

## **113th Foundation Course for ARS Probationers Concluded at ICAR-NAARM**

**October 17, 2023**

*The 113<sup>th</sup> Foundation Course for Agriculture Research Service (FOCARS) was successfully completed today. Dr BN Mathur, Former Director, ICAR- NDRI &NAARM, was the Chief Guest and Dr. RC Agrawal, DDG (Agriculture Education) was the Guest of Honour during the valedictory programme. The program was presided over by Dr. Ch Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-NAARM. The training comprised of 69 scientists representing 32 disciplines and 27 women scientists from 21 States/UTs.*

*The training was conducted in 3 phases. The first phase was to provide orientation and capacity building, second phase was in the form of Field Experiential Training (FET) and the third phase covered a multidisciplinary perspective. From the first phase onwards there were interaction sessions every Saturday by inviting different groups of speakers such as Women Directors, Directors of ICAR institutes, Young-Awarded scientists, Industry Representatives, Progressive farmers and Startup founders.*

*During the second phase, the participants were sent to 11 different KVKs across the states as part of their FET module. A two-day industrial visit was also undertaken to expose the scientist-probationers to the industry environment and their needs. The participants also visited the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR), Indian Institute of Millet Research(IIMR), Indian Institute of Oilseed Research(IIOR), Directorate of Poultry Research(DPR), National Meat Research Institute (NMRI) and Rural Technology Park(RTP) of NIRD, Hyderabad.*

*Dr. BN Mathur, who was the chief guest during the occasion motivated the young budding scientists to conduct research on areas of global interest viz., farm management for greater profitability with AI and Precision agriculture, looking beyond nutritional securities, protecting the environment and working on microbiome-centred food products.*

*Dr. RC Agrawal, who was the Guest of Honor in his address advised the scientists to be competent in their subject for professional delivery to the society. He said the scientists should also introspect themselves on what they could do to the community and the country in general and ICAR in particular.*

*Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ch Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-NAARM congratulated all the scientist trainees for successfully completing the training programme and advised them to work for the country and the farmers wherever they are posted. He also highlighted that scientists should be industry-ready and market-ready. Further, they should be field-based scientists, their focus should be on the changing agri-food system of our country and work across disciplines. Earlier, Dr. G Venkateswarlu, Joint Director, ICAR-NAARM welcomed the Guest and all the participants for the valedictory program.*

*Dr NA Vijay Avinashilingam, Dr. BS Yashavanth and Dr Bharat S Sontakki were the Course Directors of 113th FOCARS.*



113 FOCARS Best Trainee Award (Dr. Manorama Kumari & Dr. Plabitha Goswami)

