

# Successful Conclusion of the 39th Annual Workshop of AICRP on PHET

Ludhiana, March 15, 2024: The 39th Annual Workshop of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Post-Harvest Engineering & Technology (AICRP on PHET) concluded successfully at the ICAR-Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana. The three day workshop was held from March 13th to 15th, 2024.

The esteemed event witnessed the gracious presence of Dr. S.N. Jha, DDG (Agril Engineering) ICAR, New Delhi, as the Chief Guest, alongside other distinguished dignitaries including Dr. K. Narsaiah, ADG (Process Engineering), ICAR, New Delhi; Dr. S Patel, Retired Professor (Food Process Engineering), IGKV Raipur; Dr. R Vishwanathan, Professor (Food Process Engineering), TNAU Coimbatore; Dr V K Seghal, Retired Professor, PAU; and Dr K Nachiket Kotwaliwale, Director, ICAR-CIPHET.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. S N Jha emphasized the criticality of reducing post-harvest losses and continuous evaluation thereof. He stressed the importance of commercializing technologies to ensure wider outreach among stakeholders. Dr. K Narasiah highlighted the necessity of focusing on processing and value addition to make agriculture economically viable. Dr. S Patel commended the achievements of the participating centers, while Dr. R Vishwanathan advocated for a comparative evaluation of the scheme's progress over time.

Dr. R.K. Vishwakarma, Project Coordinator of AICRP on PHET, presented the progress of the scheme, showcasing notable technologies such as the Neem fruit depulper, DiabLite Smart Rice Cooker, Onion spoilage detection device, and Jackfruit seed peeler. Furthermore, thirty-four agro-processing centers were established under the scheme during the year, reflecting the project's impactful strides.

The technical sessions were marked by discussions on new research proposals and a comprehensive review of ongoing projects. Dr. Nachiket Kotwaliwale emphasized the importance of innovation in research endeavours and stressed the necessity of intellectual property protection. Dr. V K Seghal acknowledged persistent challenges in the food processing and value addition sector while lauding the commendable progress in research within this domain.

The workshop boasted a total of 76 participants, including Scientists, Project Investigators and Research Engineers from cooperating centers under AICRP on PHET, fostering fruitful exchanges and collaborative efforts towards advancing post-harvest engineering and technology.

