

REPORT

ICAR-CCRI, Nagpur celebrates Hon'ble PM's Variety Release Program

On 11th August, 2024; Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released 109 nutrient-rich, climate resilient varieties of crops in a grand occasion at ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. The varieties were dedicated to the nation by his lotus hands. In this occasion, ICAR-Central Citrus Research Institute (CCRI), Nagpur organized awareness cum training program to celebrate the day and also make citrus growers aware of the institute's technologies. The program was attended by more than 26 farmers from Hingna and Kalmeshwar *talukas* of Nagpur district. The total no of participants were 65 including the staff of ICAR-CCRI. The program started with speech of Dr. Dilip Ghosh, Director, ICAR-CCRI who briefly spoke about all the horticultural crop varieties being released by Hon'ble PM. Varieties like Arka Uday (carotenoid rich mango), Arka Kiran (lycopene rich guava), Arka Nikita (iodine rich okra), Arka Vistar (*Dolichos* bean), Arka Dhanvantari and Arka Daksha (L-DOPA enriched velvet beans), Netra Jumbo-1 and Netra Ganga (cashew), Arka Ashwagandha and Arka Parbhani (medicinal properties), Arka Vaibhav (double petalled tuberose), Arka Amar (*Gladiolus*) were the notable ones which Dr. Ghosh enlightened the farmers about. He also shared the achievements of ICAR-CCRI in releasing several Nagpur mandarin, sweet orange, grapefruit, pummelo, acid lime varieties and rootstock like Alemow which brought a significant paradigm shift in citrus sector of India. He also highlighted the 25 citrus germplasm evaluation work which is in process in the institute's PHT lab and the 5 potential germplasms which showed good content of useful bio-active chemicals that can be utilized in future for nutrient rich varietal development. In the technical sessions, scientists from ICAR-CCRI guided farmers on various important aspects of citrus cultivation. Dr. Darshan Kadam guided farmers on package of practices that needs to be adopted for production of good quality citrus fruits. Dr. A.K. Das dealt in details with the aspect of disease management of citrus. The program ended with field and nursery visit of trainee farmers along with drone demonstration. Dr. Thiruganavel, Dr. Prashant Tej Kumar, Dr. Darshan Kadam, Dr. Kiran Kommu, Dr. Sangeeta Bhattacharyya, Dr. U.T Sunil Kumar and Mr. Bipin Mahalle were the committee members behind successful organization of the program.

