



Celebration of World Intellectual Property Day on 26th April, 2025 by PPVFRA



PPVFRA observed the World Intellectual Property Day on April 26, 2025 at Lecture Hall, NASS, National Agriculture Science Complex, New Delhi and the theme was “IP and Music: Feel the Beat of IP”. The programme started with an observance of solemn silence in memory of Pope Francis, Holy See of the Catholic Church; Dr K Kasturirangan, Former Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation and persons killed in a terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir on 22nd April. A display of the fruit varieties developed by the Farmer Innovators was showcased during the occasion.



The programme was inaugurated by lighting of lamp by the Chief Guest, **Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, President INSA and Former Secretary DST, Govt of India** and other dignitaries. **Dr. D.K. Agarwal, Registrar-General, PPVFRA**, conveyed his warm welcome to the Chief Guest and other dignitaries on the dais and everyone present. In sync with the theme of the World IP Day, he explained Fibonacci series where each number is the sum of the two preceding ones that is present in various aspects of Western music, including scales, chords, and the structure of musical piece. He briefly highlighted the progress of PPVFRA in issuing plant variety registration certificates and other recent developments.

Dr. Viswajanani J. Sattigeri, Head, CSIR- Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) and Guest of Honour, delivered a talk and spoke about documentation of codified traditional



knowledge in ancient texts and their relevance in Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). She said that there is a need to make plant variety registration process accessible in regional languages through collaborative efforts. **Dr RA Marathe, Director, ICAR-NRC on Pomegranate, Solapur**, spoke about PGSC awards that recognises the contribution of farmers in conservation of agro-biodiversity and programmes that creates awareness about the beneficial

provisions of the Act. He emphasized that there is a need to create global perspective of the Farmers' Rights and its consequent impact. **Dr. T K Behera, Director, ICAR-Indian Institute**

of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru, emphasized that, India possesses a wealth of indigenous and underutilized crops, particularly in biodiversity-rich regions such as the Eastern and Western Ghats and the Himalayan region. Some of these crops, being important for nutritional security, need to be explored, protected and utilised. He talked about farmers from Karnataka who have developed exceptional jackfruit variety(s), registered by PPVFRA with the denomination “Shankara and Siddu” that are known for their delicious flavour, nutritional value and colour. He highlighted that the variety Siddu has gained significant recognition leading to substantial financial returns to the



tune of Rs 1.5 crores in the last few years. It's been possible due to the combined efforts of farmers and scientists. **Dr. V P Patel, ADG (Hort.), ICAR**, focussed on the role of horticulture and highlighted the significant progress made in registering farmer's varieties under the PPVFRA. In his talk, he mentioned that several more varieties are currently in the pipeline for registration. He highlighted the contributions of the ICAR-CISH, Regional Station at Malda, West Bengal that has facilitated the submission of over 100 applications for registrations under farmers' variety category, most of which have already been registered within one year of submission of application.

Shri Ajeet Kumar Sahu, IAS, Joint Secretary (Seeds), DAFW, Govt of India and a member of PPVFR Authority, explained that IP is essentially the manifestation of knowledge in a



particular way. It serves to identify the originator of knowledge whether created individually or universally in an authorized and legitimate way. He noted that 'nothing may be entirely new knowledge, the individual who first develops or recognizes it should be granted rights over it'. He described IP as a unique balancing act that ensures fairness and recognition in knowledge sharing. Shri Sahu highlighted that over 60% of

registered varieties under PPVFRA are farmer's varieties, reflecting their crucial role not just as users of knowledge, but as its creators. Therefore it is essential that their contributions are protected. He praised the efforts of PPVFRA in supporting farmers, granting them rightful ownership and ensuring equitable access and benefit-sharing. **Dr. P. K. Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, DAFW, Govt of India and Member of the PPVFR Authority**, reflecting on the

theme of World IP Day 2025, “IP and Music: Feel the Beat of IP”, illustrated the timeless connection between knowledge, creativity, and intellectual property. He explained that IP is an extension of the harmonized intelligence where ancient wisdom and modern science converge. He emphasized that harmonizing with nature can also lead to the creation of valuable, knowledge-based commercial products.

The occasion of World IP day was to felicitate the farmer innovators, their facilitators, licensees of wheat varieties registered by ICAR and to hear their story of endurance and success. They were felicitated by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries.



A: Farmer Innovators: Following farmers were felicitated for their innovations/varieties having special characteristics which have been already commercialised:

- a) **Sharad King**, a pomegranate variety, developed by **Mr. Vittal Pundlikarao Bhosale**, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Maharashtra, known for its excellent quality fruits that are larger than “Bhagawa” variety which is popular among farmers. The variety is registered under the PPV&FR Act, 2001 (REG/2014/1283) on 12 June 2023 and post registration the farmer entered into a license agreement with Sahyadri Farm Post Harvest Care Limited in October 2024 for large-scale production and sale. The variety is now cultivated across Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and MP.
- b) **Siddu Jackfruit**, is a variety with coppery red in colour and firm flakes, identified by **Sh SS Paramesh**, Tumakuru, Karnataka, for which the farmer has already received the “Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Recognition” in 2017-18 and “IARI Best Farmer Award” -2022. Siddu Jackfruit (REG/2020/348) is registered on 21.04.2023 under PPV FR Act, 2001. Siddu Jackfruit farmer has earned more than 76.0 lakhs over five years in handholding with IIHR. As on March 2024, about 1,62,000 plants of Siddu jackfruit were produced and sold to farmers. About 31,000 farmers adopted the technology in about 2300 acres.



- c) **Shankara Jackfruit**, is a selection made by **Sh Shankariah**, Tumakuru, Karnataka, from a 25-year-old tree in his field. He further multiplied it through asexual reproduction.

Shankara Jackfruit variety (REG/2020/349) is registered on 21.04.2023 under *PPVFR Act*, 2001. The farmer has earned about 4.0 lakhs over the period of five years. Nearly 42000 plants were already produced and sold to farmers encompassing 600 acres.

- d) **Lakshmana Tamarind** was identified by **Mr. Vinay Kumar L.**, Tumakuru, Karnataka, with handholding from ICAR-IIHR. The farmer had submitted application (Reg/2024/750, on 19.10.2024) seeking plant variety protection under PPVFR Act, 2001. During the last three years, 8260 planting materials were distributed to farmers across the country with an area spanning 117 acres under cultivation.
- e) **SK- 4**, an unique turmeric variety, was developed by **Sh. Sachin Kamlakar Karekar**, a 43-year-old progressive farmer from Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, through clonal selection from a local turmeric variety Kadja, having large bright coloured rhizomes, higher yields with tolerance to rhizome rot disease and moderate resistance to leaf spot disease. SK-4, turmeric variety (Reg/2023/0029) was registered on 06.12.2024 under *PPVFR Act*, 2001. Since, 2021, the farmer has been selling one lakh saplings annually in Raigarh, Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri, Maharashtra. These are now grown in Gujarat, Telengana, Punjab, Kerala and TN, that brings economic benefit for the farmer.
- f) **G-Vilas Pasand**, a high-yielding, guava variety has been developed by **Sh Ram Vilas Maurya**, Lucknow, UP. The variety has a coarsely textured golden-yellow skin at ripening, and soft, creamy white flesh with a delightful aroma. Fruits range in size from 300–400g, with some reaching up to 600–800g. The farmer established the Azad Nursery, through which he has distributed over 29,000 saplings of G-Vilas Pasand to farmers across 10 Indian states, including Uttarakhand, Assam, Gujarat, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu. G Vilas Pasand variety (REG/2017/1642) was registered on January 1, 2021, under PPVFR Act, 2001.



B: Facilitators: The following facilitators, who have played significant roles in registration of farmers' varieties, were also facilitated:

- a) **Professor Deepak Sharma**, Dept of Plant Breeding, IGKV, Raipur, was felicitated for his contribution of documentation and mentoring several farmers, community groups to register several hundred traditional varieties in Rice, Millets, Vegetables and other crops from Chhattisgarh.
- b) **Dr K Karunakaran**, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIHR, was felicitated for his contribution towards identification, hand-holding in mass multiplication, branding and commercialisation of the two orange flake Jackfruit varieties namely Siddu and Shankara, which are earning significant economic benefits for the custodian farmers.

c) **Dr Deepak Nayek**, Sr Scientist, ICAR-CISH, Regional Station, Malda, was felicitated for his mentorship of several farmers and farming communities to register important varieties of fruits, like, Mango, Jackfruit, Jamun etc from West Bengal.

d) **Dr Hardev Chaudhary**, Scientist E, National Innovation Foundation, Gandhinagar, was felicitated for his hand-holding, mentorship, plant variety registration and commercialisation of several varieties developed by farmer innovators across India.



C: Licensees: In total, twenty one (21) PV9 certificates were distributed to several licensees from Haryana and Punjab, for registered varieties (DBW 370, DBW 371, DBW 372 etc.) in Bread Wheat, developed by ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal.

The felicitation ceremony was followed by an interaction with the farmer innovators where they shared their success story and the commercial progress thereof:

❖ **Shri Vitthal Kundalrao Bhonsale, Maharashtra**, shared his success story with the Sharad King, a Pomegranate variety, which is larger than the popular Bhagwa variety of Maharashtra. He shared that with the support of ICAR-NRC Pomegranate, he learned how to identify distinguishing characteristics in plant varieties. Plantation of Sharad King now spans over 10,000 acres. In collaboration with private companies, he has successfully sold 12 lakh plants and aims to expand this to 50,000 acres. He proudly stated that no farmer has been disappointed with the variety. However, he mentioned challenges such as fruit size variation and limited government subsidies. He expressed a desire to expand Sharad King globally and requested government support for international outreach.



Shri S S Paramesh, Karnataka, informed that since 2018, the Siddu jackfruit variety is under mass multiplication, branding and commercialisation by ICAR-IIHR. Today, it has gained wide

recognition as a successful commercial variety. He has sold over 50,000 plants, with another 1 lakh being propagated in his own nursery, and 50,000 more at the IIHR nursery. He mentioned that a royalty of Rs. 96 lakhs has been paid by IIHR. In the last two years, after registration under PPVFRA, this helped for significant reduction in cases of piracy. He expressed gratitude to IIHR and Dr Karunakaran for their support.



❖ **Shri Sachin Kamlakar Karekar, Maharashtra**, acknowledged the support received from the National Innovation Foundation, in registration of his turmeric variety SK-4 Haldi with PPVFRA and its commercialisation. He expressed gratitude for the legal protection of his variety from infringement and appealed to the Government of India to facilitate its distribution across the country to benefit more farmers.

❖ **Shri Ramvilas Maurya, Malihabad, Lucknow**, acknowledging the guidance of National Innovation Foundation, Gandhinagar and Dr. R.K. Pathak, ICAR-CISH, Lucknow, the farmer shared how he successfully scaled up his guava production. Starting from modest beginnings, he is now generating significant revenue, showcasing how traditional farming can be turned into a thriving enterprise through the right mentorship and practices.

❖ **Representative of Agri India Seeds, Amritsar, Punjab**, shared his 20-year journey in wheat farming. He recalled that two decades ago, wheat yields were around 15–16 quintals per acre, that have now increased to 25–26 quintals thanks to the adoption of improved varieties and innovative farm practices. He expressed gratitude to scientists for their role in this transformation. Though Pusa-144 has been banned, farmers from Haryana and Punjab preserved its seeds due to its superior yield. He urged the GOI to support the development of similar high-yielding but shorter duration varieties in the future.



Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, President, Indian National Science Academy and Former Secretary, Dept of Science and Technology, Govt of India and the Chief Guest of the function,



focused his talk on two major global challenges: artificial intelligence and sustainable development in the context of climate change. He emphasized that there can be no field whether agriculture or other sciences can remain untouched by these pressing issues. Therefore, he highlighted the importance of securing intellectual property rights as a

strategic response. He appreciated the efforts of the PPVFR Authority for its remarkable work and progress. He noted that India currently ranks 6th globally in terms of patent filings. He informed that way back in January 2015, only 70–75 startup (s) were registered in India and within a decade it now reached upto 1.4 lakhs, thus reflecting a growing awareness of the value of knowledge and innovation. He said that knowledge, coupled with disruptive and innovative solutions, can form the foundation for a strong, knowledge-driven economy. He also highlighted that in India, both process and products for any innovation are patentable. When modern science is integrated with traditional wisdom and supported by effective policies, it leads to successful outcome. To illustrate this, he shared an example of survey mapping, which historically lacked proper regulation and oversight. He pointed out that such activities were previously excluded from formal policy frameworks but deregulation of this process has enabled greater freedom and innovation in this sector. He also discussed the SVAMITVA scheme, a national property survey program which has had a transformative impact. He elaborated with the how policy reform and deregulation can encourage the right kind of growth.

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Former DG ICAR, Secretary DARE, Govt of India and Chairperson PPVFRA, thanked the Chief Guest for his thought provoking deliberations. He summarised the talk given by the Chief Guest while agreeing to the point that the integration of products, technology, and IP could significantly benefit the country. He highlighted the power of disruptive innovation and its IP protection. He cited the example of wheat varieties that have contributed to increased production from 12 to 25 quintals per



acre. He described the successful cultivation of a farmer variety in apple, Harmn-99, as a remarkable breakthrough because of innovative efforts of the farmer Sh Hariman Sharma. It also added that IP should be the foundation of all research and innovation. However institutional support is vital to empower farmers, especially small-scale growers. He commented that despite India's vast biodiversity particularly in horticultural crops with high nutritional values only a small percentage is registered under IP laws. He informed that India might have over 1,000 mango varieties yet only around 200 are registered. Therefore, there is an urgent need to register more varieties from traditionally known and biodiversity-rich crop species.

The programme ended with vote of thanks by former registrar Dr. Ravi Prakash.

