

SRI. SUDARSHAN BHAGAT, HON'BLE UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA VISITED ICAR-CTCRI, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM AND 'MERA GAON MERA GAURAV' MODEL FARM IN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Sri. Sudarshan Bhagat, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India visited ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram on 28th January 2017.



Sri. Sudarshan Bhagat, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India planting a mango sapling at ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram campus to commemorate his visit to the Institute

The minister inaugurated the precision water and nutrient management facility as a part of '**More crop per drop**' research programme of the Institute to fulfill the objective of the hon'ble Prime Minister's dream programme of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) with the vision of extending the coverage of irrigation 'Har Khet ko pani' and improving water use efficiency 'More crop per drop' in a focused manner with end to end solution on source creation, distribution, management, field application and extension activities. The Institute has developed drip fertigation technology

for tropical tuber crops and is being implemented in the farm to save the precious water and nutrients.



The Union Minister inaugurating the drip fertigation facility established at the Institute as a part of 'More crop per drop' programme

The minister has visited the farm of the Institute and made a review of the work done and facilities available at the Institute such as germplasm conservation, Techno Incubation Centre, E-crop, biopesticides laboratory and transgenics laboratory.



Sri. Sudarshan Bhagat visiting the Institute Research fields



Sri. Sudarshan Bhagat, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare visiting the Techno Incubation Centre and having a glance of the value added products developed at the Institute



The hon'ble Minister listening to the scientist about the new E-Crop developed by the Institute. Electronic Crop (E-Crop) is an electronic crop simulator, which communicates to the farmers directly from the field on behalf of the crop. This system simulates crop growth real-time, in response to weather and soil parameter data collected from the field and generates agro advisory and send it to the farmer's mobile as SMS.

The minister also had a glance of the display of 53 varieties of tropical tuber crops that the Institute has developed over the past 53 years of its existence which were exhibited in the Crop Museum of the Institute.



Display of the different varieties of tropical tuber crops released by the Institute



Hon'ble Union Minister discussing with scientists and research scholars about the work done at the Transgenics Laboratory at the Institute



Hon'ble Union Minister keenly inquiring the biopesticide production unit at the Institute

The minister also inaugurated the cashless transaction facility at the Institute as well as distributed planting materials of tropical tuber crops to the selected model farmers for on-farm demonstration of ICAR-CTCRI technologies under the '***Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav***' programme of the government. The '***Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav***' programme has been conceptualized in which scientists of ICAR-CTCRI have identified 40 villages in the vicinity of the Institute and regularly providing advisories and consultations to farmers for increasing farm productivity and production.



Hon'ble Minister distributing high yielding varieties of tuber crops to selected model farmers under 'Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav' programme



Inauguration of the cashless transaction facility at the Institute



Launching of new value added tuber crop products developed by a women entrepreneur incubated at Techno Incubation Centre of the Institute

One of the significant happenings today was that the minister has visited one of the model organic farms under '**Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav**'. The minister visited the farm of Mr. Robinson at Chandavila, Kattayikonam about 10 km from the Institute and had a very detailed interaction and discussion for more than an hour with the progressive, organic farmer who follows integrated farming system in an area of 12 acres wherein tuber crops are one of the most important components. On this momentous occasion, the minister has inaugurated the introduction of released varieties of tuber crops to the model farm by planting three high yielding varieties of elephant foot yam released by ICAR-CTCRI.



Inauguration of the introduction of released varieties of tuber crops to the model organic farm of Sri. Robinson, Chandavila, Kattayikonam, Thiruvananthapuram by planting three high yielding varieties of elephant foot yam released by ICAR-CTCRI



Director, ICAR-CTCRI and the group of scientists who are behind the 'Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav' programme at the villages alongwith Hon'ble Minister



Hon'ble Union Minister with Sri. Robinson and family, a very successful model organic farmer under 'Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav' programme of the Institute

The minister also made a review of the various activities of the Institute by having a discussion with heads of divisions (HODs), sections, Senior Administrative Officer and Finance and Accounts Officer. An exhibition of the different technologies and varieties released by the Institute was also arranged and the minister visited the exhibition and had discussion about the different technologies and varieties.



Union Minister reviewing the research work at the Institute with Director and Heads of Divisions / Sections / SAO and FAO