

## **Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra interacts with Indian Forest Service (IFS) Probationers (2019-21 Batch) at ICAR-NAARM**

The National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (ICAR-NAARM), Hyderabad is organizing a tailor-made virtual training program on “PRACom-2020: Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Communication Strategies” during 09-11 Sep 2020 for the IFS Probationers (2019-21 batch), from Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun. The participants comprised of 71 IFS Probationers including two officers belonging to Royal Bhutan Forest Service. This training program, third in the series since 2018, is being organized as a part of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between ICAR-NAARM and IGNFA.

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa rao, Director, ICAR-NAARM in his opening remarks, provided an overview about the course and expressed satisfaction that both the Academies have been working closely building on mutual strengths. Shri. Bharat Jothi IFS, Director, IGNFA, presiding over the inaugural session, highlighted the various areas where the partnership can be expanded beyond capacity building, particularly in establishing a national network of incubators to promote entrepreneurship in forestry sector. Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR briefly provided a glimpse on the significant strides made by ICAR towards developing future-ready technologies and varieties to address various emerging challenges including natural resource management and sustainable agriculture. He called upon all the IFS Probationers to make the best use of the network of agricultural researchers and extension functionaries spread across the country to further their conservation and sustainable development agenda, by forging functional partnership.

During this training module, the IFS probationers will be introduced to various tools of PRA techniques and provided hands on exercises to relate how the tools can be used for real-life decision making situations. The participants would be provided an overview on basic etiquettes on communication and imparted necessary skills for leveraging digital tools for meeting various professional communication situations. The participants would simulate a situation involving discussion / interaction between various experts or media and prepare a video, which would be subsequently be appraised by communication experts. The training would also include a hands-on exercise on using analytical hierarchy process (AHP) analyzer, an online application developed by NAARM, for prioritization of administrative decisions. The probationers will also be sensitized on the need to work with researchers and citizens as partners, so as to harness the benefits of synergy, by presenting relevant case studies.

The training program was coordinated by Dr. SK. Soam, Dr. Bharat S. Sontakki and Dr. P. Krishnan from NAARM.



*A Glimpse of the Inaugural Session of PRACoM-2020 for IFS Probationers from IGNFA*