

## **ICAR Institutes show the way to FPO farmers**

The ICAR institutes and extension organizations have shown the way for developing viable business ventures to the “*Chinnakodur Ryhtu Uthpathidarula Paraspara Sahaya Sahakara Sangam Limited*” under the project on “Formation and Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations” during the field day organized on 05.03.2022 at Chinnakodur village, Siddipet district, Telangana State.

The field day was organized by ICAR- Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad and the scientists from ICAR-IIOR, ICAR-NAARM, PJTSAU, Private companies and NGOs and local public representatives participated.

Welcoming the participants, Dr. G.D.Satish Kumar, Principal Scientist & PI of the project highlighted the activities initiated by the FPO nurtured by ICAR-IIOR. The FPO is undertaking foundation seed production of two groundnut varieties Girnar-5, a high oleic groundnut variety and Kadiri Lepakshi, a high yielding variety and paddy varieties, KNM-118 and JGL-24483 by registering with Telangana State Seed and Organic Certification Agency. It is expected that the FPO would make a business of 6.5 lakhs with these two activities.

Dr. M. Sujatha, Director (A), ICAR-IIOR highlighted the importance of oilseed crops in crop diversification and explained about the profitability of oilseeds crops. She urged the FPO farmers to explore the possibilities of developing complete value of sunflower and groundnut through value added products, oil expelling, branding and marketing. She informed the gathering the reasons for high oil prices mainly due to the external conditions in spite of record oilseeds production in the country. She requested the FPOs to explore the possibility of seed production of sunflower and assured that ICAR-IIOR will provided needed technology backstopping.

The technologies available for paddy and the business opportunities for the FPOs were highlighted by Dr. Mahender Kumar, Head, Crop Production and Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIRR and Dr. Rankit Kumar, Head, AGM, ICAR-NAARM. Dr. Sudha Rani, Director of Extension, PJTSAU expressed her satisfaction that the relevant ICAR institutes are coming together for nurturing the FPOs and assured the cooperation of the University in making the Chinnkodur FPO a model FPO in the state. Sh. V.K. Dubasi, Regional Director, NCDC explained about the funding opportunities for the FPOs. The public representatives and FPO members expressed satisfaction at the functioning of the FPO and lauded the efforts of ICAR-

IIOR. Awareness was created on drone based spraying in crops and demonstrated pesticide spray in paddy during the field day.

Before the field day, the participants visited the seed production fields of groundnut and paddy and sunflower fields with honey bee boxes. ICAR-IIOR has facilitated in aggregating quality seed of sunflower hybrids to the FPO for 1000 acres from various sources at reasonable price, at times of acute seed shortage and exorbitant prices during the current *rabi* season, co-cultivation of sunflower was encouraged and 400 honey bee boxes were placed in sunflower fields at various villages.



Visit to groundnut seed production fields of FPO members



Visit to sunflower fields of FPO members



Dr. M. Sujatha, Director, ICAR-IIOR addressing the gathering