



21st Foundation Day and Plant Genome Saviour Award Function & Silver Jubilee Celebration of the PPVFR Act, 2001



November 12, 2025, 10:00 AM onwards
Venue: ICAR Convention Centre, NASC Complex, New Delhi

The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, celebrated its 21st Foundation Day on November 12, 2025, at the ICAR-Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Convention Centre, National Agricultural Science Centre Complex, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, New Delhi. Nearly 500 participants from several Ministries, from ICAR Institutes, NAAS, Agricultural Universities, KVKs and CSIR Institutes, PGSC Awardees, farmers, general public, Press and Media representatives participated and PPVFRA officers and staff actively deliberated during different sessions in the programme. The whole day event included the following programmes: a) Foundation Day lecture, b) Interaction with the Stakeholders, c) Plant Genome Saviour Award Function and d) Exhibition.

a) Foundation Day Lecture

The session began with a formal welcome followed by the Foundation Day Lecture by Prof. Unnat P. Pandit, Comptroller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM), Registrar of Copyrights, Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Govt. of India. Dr Pandit emphasised the importance of intellectual property in the current scenario and its contribution towards developing Atmanirbhar Bharat. He described about the process of obtaining different IP rights, e.g., Patents, Designs and Trademarks in India. He highlighted the importance of public awareness programmes of the IP Office and explained how PPVFRA can synergise its activities and reach. He urged that farmers should take advantage of traditional knowledge associated with seeds as well as the agricultural practice and register many more traditional varieties to take the benefit of the provisions under the PPVFR Act, 2001.



Dr P K Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, Govt of India, spoke about several Govt initiatives at the Ministry of Agriculture for farmers' welfare, Sathi Portal and RKVY. The session was chaired by Dr. R. R. Hanchinal, former Chairperson, PPVFRA, who provided his valuable insights on PPVFR Act and Farmers' Rights out of his rich experience.



b) Interaction with Stakeholders

An interaction with stakeholders including farmers, scientists and representatives of seed industry was organised, which was chaired by Dr. T. Mohapatra Chairperson, PPVFRA. Dr Ravi Prakash, Technical Consultant, PPVFRA, made a brief presentation on the provisions for farmers' Rights and how farmers can register their plant varieties. Sh Shiv Kr Chandravanshi, a Custodian Farmer from Chhattisgarh, shared his experiences in the conservation of traditional plant varieties. Dr R.K. Singh, ADG(Extn), ICAR, informed that the KVK network is extremely useful in connecting

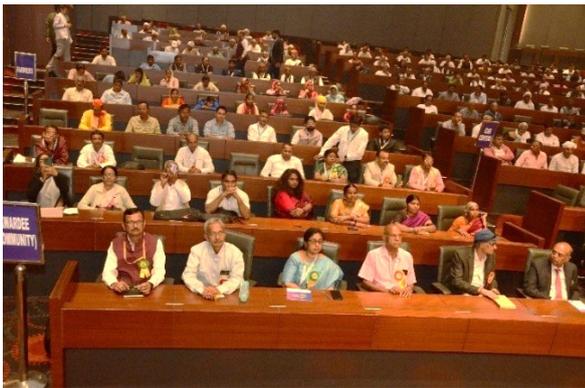


with the farmers even at remote corners and stressed the importance of creating awareness through KVKs. Sh Bhupen Dubey, CEO of Advanta Seeds, expressed his sincere appreciation for the positive developments in the last 2-3 years in

clearing the pendency of plant variety applications and several initiatives taken by PPVFRA. Dr Dinesh Kr. Agarwal, Registrar General, highlighted the salient achievements in the last few years in terms of reaching a milestone of issuing 10000 plant variety registration certificates granted in India, progress in reviewing the DUS test guidelines, review of Act provisions for possible amendments, developing guideline and procedure for registration of EDVs, etc. Dr P L Patil, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad,



discussed about the role of custodian farmers in managing the agro-biodiversity in



India. Participating farmers also raised several queries, interacted with the experts on and off the dias and provided their viewpoints.

Dr. Mohapatra summarised the discussions which included the following: (i) proposal for an International Farmer's Rights Day, (ii) organization of more training and awareness programmes, (iii) support to farmers for

conservation of agro-biodiversity on field and (iv) revision of the PPVFR Act, 2001 and its rules.

c) Plant Genome Saviour Award Function

On this occasion, PPVFRA honoured the Seed Saviours, communities and individual farmers from different parts of the country. Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, was the Chief Guest. Shri Ram Nath Thakur, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India and Shri Bhagirath Choudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, were the Special Guests. Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary,



Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India and Dr. M L Jat, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR graced the event as Guests of Honour. Shri. A.K. Sahu, Joint Secretary (Seeds), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India was present a special invitee. Dr. D. K. Agarwal, Registrar-General, PPVFRA welcomed the chief guest, special

guests, guests of honour, other invitees from the ministry, ICAR and other organizations, farmers, industry representatives, scientists from various institutes and DUS centres, PPVFRA officers and staff, representatives of media and other participants.

Dr. T. Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPVFRA, in his brief remarks, described the significant increase in the issue of registration certificates during past three years and thanked the nodal ministry for all the support.



Dr. M L Jat, in his address congratulated the Genome Saviour Awardees and urged all farmers to utilise



the network of different Research institutes of ICAR and KVKs, to access the improved varieties, technology and required Information regarding market, processing etc as well as to get facilitation to register their varieties with PPVFRA.



Shri Devesh Chaturvedi said that earlier 200 to 500 varieties were registered per year while now this number has increased to more than 1,000, which reflects the commitment of the Government. He suggested to create museums of farmer's varieties and award those whose varieties are performing well in the field.

Shri Bhagirath Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt of India, highlighted the natural and organic methods adopted by farmers to conserve plant and seed varieties and emphasized that the Authority has provided a strong institutional framework to advance such efforts. He said that through the Authority, plant variety registration is progressing rapidly, and emphasized that authority should play an even greater role in conservation of traditional and farmers varieties as well as add new chapters to the welfare of farmers. He emphasized that conservation is not only important from an economic perspective, but also a means of promoting and preserving biodiversity. He described the Gene Fund as a powerful initiative towards the welfare of farmers.



Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Ram Nath Thakur,



emphasized the importance of traditional crops like amaranth. He urged the authorities to take more proactive steps in this regard and called for research-based promotion of indigenous crop species, highlighting their nutritional and medicinal properties. He emphasized the need to recognise and value the seeds preserved by farmers.

Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of

India, in his address, appreciated the remarkable progress made by PPVFRA. He stressed that many indigenous crops are crucial for addressing malnutrition and for ecological sustainability. He pointed out that many traditional varieties are on the verge of extinction, and it is only due to the dedication of farmers that these seeds could be preserved. The Chief Guest further emphasized that seeds are farmers' greatest asset and therefore, while promoting new and high-yielding varieties is essential for livelihood, traditional varieties represent our rich heritage and is a part of agrobiodiversity, which can meet our future needs. Stressing the need to harmonise the PPVFR Act, 2001 and various related legislations, he informed that the PPVFR Authority has constituted a committee to



examine the provisions and suggest amendments, if any in the PPVFR Act, 2001 through a consultative approach involving all stakeholders. He expressed concern that awareness about the Act is limited among farmers, and the Authority is required to make ease of doing business in filing and registration procedures. He urged that the Authority must increase transparency and ensure that real benefits reach the grassroots. He advised that a robust scientific database is required to be created to preserve knowledge of indigenous varieties, the time taken for variety registration needs to be significantly reduced, the fees are to be rationalized and benefit sharing aspect has to be looked into. He said, "*Farmers who conserve our seeds and biodiversity are the true custodians of our agricultural heritage. They must be recognised, empowered, and*

supported." He urged that as the Govt of India launched a year-long nationwide campaign from November 2025 to November 2026 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of '*Vande Mataram*', calling for mass participation, especially by youth, to rekindle patriotic spirit, every public programme must invoke the National Song. He emphasized that awareness campaigns on the PPVFR Act, particularly about farmers Right's be carried out nationwide. Honourable Union Minister heartily congratulated those custodian farmers ad communities who received the Plant Genome Saviour Awards.

The Chief Guest distributed the Plant Genome Saviour Awards/ rewards/ recognitions for the year 2022-23 to communities and individual farmers from different states of the country. Each Community Awardee received Rs. 10 lakh cash, a citation and memento. Awardees in



this category were Farming Community Shiksha Niketan, Bardhaman, West Bengal; Community Seed Bank, Sangareddy, Telangana; Mithilanchal Makhana Utpadak Sangh, Purnia, Bihar and CRS-NA Dihing Tenga Unnayan Samiti, Tinsukia, Assam.

In the individual farmer category Shri. Bhupendra Joshi from Uttarakhand and Shri. T.



Joseph from Kerala were honored with Plant Genome Saviour Reward with Rs. 1.5 lakh cash each along with a citation and memento. Shri. Nakul Singh from Bihar, Shri. Ananthamurthy Javali from Karnataka, Shri. Narendra Singh Mehra from Uttarakhand and Shri. Lakshan Pramanik

from West Bengal received Plant Genome Savior Recognition consisting of Rs. 1 lakh cash, a citation and memento.

The Chief Guest and the dignitaries distributed appreciation certificates to farmers and representatives from various ICAR institutes, State Agricultural University, and seed companies in recognition of their contribution towards the registration of varieties. Nine licensees from UP, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan,



and Uttarakhand, of several registered varieties in wheat and maize were also given registration certificates and thereby conferring on them the legal rights to produce the registered varieties.



Shri Dipal Roy Choudhury, Registrar, PPVFRA expressed sincere gratitude to the Chief Guests, special guests and guests of honour for sparing their valuable time and

for gracing the occasion. He also thanked ICAR, particularly Agricultural Extension Division for the support in organizing the event. The function ended with a vote of thanks to one and all.

d) Biodiversity Exhibition

An exhibition was organised by the Authority wherein the awardee farmers showcased their varieties and planting materials, value-added products and some publications related to the conservation of plant genetic resources. Apart from the awardees, ICAR-NBPGR, ICAR-IARI, National Seed Association of India, and Federation of Seed Industries of India participated and displayed various germplasm, improved varieties of cereals, millets, vegetables, etc., and technologies. Dr. M L Jat, Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR accompanied by Dr. T. Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPVFRA and other dignitaries visited all the stalls, interacted with the farmers and appreciated their efforts in conservation of traditional plant varieties. Besides, scientists, representatives from seed industries, students, media persons and the general public visited the stalls, expressed their inquisitiveness about the importance of the varieties conserved and displayed, interacted and expressed their profound satisfaction.