

## **International Women's Day – 2025**

The ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (ICAR-NAARM), Hyderabad, celebrated ‘‘International Women’s Day’’ on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

The Chief Guest, Dr Anuradha Agrawal, Director, ICAR-Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture, New Delhi, stated that despite progress, gender inequality persists in scientific leadership. She highlighted that women remain underrepresented in top positions within research institutions and face difficulties balancing career advancement with caregiving responsibilities. Hence, she emphasized the need for men to share caregiving responsibilities.

Dr R.C. Agrawal, Deputy Director General (Education) and Director, ICAR-NAARM, highlighted women’s crucial role in household management and financial decision-making, both directly and indirectly, and reiterated the need to promote gender equality with accelerated action.

Dr. Gopal Lal, Joint Director, ICAR-NAARM mentioned that International Women's Day is not just about one day of celebration and that it is about a continuous commitment to gender equality, women's rights, and social justice.

Dr. B.Nirmala, Principal Scientist and Chairperson, Committee for the Welfare of Women, ICAR-NAARM, in her welcome address, emphasized the importance of International Women’s Day and elaborated upon the various government schemes being implemented for the welfare of women.

Smt. P. Padmavathi, Member of the Committee for the Welfare of Women, ICAR-NAARM & In-Charge, Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Hyderabad suggested that women should utilize support systems to prevent dropouts from education and employment.

The programme ended with vote of thanks proposed by Dr.Ramasubramanian, V., Head, RSM Division.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. B. Nirmala, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NAARM. About 150 members participated in the programme.

