

## World Food Prize Laureate, Prof. Rattan Lal inaugurates 111th Foundation Course for ARS (FOCARS) at ICAR-NAARM

05 Oct 2020

The 111<sup>th</sup> Foundation Course for the Agricultural Research Service (FOCARS) Probationers was inaugurated by Prof. Rattan Lal, World Food Prize Laureate and Director, Carbon Management and Sequestration Center, The Ohio State University, USA on 05 October 2020. The 111<sup>th</sup> FOCARS batch comprised of 37 ARS Probationers including 17 women, representing 15 different agricultural research disciplines and 17 states/UTs from across India including North eastern states, Jammu and Ladakh.



*Snapshot of the interaction of resource persons with the participants*

Dr. SK. Soam, Joint Director, NAARM provided an overview about the Academy and the Foundation Course. The Foundation Course for the Agriculture Research (FOCARS), offered by NAARM is of 90 days duration and is designed to impart necessary knowledge and skills in various aspects of research management viz., problem identification, making research proposals, science communication, IP and technology management, understanding stakeholder dynamics, etc. The program is designed to instil right perception and attitude among the young agricultural researchers to aid them in meeting the contemporary challenges faced by the sector.

Dr. S.K. Chaudhari, DDG (NRM), ICAR and Dr. R.C. Agrawal, DDG (Education), ICAR graced the occasion as Guests of Honor and they illustrated the significance of the Foundation Course for the agricultural researchers, all through their professional service in ICAR. Prof. Ratan Lal, during his inaugural address emphasized the need for the structural changes in agricultural education to align with our culture and ethos for steering sustainable development. He motivated the young probationers to undertake socially relevant research so as to address the contemporary issues of the farm sector.

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-NAARM felicitated the Chief Guest and during his presidential address called upon the probationers to make the best use of their period at NAARM to equip themselves for the challenging tomorrow.

The meeting was held in NAARM Auditorium with the probationers seated with social distancing and adequate precautions for the pandemic, while the Chief Guest, Guests of Honour and over 200 distinguished experts and researchers from various institutions joined the event virtually. The Course Directors of 111<sup>th</sup> FOCARS viz., Dr. M. Balakrishnan, Dr. V.V. Sumanth Kumar and Dr. P. Krishnan coordinated the inaugural session.