

Need to adopt climate resilient agriculture

CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) organised Dr. Ashok S. Juwarkar Memorial Lecture on 15th July 2019 in the NEERI Auditorium. Dr. N.K. Singh, National Professor, ICAR-National Institute for Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Dr. Hemant Purohit, Senior Most Scientist and Dr. J S Pandey, Chief Scientist & Head, Climate Change and Skilling Division were also present on this occasion.

While delivering a lecture on ‘Genomics-assisted Breeding for Infusing Climate Resilience into Green Revolution Varieties of Rice’, Dr N K Singh said that the productivity and disease resistance of a plant lies in its genes, therefore, research on genome decoding is important to create high-yielding and disease-resistant varieties of crops. He informed that the first sequencing of plant genome was at the cost of Rs 11 crore, the ICAR team sequenced 61 per cent of the genome and identified 47,004 genes in arhar. About 1,200 genes are associated with disease resistance and 152 with tolerance to drought, heat and salinity, he added. He said that the genetic information would help our farmers to create better varieties of crops capable of tolerating heat and drought without compromising the yield. Dr. Singh said that rice was the first crop genome that was sequenced, but the major challenge is to enhance wheat productivity and accelerate the breeding of climate-resilient wheat varieties through reference genomes. He urged scientists to develop drought and salinity resistant crops through genomics.

Earlier, Dr. Hemant Purohit, Senior Most Scientist, CSIR-NEERI briefed about the significant contributions of Late Dr. Ashok S. Juwarkar. Dr. J S Pandey, Chief Scientist & Head, Climate Change and Skilling Division introduced the Chief Guest. Prakash Kumbhare proposed the vote of thanks and Ms. Samruddhi conducted the proceedings. The students of M.M. Rabbani Jr. College, Kamptee and Ashram Schools attended the lecture and visited the Institute’s laboratories on this occasion.



Renowned agriculture scientist Dr N K Singh delivering Dr. Ashok S Juwarkar Memorial Lecture 2019



Dr. Hemant Purohit, Senior Most Scientist delivering welcome address



Dr. J S Pandey, Chief Scientist & Head, Climate Change and Skilling Division introducing the Chief Guest



The students sighting exhibits in Harit Sangrahalaya