

## **Anand Agricultural University has hosted 6<sup>th</sup> Quinquennial Review Meeting of Oilseed crops for the state of Gujarat and Rajasthan**

ICAR- Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research has organised 6<sup>th</sup> Quinquennial Review (QRT) Meeting for Oilseed crops (Sunflower, Safflower, Castor), All India Coordinated Projects on Sesame & Niger and Linseed at Anand Agricultural University, Anand on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

The QRT was led by Dr. Aravind Kumar, Chairman, QRT on Oilseed crops & Vice Chancellor, Rani Laxmibai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi. Other eminent QRT members were; Dr. D. M. Hegde, Ex-Director, IIOR, Hyderabad; Dr. P. K. Das, Ex-Associate Dean; Dr. S. J. Kolte, Ex-Professor (Plant Pathology); Dr. P. Raghuram, Ex-Professor (Agril. Economics); Dr. S. R. Bhat, Ex-Principal Scientist and Dr. Lakshmi Prayaga, Member Secretary & Principal Scientist. 'Ten' AICRP centres of the Gujarat and Rajasthan states Viz. Sardar Krushinagar, Junagadh, Amreli, Anand, Mandor, Mauranipur, Kota and Vanarasi participated and presented their reports in the review meeting.

While welcoming the group, Dr. K. B. Kathiria, Director of Research & Dean, PG Studies, AAU, Anand highlighted the achievements made by Anand Agricultural University in castor research work during the review period and requested to reconsider the continuation of AICRP at AAU, Anand.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Aravind Kumar, has appreciated the work being carried out in Gujarat, especially the pioneering task like Krishi Mela. He pointed out that, even though there is a progress in production and productivity of oilseed crops, reduction in area due to shift of cropping to other crops caused overall reduction in total oil production. This has also reduced the level of self-sufficiency of the country from 95% to 45% indicating increase in use of oil and rising population, which resulted in higher import of the oil. He highlighted the AICRP network approach of our country as unique, multidisciplinary and allowing sharing of the technology. He also suggested the approach similar to "Pulse Hub" for increasing availability of quality seeds of oilseed crops.

Hon'ble Vice chancellor, Anand Agricultural University, Anand Dr. N. C. Patel has highlighted the multi fold progress made by the university with recent achievements in evolving new varieties, quality seed production, liquid bio-fertilizer, tissue-cultured date palm and honey production etc. He highlighted the recent MoU with GUJCOMASOL in respect of processed food marketing and also narrated the higher ranking of AAU, Anand among the top universities of India.

Among the participating centres, Anand centre has also presented the achievements including newly developed castor variety GAC 11, which would be made available to the farmers in near future.

Dr. A. C. Sadhu, Nodal Officer (Seed) & Research Scientist, Regional Research Station has proposed vote of thanks to dignitaries, and scientists from AICRP centres of Oilseed crops located in Rajasthan & Gujarat.



