

## Interface Meeting on ‘Drought Preparedness for Karnataka’ Organized

23rd May 2014, Bengaluru

Natural Resources Management Division of ICAR organized an Interface Meeting with the State Department of Agriculture and State Seed Corporation of Karnataka on implementation of district level contingency plans for aberrant rainfall situations in Karnataka on 23rd May, 2014 at UAS, Bengaluru. The meeting was aimed at enhancing the preparedness for Kharif 2014 in view of the probability of a normal to below normal South West monsoon according to forecast issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).



Shri B.L. Meena, Principal Secretary (Agriculture), speaking as Chief Guest, called upon the University and KVK scientists to come up with demonstration models on rainwater harvesting and its efficient utilization for stabilizing crop production under the ‘KrishiBhagya’ scheme of Karnataka.

Dr. A.K. Sikka, Deputy Director General (NRM), ICAR, who guided and planned the interface meetings at national level with several other State departments, sent his message for fine tuning the plans and development of a robust action plan for implementation in the likelihood of deficit rainfall during the ensuing kharif season.

Dr. K. Narayana Gowda, Vice Chancellor, UAS, Bengaluru chaired the meeting, while Dr. Ananda Krishnan, Managing Director, Karnataka State Seed Corporation (KSSC); Dr. M. Maheswari, Director, CRIDA and Dr. S. Dixit, Project Director, Zonal Project Directorate Zone-VIII were present during the deliberations.

Mr. Subodh Yadav, Commissioner, Agriculture expressed that the action plans for implementation of contingency measures be as realistic and implementable as possible.

Dr. V.U.M. Rao, Project Coordinator (Agrometeorology), Dr. Ch. Srinivasrao, Project Coordinator (Dryland Agriculture); Dr. Y.G. Prasad, Principal Scientist; Dr. B.K. Ramachandrappa, Chief Scientist (AICRPDA), CRIDA; and Dr. D. Nutan, Associate Director of Research, UAS, Bengaluru made presentations on technical aspects contained in the district plans.

Dr. Rajbir Singh, Principal Scientist, NRM division, ICAR; Shri Dhurv Kumar and P.V. Rajasekharam from Department of Agriculture and Cooperation; Dr. M. A. Shankar, Director of Research; Dr. N. Nagaraj, Director of Extension, UAS; and Joint Directors of Agriculture from 20 vulnerable districts and Programme Coordinators of KVKs from these districts actively participated in the discussion for operationalization of the contingency plan for each district.

Status of seed availability in the State and action plan of KSSC to make arrangements for procurement etc. for seed of contingency crops along with important aspects of mid-term drought mitigation techniques etc. were also discussed during the meeting.

*(Source: NRM Division, ICAR)*