Orientation Workshop for New Agri Business Incubation (ABI) Units Concluded at ICAR-NAARM

Date: 19-08-20

The new STI Policy of the Government of India seeks to synergize science, technology and innovation in all sectors including agricultural sector leading to value creation and enhance inclusive growth. Keeping this in view, ICAR initiated project on National Agriculture Innovation Foundation (NAIF) by addressing issues towards innovation through Incubation by Supporting Agribusiness Incubation Centers in institutions.

During 2019 ICAR has sanctioned 25 new incubators in ICAR institutions pan India. ICAR-NAARM has conducted a virtual Three-day “Orientation workshop and training program for new ABI units during August 17-19, 2020. Total 58 registered participants representing PIs and Co-PIs of ABIs participated.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr T Mohapatra Secretary DARE & DG ICAR and addressed by Mr B Pradhan, Special Secretary, DARE & FA ICAR, Mr Sanjay Singh Addl Secretary DARE and Secretary ICAR. Dr JK Jena, DDG (Fisheries), Dr AK Singh DDG (Hort), Dr Alagasundaram, DDG (Engg), Dr SK Chaudhary, DDG (NRM), Dr AK Tripathi, DDG (AS) and Dr RC Agrawal, DDG Education also graced the occasion. Many independent ADGs were also present in the function.

Dr T Mohapatra in his inaugural address emphasized the need of the ABIs and technology transfer to the farmers as the top national agenda. He urged these ABIs at different ICAR institutes need to serve the agri business incubation services to the respective regions of the country. He also urged all the DDGs to be more interactive with the ABIs of their division for more efficient output.

Mr Bimbadhar Pradhan has told the importance of the incubation ecosystem to boost the Indian economy in general and farm economy in particular.

Mr Sanjay Singh has shared the experiences of other ministries and departments in development of startup ecosystem.

Dr Ch Srinivasa Rao, Director, NAARM has earlier welcomed the participants and presented the background of training followed by Dr S Saxena ADG (IP&TM) has briefed about the need of this programme for all new ABIs.

All the DDGs shared their experiences of ABIs of their respective division and suggested the way forward covering the domain requirements in technology innovations.

The pedagogy of the programme included: sharing experiences from old ABIs, by lectures and group discussions. Basics of Incubation system and critical success factor, design thinking and grass root innovation were discussed. On day two it was more interactive session. Dr Sudha Mysore of Ag In has interacted to develop more synergy between ABIs and Agri Innovate. There was parallel sessions one chaired by DDG Engg Dr Alagasundaram and another by DDG (Fisheries) DR JK Jena. In both the sessions old ABIs have interacted with the new ABIs and told the successful
innovations. Operational guidelines for ABIs and entrepreneurs selection and services and IP issues in ABIs were discussed post lunch.

To develop networking with industry NAARM has invited Mr NV Ramana of Sammunathi Finance to deal with marketing and financial issues. Later importance of valuation for ABIs and strategies for scouting suitable incubates were discussed.

The Validation programme was chaired by, Dr Ch Srinivasa Rao, Director ICAR-NAARM and Dr Sanjeev Saxena was special guest. In his valedictory lector Dr Ch Srinivasa Rao again urged upon all the participants to work for development of ABIs by involving scientists from different background at institute as this is the present national priority.

The coordinators of this Programme were Dr K Srinivas, PS and PI and Dr Manju Gerard, PS and CoPI of ABI ICAR-NAARM and Dr Shiv Datt, PS and Dr Vikram Singh, Scientist IP&TM Unit ICAR HQ.

**Source:** ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, Hyderabad