## Online Collaborative Training at ICAR- Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research, Bharatpur Inaugurated on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2022

A five days workshop on 'Online Collaborative Training on "Agri based Technological Interventions for Entrepreneurship Development in Semi-Arid Zone" during 22-26<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 was inaugurated online by ICAR- Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research, Bharatpur (Rajasthan) on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2022. The event is sponsored by National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad (Telangana), Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India.

The Chief Guests & Key Speaker, Dr S N Saxena, Director, ICAR-National Research Centre on Seed Spices (NRCSS), Ajmer emphasized to promote the linkages for increasing the producer's share in the consumer rupee. He complimented the efforts of ICAR-DRMR and MANAGE, Hyderabad for organizing such events, especially capacity building programs to highlight the agri-prenurship opportunities in semi-arid areas which is need of the hour. In his speech, he advised that agricultural production mainly food items might be a good option for the development of entrepreneurship in rural areas.

In his Opening remarks, Dr AK Sharma, Principal Scientist & Head, Technology Assessment and Dissemination Section, ICAR-DRMR, Bharatpur briefed about the technological interventions available at the institute and further scope of agribusiness sector for livelihood security and earning foreign exchange. Integrated approach of farming is the key for ecological balance and rainfed farming options. Rapeseed & mustard could be the best option for alternative agriculture like apiculture. He briefed about the importance of rapeseed cultivation in the context of semi-arid areas where farmer depend on rainfed farming for their livelihood.

Dr B Renuka Rani, Deputy Director, Natural Resource Management, National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad briefed about the scope of new platforms, institutional arrangements (FPOs, SHGs and JLGs) and activities in creating employment opportunities which also helpful in minimizing the migration problem. She also put the issue of new competitive marketing mechanism in the picture and suggested for value addition activities through entrepreneurship development.

Keeping in view of global competition, she also informed that Off-farm sectors like agroprocessing & value addition, food manufacturing and other critical farm support services, reduction in post-harvest losses and promote agri-business may play important role to enhance income and generate employment in rural sector.

Dr RK Yogi, local Co-ordinator of the program welcomed all the students, delegates from various institutes, officials from State departments, cooperative federations and Agricultural departments from the 22 states/UTs. A total of 128 officials/Scientists/Assistant Professors / CEO / Chairpersons / Secretary / Students /Research Scholars from the 53 organizations including State Agricultural University, Farmers' Producer Organization, federations, NGOs, etc. have registered under the workshop. This program will be helpful to instill the agriculture technology foresight among extension functionaries for assisting new entrepreneurs in commercial activities conducted both on-farm as well as off-farm. Dignitaries including Head of the Divisions, scientists and officials participating in the training programme.

(Source: ICAR-DRMR, Bharatpur)

