

## **Leadership Development for Women Scientists Inaugurated as a Part of International Women's Day at ICAR-NAARM**

**Date: 8-3-2021**

The 3-day online training programme on "Leadership Development for Women Scientist in NARES" (Online) inaugurated at ICAR-NAARM on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 on the occasion of International women's day 2021.

In his inaugural address, Chief Guest Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao emphasized the United Nations theme of International women's Day – 2021; Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal future in a Covid – 19" In this context;

Dr. Pratibha Jolly, Former Principal, Miranda House, made a very good deliberation on her journey as a scientist and later as Principal. She threw light on fostering the next generation women science leaders. The programme was attended by 75 (70 women and 05 men) participants representing around 25 SAUs, 18 ICAR, 4 Krishi Vigyan Kendras and 05 other universities. Inaugural function was attended by other women staff and students of the academy. On this occasion, Director – NAARM also released a booklet entitled "Women led Agri-start-ups: Courage to Innovate for Change". Dr. S K Soam, Joint Director (ICAR-NAARM) marked the women's important role in society. He also stressed that in Indian cultural history there is women's respect is our society since time immemorial. Dr. Surya Rathore; Programme Director informed the house that programme is targeted towards middle and senior level scientists and faculty members of National Agricultural Research and Education System who are either holding some leadership position or aspiring to be future managers.

A panel discussion was organised on women and governance in which Dr. Neelam Grewal (VC, Guru Kashi University, Bhatinda), Dr. Meena Kumari Former DDG (Fisheries) ICAR and Dr. Kalpana Sastry, former JD narrated their stories being in governance to set examples for the participants to follow. Since there is a dearth of women scientists holding leadership positions in NARES, so this programme is being organised with the objectives to increase the participation of women in agricultural research and educational leadership for better gender balance; for qualitative development of research and higher education by utilizing the untapped potential of women as leaders and to develop confidence and facilitate networking among participants for better collaborations and governance

Dr Bharat Sontakki, Head XSM Division (ICAR-NAARM) welcomed and all participants of the training programme and Ms. Aneeja, Member Secretary Women Cell proposed voted of thanks.

