

## Farmers' Fair cum Exhibition at Institute Campus

A One-Day Farmer's Fair was organised at the institute campus on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2021. Around 100 farmers from five different districts of West Bengal viz., *Howrah, Midnapore, 24 Parganas-South, 24 Parganas-North and Hooghly* have participated in this programme. In the inaugural session, Dr. D. Nag, former Director, ICAR-NINFET has graced the occasion as Chief Guest and Dr. G. Kar, Director, ICAR-CRIJAF as Guest of Honour.

Dr. D.B. Shakyawar, Director ICAR-NINFET has delivered the welcome address and highlighted upon the activities carried out in the institute.

Dr. A. N. Roy, Head Transfer of Technology Division & Convener of the event has briefed the farmers regarding the importance of this programme.



Dr. D. Nag, Chief Guest spoken about the water crisis associated with jute retting and the importance of improved technologies in solving it. Planning of less water demanding agricultural crop cycles and crop varieties were also emphasised upon by him.

Dr. G. Kar, Guest of Honour spoken about the benefits associated with the developed technologies of both ICAR-CRIJAF and ICAR-NINFET. He urged for the adoption of a six (6) letter formula "**SWOLEY**" i.e., *Seed, Water, Organic manures, Labour, Entrepreneurship and Yield* needed to overcome the problems of farmers faced during the jute cultivation.

Dr. D. P. Ray, Principal Scientist and Co-Convenor of the event have elaborated upon the accelerated retting technology "NINFET-SATHI" developed at the institute through a lucid power point presentation.

Dr. L. K. Nayak, Principal Scientist and Co-Convenor of the event highlighted upon the recent advances in the machineries for allied fibre extraction viz. *Banana Pseudo-stem fibre extractor, Pineapple Leaf fibre extractor, Sisal leaf fibre extractor and Flax fibre extractor*.

Dr. S. Debnath, Principal Scientist and Co-Convenor of the event had a presentation on "*Use of agro-textiles in field crop as mulching materials & nursery pots*".

Hearty vote of thanks at the end of this inaugural session was proposed by Dr. D.P. Ray.

The inaugural session was followed by the visit to different divisions where the participants have witnessed the technology demonstrations. A post lunch "Quiz Programme" was also featured in this daylong event where Dr. R. K. Ghosh, Scientist and Dr. S. Basak, Scientist have arranged the interesting programme. It created lots of fun & enthusiasm among the participating farmers.

An exhibition was held concurrently with this event. Ten (10) numbers of organizations have participated in this exhibition to display and demonstrate their products and technologies to the participants of the Farmers' Fair. Three (03) ICAR institutes viz. ICAR-NINFET, Kolkata; ICAR-CRIJAF, Barrackpore and ICAR-CSWRI, Avikanagar have participated in this exhibition. Five (05) Start-ups nurtured by ICAR-NINFET, Kolkata viz. Quality Exports, K. H. Jute Handicraft, Polly Industries, Piyali Handicrafts and Anisco Enterprise have displayed their products in this exhibition. Two (02) Farmer's Producer Company Limited i.e. Hooghly Vegetable Growers Producers Company Limited and Kojagori Farmers Producer Company Limited displayed different farm produce developed by them using ICAR-NINFET technologies.



The exhibition was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Dr. D. Nag in the presence of Guest of Honour Dr. G. Kar and Dr. D B. Shakyawar, Director, ICAR-NINFET. Three (03) best stalls viz. M/s. Piyali Handicrafts, 1<sup>st</sup> Prize; Hooghly Vegetable Growers Producers Company Limited, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize and M/s. Poly Industries, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize were awarded for their fantastic display in this exhibition. The event was covered by Doordarshan, Kolkata and the activities were also featured in different social media like institute Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.



On this auspicious occasion AKMU (Agricultural Knowledge Management Unit) of the institute was inaugurated.