

Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, GoI in joint collaboration with New Zealand High Commission organised a Sensitization Programme for Fruit Growers of New Zealand

Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA), GoI, New Delhi, in joint collaboration with New Zealand High Commission, New Delhi organised a Sensitization Programme for Fruit Growers of New Zealand on 4th July, 2024, at the Plant Authority Bhawan, New Delhi. The programme aimed to apprise the Fruit Growers of New Zealand of processes of plant variety registration and quarantine clearance in India. A total of 21 online participants including 9 participants from



New Zealand attended the meeting that was organised in hybrid mode. The participants from New Zealand included officials of governmental agencies, private fruit grower and exporter companies and their association officials. The said meeting was the result of an understanding in between PPVFRA and NZ High Commission

to facilitate the protection of foreign plant varieties in India so that the Indian farmers get an enhanced access to quality planting material of new improved varieties developed in New Zealand.

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, presided over the said sensitization programme. New Zealand High Commission was represented by Ms. Melanie Philips, Regional Agriculture Counsellor and Ms. Neera Arora, Head, Business Development. From Indian Side, a number of senior officials from various government agencies and departments and ICAR were present in the said workshop. These included Dr. Dinesh K. Agarwal, Registrar General, PPVFRA; Dr. G.P. Singh, Director, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi; Dr. T.K. Behera, Director, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru; Dr. M.K. Verma, Director, ICAR-CITH, Srinagar, Dr. P.K. Singh, Head, Germplasm Collection and Exploration, ICAR-NBPGR; Dr. Cilia Chalam, Head, Plant Quarantine, ICAR-NBPGR. Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, MoA&FW, GoI was represented by Dr. Naveen Patle, Additional Commissioner (Horticulture); Dr. Dilip Srivastava, Dy. Commissioner (Seed), Dr. G. Gnansambandhan, Head, Plant Quarantine; and Dr. Banchhor, Plant Quarantine Officer. Apart from these, a number of scientific experts

from ICAR Institutes, and officials and Technical Experts from PPVFRA also participated in the workshop.

At the outset, Dr. Dinesh K. Agarwal, Registrar General, PPVFRA welcomed the chair, experts and all the participants. He underlined the relevance and importance of this sensitization programme and in his brief presentation apprised the participants about the PPVFRA and its role and functioning in India. He elucidated the similarities and key difference between various provision of plant variety protection in India and New Zealand. Ms. Melanie Philips, in her introductory remarks highlighted the importance of sensitization workshop for fruit growers and exporters of New Zealand. She profusely thanked Chairperson, PPVFRA Dr. Mohapatra for readily agreeing to hold this very timely exercise.

Dr. Mohapatra, in his opening remarks talked about the bright possibilities of collaboration between India and New Zealand in the horticulture sector. He further emphasized on close cooperation between the Plant Variety Registries of India and New Zealand in their mutual interest.



He thanked DA&FW, MoA&FW, GoI for encouraging and granting necessary approvals in time. Dr. Mohapatra highlighted the reforms and the rapid progress that PPVFRA has made in the recent past. Chairperson, PPVFRA in his remarks further expressed the hope that such sensitization programme would play a key role in facilitating more and more plant registration of plant varieties from foreign countries.



Dr. Ravi Prakash, Technical Consultant and Former Senior Registrar, PPVFRA made an elaborate presentation on Plant Variety Application and Registration process in India. Dr. G. Gnansambandhan, Head, Plant Quarantine, DA&FW, MoA&FW, Govt. of India and Dr. Cilia Chalam,

Head, Plant Quarantine, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi in their respective presentations gave detailed information on Plant Quarantine Clearance Process in India for the

prospective importers. The session also included an elaborate Q&A Session, where the queries from all the participants were addressed by the experts.

Dr. Mohapatra in his concluding remarks expressed his satisfaction on the proceedings of the Sensitization Workshop and thanked the officials from New Zealand High Commission to facilitate the participation of a good number of participants from their country and expressed that the collaboration would further deepen in future. He also thanked all the officials and experts for their valuable inputs.

The proceedings of the said workshop were conducted by Shri Raj Ganesh, Legal Advisor, PPVFRA and was ably supported by Shri Dipal Roy Chaudhary, Joint Registrar, PPVFRA.
