

XXIV Workshop of All India Network Project on Tobacco was held on 27-28 December, 2019 at Bidi Tobacco Research Station, AAU, Anand

The XXIV Workshop of All India Network Project on Tobacco was organized at Anand Agricultural University, Anand during December 27-28th, 2019. The inaugural function started with prayer and Sarswati Vandana with lightening of the lamp by the chief guest of the function Dr. A. K. Singh, DDG (CS), ICAR, New Delhi accompanying with the guest of honour Dr. R. K. Singh, ADG (CC), ICAR, New Delhi, special guest of honor Smt. K. Sunitha, IAS, Executive Director, Tobacco Board and the chairman of the session Dr. D. Damodar Reddy, Director, CTRI, Rajahmundry. Dr. J. N. Patel, Unit Officer, BTRS, AAU, Anand, welcomed the dignitaries on dias and scientists working under AINPT projects at national level. Dr. D. Damodar Reddy, Director, CTRI, Rajahmundry, presented the overall scenario of tobacco cultivation in India and world. Publications from different AINPT centers *viz.*, Anand, Araul, Nandyal, Vedasandur, Nipani and Shivamogga were released. The session was ended with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. D. H. Desai, Associate Research Scientist, BTRS, AAU, Anand.

The combined technical session was chaired by Dr. D. Damodar Reddy, Director, CTRI, Rajahmundry, while Dr. H. R. Patel and Dr. M. G. Makwana, Retd. Research Scientist, BTRS, AAU, Anand act as an expert of the session. In combined session Dr. C. Chandra Sekhara Rao, Nodal Officer, AINPT, presented the report and action taken on proceedings of XXIII Workshop and X Group Meeting of AINPT Project.

The concurrent technical session was initiated to present Annual Research Reports of 2018-19 and finalization of Technical Programmes for 2019-20. The technical session of Crop Improvement was chaired by Dr. M. G. Makwana, and Co-chaired by Dr. K. Sarala for Crop Production and Crop Chemistry, Dr. C. Chandra Sekhara Rao, act as chairman and Co-chaired by Dr. S. Kasturi Krishna. The technical session of Crop Protection was chaired by Dr. H. R. Patel and Co-chaired by Dr. U. Sreedhar.

Technical session on Variety Release Proposals (Combined session) was chaired by Dr. R. K. Singh, ADG (CC), ICAR and Co-chaired by Dr. D. Damodar Reddy, Director, CTRI, Rajahmundry along with worthy presence of Dr. R. V. Vyas, Honorable Vice Chancellor, Anand Agricultural University, Anand. Three varieties FCJ-11 (NLCR 6-10), FCR-15 and ABD 132 (advanced genotype of Anand) from Rajahmundry, Kandukur (A. P.) and Nandyal were released, respectively.

At the end, plenary session was chaired by Dr. R. V. Vyas, Honorable Vice Chancellor, AAU, Anand and co-chaired by Dr. D. Damodar Reddy, Director, CTRI and Dr. C. C. S. Rao as rapporteur. The rapporteurs of different sessions presented their reports on Technical sessions. The Chairman and Co-chairman appreciated the work carried out by the scientists and about their future plans.

The meeting was ended with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. K. Prabhakar Rao followed by National Anthem.

J. N. Patel, Unit Officer, BTRS, AAU, Anand

