Report of 50th AGM of AICRP on Soybean

50th Annual Group Meet of AICRP on Soybean was organized on 20th May 2020 through video conferencing. It was attended by 75 Soybean Scientists across the country. During inaugural session, the Chief Guest Dr. T. Mohapatra, Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR welcomed every one and congratulated the AICRP for developing > 120 high yielding and disease resistant varieties including first KTI free variety. He emphasized that meeting of AICRP for twice a year and informed that low productivity of the crop is major concern and by increasing the production and productivity of major oil seed crop will helps in reducing import of edible oil to greater extent. He also urged that all the Directors of Oil seed crop must be invited for AICRP workshop. Chief guest informed that the current productivity of soybean must be enhanced and some of patches of soybean growing areas recording >1500 Kg /ha and it must reach to 2000 kg/ha by encouraging best production system and engaging with KVK and state Agricultural Department. He urged all scientists to reduce the agronomy gap by using good agricultural practice and other digital languages. Promising germplasm may be imported and utilized in breeding programmes. Speed breeding and value addition should be given much needed thrust. Looking at increased weeds in soybean crop, DG asked the scientist to look for possible ways of using the roundup ready/ herbicide tolerant soybean to reduce the weed problem. DG urged the requirement of strong Human resource development programme (HRD) for AICRP centers and expressed his concerns to reduce the varietal mis-match in breeder seed production. Dr. S.P. Tiwari (Ex-Vice Chancellor, Ex DDG, Edn & CS), in the address mentioned engineering of lots of genes to address climate change issues and expressed the concern on reduction in area due to aberrant climate. He also urged that speed breeding program must be included in the technical program and appreciated the institute in taking up GGE biplots analysis. Dr T.R Sharma, DDG (CS) emphasized that the scientist must use the sequencing information of > 46,000 genes available in the public domain. He stressed upon improving the narrow genetic base of the crop by employing and utilizing wild species. Scientists must take up breeding for tolerance to water logging, early maturity and food grade soybean. DDG also stressed up on haplotypes breeding and strong HRD for all the AICRP centres.

This was followed by technical presentations by PIs Dr Sanjay Gupta (Plant Breeding), Dr. A.N. Sharma (Entomology), Dr. Shamarao Jahagirdar (Plant Pathology), Dr. S.D. Billore (Agronomy & FLD), Dr. M.P. Sharma (Microbiology) and Dr. L. Sophia Devi (Food Technology and Value Addition). Dr. P.K. Chakrvorty, Member ASRB, New Delhi, Dr. D.J. Bagyaraj, Professor Emeritus, Bangaluru, Dr.L.H. Malligawad, Professor emeritus, UAS, Dharwad, Dr. D.K. Yadava, ADG (Seeds), ICAR, Dr. D.K. Agrawal, Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Seed Research, Mau, Dr. S.K. Jha, ADG(OP), ICAR, New Delhi, Dr. Rajan, ADG(PP), ICAR, New Delhi and Dr. Katiha, TSP I/c ICAR also participated as chairman of various sessions. During the AGM three special lectures were also delivered: Development of specialty varieties in soybean by Dr. Vineet Kumar, PS (Biochemistry), IISR, Indore, Molecular approaches for soybean improvement by Dr. Milind Ratnaparkhe, Sr. Scientist (Biotech), IISR, Indore and Mapping of YMV resistance genes in cultivated and wild soybean and their deployment in development of YMV resistant soybean varieties by Dr. Anita Rani, PS (Plant Breeding), IISR, Indore. Technical Programmes of research for 2020-21 were also presented by respective PIs.

Dr. T.R. Sharma, DDG(CS), ICAR remained with the group through out the day and gave his valuable comments and guidance for improvement of research programmes and sensitized the scientists to strive for quality research work.