

**26th Regional Committee Meeting of Himachal Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Jammu & Kashmir
and Laddakh on 30th June, 2020 through Video Conferencing**

ICAR-CPRI, Shimla organised 26th Regional Committee Meeting virtually of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on 30th June, 2020 through video conferencing. The committee covered two states i.e. Himachal Pradesh and Uttrakhand and two union territories i.e. Jammu & Kashmir and Laddakh. The regional Committees meet biennially to discuss and review the current status of agricultural research, education and extension to critically examine various problems faced by the region either in the execution of the approved programmes or in tackling the emergent problems and identify gaps for research by Agricultural Universities or in transfer of known technologies by extension agencies. The committee provides a good forum for a meaningful dialogue amongst research and development agencies and also to bridge the gap between research and extension in the fields of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries and agro-forestry. It helps in forging an effective liaison and coordination amongst ICAR Institutes, State Agriculture Universities and Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries of the respective state governments/ UTs. This year almost 170 participants took part in this meeting. The meeting was chaired by Dr. T. Mohapatra, DG, ICAR and Secretary, DARE, Govt. of India. On this occasion Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India Sh. Parshottam Rupala and Sh. Kailash Choudhary were present. The chief guest of the meeting Sh. Narendra Singh Tomar Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India in his presidential address stressed upon organic farming and value addition for enhancing farmers' income. Sh Subodh Uniyal and Sh. Ram Lal Markanda the Ministers of Agriculture of Uttrakhand and Himachal Pradesh respectively also elaborated about the farmer's situation, their problems and ways for enhancing farmer's income. The Vice Chancellors, Directors Research, Scientists from Himachal Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Laddakh, Member ICAR General Body, Farmers from all four states/UTs were also present in the meeting. Several recommendations emerged out after thorough discussion. Publications related to package of practices for respective states were also released during this meeting. Virtual plantation at ICAR-CPRI, Shimla was also organised. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair person.