

## **Need to benefit farmers through science and technology**

On the third day of the 'One Week One Lab' campaign, the 'Rural Outreach' programme was organized by CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) on 10 April 2023 to update the farmers about latest scientific and technological developments available to them. The Chief Guest Mr. Yogesh Kumbhejkar, Collector, Bhandara and Guest of Honour Dr. Tarak Kate, an eminent scientist, inaugurated the event. Dr. Atul Vaidya, Director, CSIR-NEERI, Dr. Pawan Kumar Labhasetwar, Chief Scientist and Head, Water Technology and Management Division, CSIR-NEERI and Dr. G K Khadse, Sr. Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI were also present on this occasion. Farmers from Vidarbha region participated in the programme.

Addressing the audience, Mr. Kumbhejkar described about the government's flagship programmes for rural development. He informed that the Swachh Bharat Mission focuses on providing interventions for the safe management of solid and liquid waste in villages. CSIR-NEERI can play a major role in rural areas for adoption of eco-friendly agricultural practices. He urged the scientists to develop a low-cost technique for sewage treatment for its deployment in villages having a population of 2000-3000 persons. He also briefed about the Jal Jeevan Mission, Atal Bhujal Yojana and Jalyukta Shivar 2.0.

Speaking on this occasion, Dr. Kate said that 65% population live in rural areas and unemployment, malnutrition, climate change are major challenges they are facing. In order to prevent young farmers from leaving the farm, scientists should develop affordable soil and water conservation methods.

Dr. Vaidya in his welcome address said that scientists should take every possible initiative to strengthen the farmers to make them self-reliant. He hoped that through such campaigns like One Week One Lab, more farmers will be benefitted.

Dr. Labhasetwar gave an overview of the program. Dr. Khadse proposed the vote of thanks. Dr. Sunita Shastri introduced the guests and Dr. Sharda Kosankar compered the programme.

The Inaugural session was followed by technical sessions. Dr. G.K. Khadse briefed about various water management techniques. Dr. S Y Bodkhe elaborated on solid waste management. Dr. Lal Singh addressed the issue of degraded agricultural lands and how to rejuvenate such degraded lands. Er. Roshan Wathore suggested 'NEER-DHUR' as a solution to health problems associated with indoor air quality of household kitchens in rural areas. Dr. Prakash Itankar described about various forest products. Mr. Dnyandeep Gaikwad illustrated the customization of agricultural and forest resources. Mr. Kapil Chandrayan explained the

ways how to create employment in rural areas. Mr. Prashant Tayde highlighted the technologies relevant for rural sector to protect environment and agriculture.



Dr. Atul Vaidya, Director, CSIR-NEERI delivering the welcome address



The Chief Guest Mr. Yogesh Kumbhejkar, Collector, Bhandara speaking in the inaugural function



Dr. G.K. Khadse briefed about various water management techniques





Dr. Lal Singh receiving an honour after delivering the lecture on wasteland development



The dignitaries lighting the lamp