

## 29<sup>th</sup> Group Meeting AICRP on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants & Betelvine organised (2-4<sup>th</sup> December, 2021)

The 29<sup>th</sup> annual group meeting of All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants & Betelvine (AICRP-MAP&B) was held virtually from 2-4<sup>th</sup> December, 2021. Dr.



A.K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Horticulture sciences), ICAR presided over the inaugural function. Dr. Vikramaditya Pandey, Assistant Director General (Hort. Science), ICAR and Dr. Brajesh kumar Pandey, Assistant Director General (Hort. Science), ICAR and Dr. Satyajit Roy,

Director, ICAR-DMAPR and Project Co-ordinator, AICRP-MAP&B and Dr. R. Nagaraja Reddy, Nodal officer, AICRP-MAP&B were present on this occasion.

Dr. Roy, presented the research achievements of the AICRP-MAP&B for the past one year and also highlighted the actions taken report for the implementation of the technical programme of the project.

Dr. Vikramaditya Pandey, in his address said that there is need for creating awareness on health benefits of medicinal and aromatic plants including betelvine (MAP&B). He suggested to explore customised service centers for the promotion of medicinal and aromatic plants for their promotion in the country and need for utilization of aromatic plants as a substrate for cultivation edible Mushroom.



Dr. Pandey, in his address emphasised about vital role of MAPs in ensuring health and livelihood security. He also stressed on the need of conservation of genetic resources of MAP of the country for posterity.

Dr. Singh, in his presidential address highlighted the importance of Good Agricultural Practices for ensuring the quality of herbal drugs. He emphasized on research programs to be aligned with the developmental missions of the country. Besides crop diversification using medicinal and aromatic plants for greater benefit to farming community.

Dr. Reddy, in his welcome address introduced the objectives of the project and presented the prospects of the project.

During the 3-day deliberations, research achievements of AICRP-MAP&B were reviewed and technical programme for the year 2020-21 was finalised in different technical sessions such as Crop Improvement, Crop production, Crop protection, Phytochemistry, interaction with intergovernmental agencies and plenary. Besides, 15 publications from various centres were released during the workshop. The new high yielding varieties that are notified by the Central Varietal Release Committee (CVRC) viz., Vallabh kalmegh-1 of kalmegh (*Andrographis paniculata* (Burm. f.) Wall. ex Nees) and Swarna swara of Bach (*Acorus calamus* L.) were released for cultivation. The Bihar Agricultural University, Islampur was bagged the best AICRP-MAP&B centre award for the year for the significant research contributions. The workshop was attended by more than 70 participants across India.

In the end, Dr. B.B. Basak, Scientist, ICAR-DMAPR proposed the vote of thanks.

(Source: AKMU, ICAR-DMAPR, Anand)