



Training cum Awareness Programme on the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPVFRA) at DDS Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Zaheerabad, Telangana on 28th February, 2025



The ICAR - Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Hyderabad, in collaboration with the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA), New Delhi, organized a Training-cum-Awareness Programme on the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) for KVKs of Telangana on February 28, 2025, at Deccan Development Society (DDS) Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Zaheerabad, Telangana.



The event began with the inauguration of an exhibition by Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPVFRA, New Delhi. The venue held deep significance; located in the historic Deccan region of Telangana, where a dedicated community of over 5,000 Dalit and Tribal women from 50 villages in Zaheerabad has been at the forefront of conserving and cultivating more than 80 indigenous seed varieties, safeguarding not only biodiversity but also traditional knowledge. The DDS has served as a crucial ally in the region, working hand-in-hand with these communities to promote sustainable farming practices.



Besides Dr. T. Mohapatra, as Chief Guest, several key dignitaries were present including Dr. D.K. Agrawal, Registrar of PPVFRA, Dr. Shaik N Meera, Director of ICAR-ATARI, Hyderabad, Dr. RA Sharma, Technical Consultant, PPVFRA and scientists from ICAR-IIRR and ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, in a program on Training and Awareness on PPVFR Act, 2001 focussing specifically on advancing indigenous crop varieties, including seed production and supply at regional level.

With active participation of both Scientists and farmers engaged in traditional seed conservation across 16 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in Telangana, the programme brought together an enthusiastic gathering of over 140 participants. The primary objectives of the event were to raise awareness about the importance of registering traditional varieties-many of which include millets, pulses, cereals, as well as horticultural and plantation crops-and to facilitate their legal protection under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act (PPVFR Act). This initiative aimed to ensure that the invaluable work of farmers in preserving agrobiodiversity is formally recognized, protected, and rewarded for the benefit of both farmers and farmer communities.

All the experts present on the occasion briefly spoke about various aspects of PPVFR Act focussing on conservation of plant genetic resources and registration of farmers' varieties. Dr. Hari Prasanna K from ICAR-IIMR spoke about testing and registering of 59 small millet varieties, contributing to the formal recognition of indigenous crops. Dr. J. Aravind Kumar from ICAR-IIRR emphasized their ongoing activities and future plans for identifying and registering unique traditional rice varieties. Dr. Shaik N Meera, Director of ICAR-ATARI, Hyderabad, called for compulsory registration of traditional crops under the PPVFR Act and advocated for the use of QR codes and traceability systems to prevent bio-piracy and enhance farmer recognition. Dr. D.K. Agrawal, Registrar of PPVFRA, stressed the urgent need to establish seed banks to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainability. All 16 participating KVKs were awarded appreciation certificates for their proactive involvement. A total of 100 applications for the registration of farmers' varieties under the PPVFR Act, 2001 were initiated through 16 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) across Telangana. In recognition of their efforts in preserving traditional seeds, 23 farmers from different districts were felicitated for their work with millets, pulses, cereals, and horticultural and plantation crops. Dr. T. Mohapatra praised the women farmers of the Deccan Development Society for conserving over 40 traditional crop varieties, underscoring the importance of preserving them for future generations.



Felicitation Mrs. M. Chandramma & Mrs. M. Laxmamma from the Community Seed Bank of Deccan Development Society for their contribution to seed conservation

