ICAR-Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research (ICAR-DMAPR), Anand has organized a webinar on 07.12.2021 at 03.00 PM

“Smallholder Agriculture in India – Opportunities, Challenges & Sustainability”

The Indian Council of Agriculture Research is celebrating the 75 years of India’s Independence (AzadiKaAmritMohatsav). In this series, a webinar was organized by ICAR-DMAPR on “Smallholder Agriculture in India – Opportunities, Challenges, and Sustainability”. Dr. Samadhan Yuvraj Bagul (Organizing secretary), welcomed and introduced the speaker for today’s presentation, Dr. Partha R DasGupta, Advisor Emeritus, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture. Dr. DasGupta delivered a talk on the webinar about “Smallholder Agriculture in India – Opportunities, Challenges, and Sustainability”. The programme was started with the introductory remark by Dr. Satyaji Roy Director (Acting), ICAR-DMAPR, Anand. He briefly emphasized the importance of ICAR-DMAPR in the field of aromatic and medicinal plant’s cultivation and marketing in the country. He also mentioned the recent highlights of ICAR-DMAPR in “Mann Ki Baat” programme by Prime minister of India about the Medi-hub, business incubation centre at ICAR-DMAPR, Anand.

Dr. Das Gupta started his presentation by emphasizing the importance of smallholder agriculture in India to attain sustainability in agriculture, food production, and farmers’ prosperity. During his presentation, he shared his experience during his association with Syngenta foundation for agriculture, India. In his presentation, he broadly talked about the total transformation through the adoption of new technologies in small farmer’s fields and organized marketing to capture a bigger share of the value chain. He also talked about capacity building, superior input availability, and the introduction of high income generating operations in small agricultural landholding areas. He also discussed some of the success stories achieved during the actively working period at MaharogiSewaSamiti, Anandwan, Warora, Maharashtra. He also shared one of the most significant achievements he got during his involvement and it was achieved through hybrid vegetable seed production in West Bengal during 2012-13. He also pointed out some of the major challenges he faced during the period and one of the challenges was that most smallholders do practice agriculture at the “pre-commercial” level and they are also unaware of high-value agriculture. He conclude his presentation with some of the recommendations of sustainable agriculture and one of them was structural transformation and policy reforms to make agriculture remunerative. The presentation was very informative and the participants also showed good interactions.
This webinar was attended by a total of 54 participants from different national and international institutes. The programme was concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Sh. Prince Choyal (Co-Organizing Secretary).

(Source: AKMU, ICAR-Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research, Anand, Gujarat)