

## **Press-Note**

### **Engineering intervention would provide new approaches to improve farming**

Inauguration of national convention on “Engineering Intervention for Conservation Agriculture”

As a part of the celebration programme of the golden jubilee year of establishment of the College of Technology and Engineering, a unit of Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention of Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers and a three days Symposium on Engineering Intervention for Conservation Agriculture was inaugurated in CTAE.

The chief guest of programme Dr O.P. Gill Hon'ble. V.C, M.P.U.A.T, mentioned about the exclusive cooperation of agricultural engineering in the development of the rural areas of the country. The rural mass has progressed economically & socially by remarkable soil and water conservation development of water retention practices and water management works as done by agricultural engineers.

Prof. Gill informed the house that, at present more than 50 countries of the world have adopted conservative agriculture on about 80 million hectare areas and this area is increasing rapidly.

He congratulated CTAE, Udaipur on being awarded as the best technical institute of the North India, by National Institute for Technical Teachers Training and Research, Chandigarh (NITTR). However, he stressed that the farmer and tribes of the region and backward areas are yet to be benefitted through agriculture techniques, therefore these techniques should be made available to needy and for this fast-track effort are required.

He said that intervention of agri. business is also urged in Post Harvest Technology and Value Addition area. The joint/combine efforts of Govt. Department, financial institutions, NGOs are necessary to reduce post harvest losses by proper and safe packaging.

Dr. V. M. Mayande, President of ISAE, in his presidential address narrated the history of ISAE, along with various activities undertaken by ISAE last year. He emphasized the need of engineering intervention in conservation farming and told there would be special contribution of agricultural engineering to increase grain production for ever increasing population. Due to uncertainty of rainfall Indian agriculture have to face tough challenges. About 83% farmers of country possess small and marginal land holding due to this, proper implementation of soil and water conservation practices and technical recommendations are necessary along with transfer of technology.

The most special guest of honour Dr. Kishide, Chief Editor, Agricultural Mechanization in Asia, Africa & Latin America, Japan, narrated the past 40 years history of publication of AMA and informed the house that 70% people of developing countries are engaged in farming and poor. They have to be brought forward as per today's modernization techniques of agriculture.

In the same context Dr. Lalit Verma, President of American Society of Agriculture and Biological Engineers and recognized guest of the function, suggested various agriculture engineering institution and scientist at world level should unite and works as a team to ensure availability of water and food and continuously development of agriculture. He emphasized that along with technical development, the suggestion of agricultural scientists should be given due consideration in planning and policy formation at the world level.

In the initial proceeding of the function Dr. B.P Nandwana, Dean CTAE and programme coordinator extended a warm welcome to all guest and delegates. He highlighted the year long activities to be organized on completion of 50 years of the establishment of college. He also informed about various achievement of college during past 50 years.

At this occasion well known scientists and engineers were also honored by ISAE for their valuable contribution in the field of agricultural engineering. Dr. K.N Nag , firs and former VC of Rajasthan Agriculture University, Bikaner was honored the with Dr. Mason Vaugh pioneer life time achievement award, the topmost award in agricultural engineering discipline.

Dr. S. K. Gupta of Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal was honored with ISAE gold medal at this occasion. More than 20 engineers and scientists coming from various region of country were also honored for their achievements in agricultural engineering.

Dr. G. S. Tiwari Organized Secretary of Convention and Symposium extended vote of thanks and Dr. Deepak Sharma Prof. and Head , REE Department coordinated the function.