

E-19. Webinar on “Paradigm shift in mechanization for futuristic agriculture”

The College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, Godhra and National Agricultural Higher Education Project-CAAST, Anand Agricultural University, Anand jointly organized an online Seminar on "Paradigm Shift in Mechanization for Futuristic Agriculture" on 16th December, 2020.

The inaugural function was started with the welcome address by Dr. R. S. Pundir, *Professor and PI*, NAHEP-CAAST, AAU, Anand. Dr. Pankaj Gupta, *Professor and Head*, Deptt. of Farm Machinery and Power Engineering, CAET, Godhra and Organizing Secretary of the seminar, explained the objectives behind organizing the seminar. As a Key Note Speaker and Chief Guest of the seminar Dr. R. Subbaiah, *Principal and Dean*, CAET, Godhra delivered his speech on a topic "Growth Inclusiveness and Sustainability of Next Generation Agriculture through Mechanization". In the Presidential address, Dr. R. V. Vyas Sir, *Hon. Vice Chancellor*, AAU, Anand and Patron of the seminar highlighted the need and scope of Precision and Automation technologies to increase the production and income of the farmer. Inaugural session came to the end with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Y. A. Lad, *Associate Professor*, core Co-PI, NAHEP-CAAST, AAU, Anand and Joint Organizing Secretary of the seminar.

Four Technical sessions were conducted throughout the day. The speaker of the First Technical Session was Dr. Lav R. Khot, *Associate Professor of Precision Agriculture*, Centre for Precision and Automated Agricultural Systems, Department of Biological Systems Engineering, Washington State University, USA. He had delivered his speech on the topic "Precision Agriculture & Automation Technologies for Specialty Crop Production Management". The speaker of the Second Technical Session was Dr. K. P Singh, *Principal Scientist* at CIAE, Bhopal and his topic was "Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Mechanization for Resource Conservation". The speaker of the Third Technical Session was Dr. Pradeep Rajan, *Sr. Principal Scientist*, and Head, Farm Machinery & Precision Agriculture, CSIR-CMERI, Ludhiana and his topic was "Farm Mechanization: Towards Agriculture 4.0". The fourth Eminent Speaker of the seminar was Prof. Indra Mani, *Head*, Division of Agri. Engineering, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. He delivered lecture on "Automation of Farm Operations and Efficient Technology Dissemination for Profitable Agriculture".

After each technical session, healthy discussion was undertaken in between the panelist and viewers regarding the topic of respective sessions.

In the Plenary session, Dr. Pankaj Gupta, Organizing Secretary summarized the observations/outcome came from the discussion of whole day exercise, which are given below. Prof. Indra Mani, Chief Guest of the Plenary session, emphasized on the challenges for implementation of mechanization at grass root level and the role of Agricultural Engineer to meet the challenge. Dr. R. Subbaiah, Dean Agricultural Engineering Faculty, convey his gratitude to Hon. Vice Chancellor, AAU, Anand and all distinguished Speakers of the day. Dr. R. Swarnkar, Professor, Deptt. of FMPE, CAET, Godhra proposed vote of thanks and ended the plenary session. Dr. K. L. Dabhi, Assi. Prof. and member of organizing committee extended his help in conducting all Technical sessions. All the sessions were anchored by Dr. R. C. Salunkhe, Asst. Professor, and member of organizing committee.

