

ASHOKA- The First Super Computing Hub in Agriculture Dedicated to the Nation

15th January 2014, New Delhi



Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Government of India dedicated 'ASHOKA' (Advanced Supercomputing Hub for OMICS Knowledge in Agriculture) to the nation in a function held at Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute (IASRI), New Delhi here today. Shri Tariq Anwar and Shri Charan Das Mahant, Ministers of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Government of India were also present on the occasion. Dignitaries also launched National Agricultural Biocomputing Portal and Genome Sequence Submission Portal.

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR welcomed the dignitaries and briefed the unique features of ASHOKA. Dr. D. Rama Rao, National Director, NAIP; Dr. K.D. Kokate, DDG, Agricultural Extension, ICAR; Dr. M.M. Pandey, CEO, AgrInnovate India Ltd.; Dr. H.S. Gupta, Director, IARI were also present on the event.

Dr. U.C. Sud, Director, IASRI briefed the gathering about the objectives of ASHOKA. A video film highlighting architecture and state-of-art installation of this unique facility was also screened on the occasion.

ASHOKA is the proud outcome of the NAIP component-1 sub-project "**Establishment of National Agricultural Bioinformatics Grid in ICAR**"



ASHOKA is established under the aegis of Centre for Agricultural Bioinformatics of the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute. It is the most advanced computational inclusion in the National Agricultural Research and Education System. The state-of-art facility is first of its kind dedicated exclusively for Indian agricultural research. The supercomputing hub is poised to bridge the gap between genomic information and knowledge by utilizing statistical and computational sciences. The hub hosts microsatellites markers of pigeonpea, tomato, buffalo, goat and other agricultural commodities of global importance to help scientists for development of elite varieties and breeds. ASHOKA is a milestone facility fostering biotechnological research in the country.

Directors, senior officials and scientists of ICAR, NAIP, IASRI and other ICAR institutes were present on the occasion.

(Source: NAIP Mass Media Project, DKMA, ICAR)