

## **ICAR-CIARI Scientists Bring Laurels to the Islands**

ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair is a premier research institute working dedicatedly on island agriculture in the country. A number of improved technologies have been developed by the institute not only for the benefit of farming community but also to conserve and sustainably utilize the natural wealth of agri-horticulturally important species of these islands. The outcome of various research experiments are generally presented before the scientific fraternity for dissemination of knowledge worldwide. At two such occasions, scientists of ICAR-CIARI presented their findings on scientific platforms of international repute and received accolades thereby making the Institute as well as islands proud.

National Virtual Conference on “Current Trends and Challenges in Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology” was organized during November 20-21. In this event, Dr. Ajit Arun Waman, Scientist, Division of Horticulture and Forestry of ICAR-CIARI bagged SPBB- Young Innovator Award for Excellence in Plant Biology (2020) for his work on Conservation and bioprospection of endemic wild nutmeg species of Andaman Islands. The award was constituted by the prestigious Society for Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology, New Delhi and Springer- Nature, world’s leading scientific publication group based in Germany. The award includes certificate, cash prize and Springer Books voucher worth Euros 250. This research work was funded by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.

Another important event, International E-Conference on “Advances and Future Outlook in Biotechnology and Crop Improvement for Sustainable Productivity” was organized by the University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, Karnataka during November 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This grand event was attended by more than 1,200 participants from across the world. During this event, Dr. Pooja Bohra, Scientist at the Division of Horticulture and Forestry of ICAR-CIARI received Best Oral Presentation Award for her pioneering work on standardization of micropropagation technique for regeneration and conservation of an endemic wild banana species of these islands. This research work was funded by the Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi.

These research works were appreciated by the scientific experts of these prestigious events and these awards have contributed in building reputation of these islands at national and international level. Both the scientists acknowledge Dr. B.A. Jerard, Director, ICAR-CIARI for providing necessary facilities and support for conduct of these research works.