

6th National Potato Stakeholders Meeting held at ICAR-CPRS, Jalandhar on 17th February, 2018

The 6th National Potato Stakeholders Meet was held at ICAR-Central Potato Research Station, Jalandhar on 17th February 2018 under the chairmanship of Dr S K Chakrabarti, Director, ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla.

In the beginning, Dr Raj Kumar, Head ICAR-CPRS, Jalandhar presented the action points of the previous year's stakeholders meeting.

Representatives from potato seed and processing industries, fabricators, cold store owners, officers of Universities and state agricultural department, potato experts and progressive farmers took part in the event. A total of 43 stakeholders participated which included companies like McCain, Siddhi



Vinayak, Technico, Syngenta, Mahindra-HZPC and UPL. The chairman in his address emphasized the need of value chain management in potato and taking measures to enhance export. He also informed the house about initiatives being taken at the national level for developing systems for quality seed production in different states and identifying alternate areas for quality seeds.



During the day, there were presentations on the CPRI technologies, Aeroponic Technology and newly developed varieties. A potato combine harvester developed at CPRS, Jalandhar was demonstrated in the field. The issue of developing a better mechanism for nomenclature/certification of produce from aeroponic minitubers was raised by the

stakeholders. There were discussions on topics like tuber cracking in varieties like *Kufri Chandramukhi* and *Kufri Jyoti* in some areas, revisiting the planting schedules of Seed Plot technique, disease-pest resistance scoring of varieties on numerical scale, export suitability of different CPRI varieties, nutrient profiling of aeroponically produced mini tubers, organizing national level seed health programmes, evaluation of change in population structure of

Rhizoctonia *spp.*, Sclerotinia *spp.* and Fusarium *spp.* that are causing major soil and tuber borne diseases. Further, there were demands from the stakeholders for developing virus resistant varieties, common scab management, organizing annual national level seed health programmes and pest risk analysis of likely export zones.