immense role in carrying out the activities on experimental plots of the institute. The Guest of Honour, Dr. SM. Balachandran, Head Crop Improvement, IIRR reiterated the crucial role of farm labour in the research programs of the institute. Nutrition and health management practices were outlined for care especially during the pandemic for IIRR Farm workers by Dr Amtul Waris. The IIRR Farm-Managers, Dr. Brajendra and Dr. Tuti urged the women farm workers to contribute their best for the institutes’ growth and thereby the National Food Security. Fifty six women farm workers attended the event.

In the ICAR-IIRR project villages, farm women were felicitated for their multiple roles as farmers, home-makers and technology adopters. Their crucial role in adapting to changing climate and technological innovations was highlighted and they were motivated to learn, adopt and adapt to mechanized and high value agriculture. Although, a peak season for cotton harvesting 63 women farmers participated in the event.

Felicitation of Women Farm Workers of ICAR-IIRR
Felicitation of Women Farmers of IIRR project villages