

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in Agro-Biodiversity: Online MDP concluded at ICAR-NAARM

NAARM organized the 3rd MDP on “Implementation of ABS Regulations in Agricultural Research” during 07-10 July, 2020 through Video Conferencing in collaboration with UNDP and Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL), New Delhi. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Guidelines, 2014 has significant implications for the agricultural scientists in ICAR and AUs working on various bio-resources, including microbes. Dr. VB. Mathur, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai and Dr. Ruchi Pant, Head, NRM and Biodiversity, UNDP spoke during the inaugural session and emphasized the global significance of the subject. Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-NAARM indicated that ABS concept will be integrated in the foundation courses and also in other capacity building programs in the Academy for the senior functionaries.

Over 80 participants from ICAR and Agricultural Universities from across the country participated in this MDP. The resource persons included Dr. KP. Varaprasad, Former Director, ICAR-IIOR; Dr. KK. Lal, Director, ICAR-NBFGR, Lucknow and experts from UNDP, NBA, ICAR-NBPGR, ICAR-NBAGR and ICAR-IIRR.



Clock-wise from above: Dr. Srinivasa Rao, Dr. VB. Mathur, Dr. Ruchi Pant, Dr. SK. Soam and Dr. Vibha Ahuja interacting with the participants

The training was conducted in an interactive mode, which included Case Study presentation. The participants were divided into 12 groups, who solved tailor-made Case Studies related to crop sciences, animal sciences and fisheries sciences, which facilitated the participants in better understanding of ABS implementation, process, status and challenges with reference to agricultural research in India. Dr. Vibha Ahuja, Chief General Manager, BCIL, New Delhi interacted with the participants during the valedictory session and Dr. SK. Soam delivered the valedictory address. The MDP was coordinated by Dr. K. Kareemulla, Dr. P. Krishnan and Dr. B. Ganesh Kumar from NAARM.