

46th Foundation Day of ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair celebrated Commissioner-cum-Secretary underlined the need for devising better strategies to take agriculture and allied activities to a desired level with available land for farming activities



Port Blair, June 23

ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair, celebrated its 46th Foundation Day today. Ms. Nandini Paliwal, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, A&N Administration, was the chief guest on the occasion. Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Officer in Charge, ZSI, Port Blair, and Smt. Archana Singh, General Manager, NABARD were present as guests of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, the

Commissioner-cum-Secretary appreciated and congratulated all the awardees, especially the farmers and entrepreneurs. She underlined the need for devising better strategies to take agriculture and allied activities to a desired level with available land for farming activities in A&N Islands. Technical know-how by CIARI, policy decision by Administration and market linkage by NABARD is very much essential for any venture to succeed and flourish, she



said. She further stated that the Islands are having the typical problem of up scaling agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and other allied sectors on a large scale, which may be due to limited resources and the non-availability of proper backward and forward linkages. Hence, there is a need to have proper synergy between the triangle comprising knowledge, policy, and marketing to carry forward agricultural and allied technologies for sustainable remuneration.

She suggested to organize International Symposium to assemble the scientific fraternity of different Island Nations to debate on various pros and cons, exchange of ideas, and technology and policy frameworks.

At the Mela Ground, she inaugurated the agriculture drone used for effective crop management and also planted the coconut sapling in the presence of other dignitaries and staff of CIARI.

The guest of honour, *(Contd. on last page)*

Commissioner-cum-Secretary underlined... *(Contd. from page 1)*

General Manager, NABARD expressed her desire to have many more collaborative programmes with the proactive scientific team of CIARI, benefiting the farmers from far flung Islands. Dr. C. Sivaperuman, called upon the gathering to visit CIARI, which is a good scientific institute for seeking knowledge on biodiversity with special reference to bird watching.

Dr. Eaknath B Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI, in his presidential address, briefed about the various achievements of the institute during one year and expressed that many high-rated papers were published and technologies commercialized, besides two varieties of coconut released at the national level, three animal genetic resources registered. He also appreciated the achievements made by the staff of the institute in reaching new heights in service and the women contingents in sports for bringing laurels to the Institute. Challenges such as effective fund utilisation, mitigating water scarcity on campus, and aiming towards reducing energy use were also put forth.

Dr TV.R.S. Sharma, Ex PS, CIARI and Ex GB member ICAR delivered a foundation day lecture on online mode wherein he shared his experience of working in CIARI.

The chief guest and the other delegates honoured the awardees in the categories of Scientist, Administration, Technical, Skilled Supporting, and Contractual Workers on the occasion. The function was attended by Officers of the Development Department, the Central Government, progressive farmers, the scientific community from CIARI and RS Minicoy and Staff, KVK personnel.

At the outset, Dr Jai Sunder, Principal Scientist, Incharge PME, ICAR-CIARI, welcomed the gathering while Dr. P.K. Singh, Principal Scientist, proposed the vote of thanks, a press release from CIARI said.