

## **First meeting of the State Co-ordination Committee held at AAU, Anand on 23.03.2017 for Doubling Farmers' Income in Gujarat by 2022**

The first meeting of the Co-ordination Committee for Doubling the Farmers' Income in Gujarat State by 2022 was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017 at Anand Agricultural University. The meeting was chaired by Dr. AR Pathak, Vice Chancellor, JAU, Junagadh and the Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of Gujarat (GoG), Shri Sanjay Prasad, IAS, Dr. NC Patel, Vice Chancellor, AAU, Anand, Dr. CJ Dangaria, Vice Chancellor, NAU, Navsari, Dr. AA Patel, Vice Chancellor, SDAU, Dr. SK Singh, Director, Agriculture Technology Application Research Institute, Jodhpur, Shri SK Singh, Under Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing & Industry, GoI, Dr. T Radhakrishnan, Director, Directorate of Groundnut Research Centre, Junagadh, Dr. KP Manivel, Director (Actg), Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Research Institute, Boriavi and representatives of Director of Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandary of GOG attended the meeting.

The Principal Secretary, GoG, in his address informed the experts that GoG has already prepared two documents in the line of doubling the income of the farmers as per the vision of the Prime Minister of India. He emphasized that it is achievable in the state. He also suggested that the strategies should be based on the technologies already available, including varieties, which suits to the agro-climatic regions of the state. GoG has already made some efforts to get a vision document prepared by IIM Ahmedabad with a detailed case study of Bt cotton for Gujarat State to meet the targets.



Total eight presentations were made during the meeting focusing on farm income potential of Gujarat and Saurashtra and the strategies for doubling Farmers' Income in the State. Approaches for addressing the major constraints of drought prone areas and non-availability of quality seeds, lowering of cost of cultivation through crop management practices and mechanization were discussed in detail. Soil and crop productivity need collectively to be addressed with precision high tech farming which surely give farmer two to three times more harvest.

Possibilities and modalities of establishment of Food parks, mega food parks and agro clusters to enhance the returns of the farmers also were discussed.

Modalities for minimizing the cost and maximizing agro outputs involving state department of agriculture, NGOs and PPP companies also were discussed to achieve the target of 2022.



Dr. Radhakrishnan, T., Convener for SCC appreciated good efforts of SAUs in analyzing the various aspects and proposing the approaches. Based on the presentations and discussions a road map will be prepared for doubling the farmers' income in Gujarat.

