

# National Seminar on Sustainable Potato Production

## *Issues and strategies*

A one day seminar on “**Sustainable Potato Production – issues and strategies**” was held at BCKV, Kalyani (WB) on 15.09.2017. The seminar was jointly organized by the ICAR – Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV), Kalyani and Indian Potato Association, Shimla. The inaugural function was presided over by Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. DD Patra. Sh. Pradip Majumdar, Advisor (Agriculture) to Chief Minister of West Bengal was the Chief Guest and Dr. Tapas Mandal, Hon’ble MP Lok Sabha, Prof Srikumar Pal, Director Research, BCKV, Kalyani , Dr. T. Janakiram, ADG (Horticultural Science-II) were the Guests of Honor. Dr. SK Chakrabarti, President, Indian Potato Association and Director, ICAR – Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla gave an overview of the seminar in the inaugural session. ADG (Hort.) Dr. Janakiram applauded the efforts of IPA and ICAR-CPRI towards the sustainable potato production. Dr. Majumdar mentioned that most of the potato farmers in West Bengal are small and marginal farmers and research efforts should be made to improve their livelihood. Dr. Mandal stressed that efforts should be made for dissemination of the developed technologies.

The seminar had focus on identifying suitable high yielding ware and processing varieties for different potato growing zones, innovative crop production technologies for doubling farmers’ income, adaptation strategies to climate change and tropicalisation of potato, enhancing total factor productivity, delineating areas with common agro-ecologies and varieties suitable for them, SWOT analysis of potential technologies, approaches, challenges and technologies to produce healthy potatoes and to reduce post-harvest losses. In the seminar three lead lectures were delivered. Dr. BP Singh, Former Director, ICAR – CPRI, Shimla delivered a lecture on potato seed production systems – then and now. Dr. PS Naik, Former Director, ICAR – IIVR, Varanasi presented SWOT analysis of potato in India and Dr. PM Govindakrishnan, Former Project Coordinator, AICRP (Potato) made a presentation on Enhancing potato production in India – the sustainability conundrum.

The seminar was attended by about 150 participants which included researchers, entrepreneurs and potato growers.



