



IPNI South Asia Program Holds Research Cooperators' Meet at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka

IPNI, a global Not-for-Profit Research & Education Organisation, is currently active in 50 countries around the world. IPNI research programs are working to help define the basis for appropriate use and management of plant nutrients, especially focusing on the environmental and economic issues related to their use. In India, IPNI works closely with ICAR Institutes, State Agricultural Universities and CGIAR Organisations to combine sound agronomy and fertiliser best management practices to improve crop productivity and farmer profitability in an environmentally sustainable manner.

IPNI Research Cooperators' Meet, a biennial event, brings together researchers of the NARES and CG Organisations who are collaborating with IPNI to define appropriate nutrient management strategies for important crops and cropping systems of the region. Padma Bhushan Dr. R.S. Paroda, Hon'ble Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog, formerly Director General ICAR and Secretary DARE, inaugurated the 2014 Research Cooperators' Meet of IPNI.

Nearly 300 delegates, spanning more than 25 organisations, attended the two-day meeting. Among the notable participants, besides the researchers, were Dr. J.V. Goud, Founder Vice Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad, Dr. R.R. Hanchinal, Chairman, PPV & FRA, New Delhi, Dr. D.P. Biradar, Vice Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad, Dr. Dipak Sarkar, Former Director, NBSS & LUP (ICAR), Dr. Indu Sharma, Director, DWR (ICAR), Dr. B. Gangwar, Director, PDFSR (ICAR), Dr. A.K. Singh, Director, ZPD Zone II (ICAR), Dr. M.L. Jat, Senior Cropping System Agronomist (CIMMYT) and Coordinator of CCAFS, and Dr. Adrian M. Johnston, Vice President and Asia

& Africa Coordinator, IPNI.

Padma Bhushan Dr. R.S. Paroda, Hon'ble Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog, and Trust for Advancement Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) in his inaugural address as Chief Guest of the program stressed upon the need for renewed focus on management aspects of agricultural production systems, particularly nutrient management, to achieve food and nutritional security goals of the region. He suggested that appropriate nutrient management strategies need to be developed and adopted to accrue the full benefit from the improved genetic material (seeds) now available in the region. Dr. Paroda said, "the disparity between the nutrient application in crops and nutrient off-take with harvested products and crop residues from agricultural fields is a matter of great concern. This is promoting nutrient mining from soils, adversely affecting crop productivity, farmer profitability and soil health; and may jeopardise future food security goals of the South Asian countries." He suggested sustainable ecological intensification of agricultural production systems through precise use of resources such as land, water and nutrients as a roadmap for the region. Dr. Paroda expressed his satisfaction that a large group of eminent scientists from the NARES and CG Institutes are involved with IPNI to develop precision nutrient management strategies for the smallholder systems of South Asia.

The participating scientists at the IPNI Research Cooperators' Meet 2014 presented research results from collaborative research with IPNI and a road map for developing scalable solutions to implement nutrient best management practices in the region were discussed. **BCSA**