

Empowering the Potato Sector: Highlights from the Seminar on "Harvesting Diversity, Feeding Hope" at the Inaugural International Potato Day Celebration

The inaugural celebration of the International Potato Day, recognized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, marked a significant milestone in the global acknowledgment of the potato's pivotal role in agriculture and food security. Hosted at the esteemed ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute, Regional Station, Modipuram, Meerut, in Collaboration with Dhanuka Agritech Limited the event witnessed a convergence of about 200 distinguished personalities, industry experts, and stakeholders, signifying a collective commitment to the advancement of the potato sector.

Dr. RK Singh, Head of the station, set the tone for the event with a warm welcome, underscoring the importance of the occasion. The esteemed presence of Dr. KK Singh, Vice Chancellor of Sardar Vallabhbhai University of Agriculture and Technology, Meerut, as the chief guest, added gravitas to the proceedings. Dr. Brajesh Singh, Director of the institute, shared insights into the institute's groundbreaking contributions to the potato sector's development. Dr. RK Singh shed light on advanced techniques in seed potato production, paving the way for sustainable agricultural practices.

Dr. RG Aggarwal, Chairman of Dhanuka Agritech Limited, delivered an enlightening address, highlighting the symbiotic relationship between innovation and agricultural progress. Dr. RR Burman, Assistant Director General (Agricultural Extension), elucidated on the transformative potential of agricultural extension programs in empowering farmers with technical know-how. On this occasion of International Potato Day, the special issue "Indian Farming," published by the Council, was released, commemorating the significance of the potato in agriculture.

The focal point of the event was the one-day seminar themed "Harvesting Diversity, Feeding Hope," which resonated with the spirit of innovation and inclusivity. The seminar comprised two technical sessions, each meticulously curated to explore diverse facets of potato cultivation and entrepreneurship.

In the first session, luminaries such as Dr. Brajesh Singh and Dr. Salej Sood elucidated on the institute's achievements and opportunities for entrepreneurs in licensing cutting-edge technologies.

The second session, chaired by Dr. Pranjib Kumar Chakrabarty, Chief Scientific Advisor of Dhanuka, delved into the marketing strategies and technological innovations driving the potato industry forward. A panel discussion and Q&A session provided a platform for stakeholders to engage with experts and address pertinent issues.

The International Potato Day seminar stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the global community to harness the potential of the humble potato in nourishing populations and fostering sustainable development. In commemorating this inaugural celebration, ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute reaffirms its dedication to pioneering research and fostering collaboration for a more resilient and prosperous agricultural future.

