

55th Research Council Meeting held at SKUAST Kashmir

Prof. Nazeer Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor presided over 55th Research Council Meeting (Kharief), at Shalimar Campus of SKUAST Kashmir and impressed upon the scientific fraternity to focus on low water requirement technologies in Field and Horticultural Crops to meet the challenges of aberrant climatic conditions facing the Valley. While chairing the Research Council meeting he emphasized on Research Scientists and Extensions functionaries of the Universities to be proactive in taking scientific technologies to the door steps of farmers so that Agriculture and allied sectors become more remunerative. The Scientists were asked to formulate Research Projects based on farmers needs.

Giving special thrust on doubling farmers income Prof. Nazeer Ahmad Vice Chancellor emphasized on Scientists to undertake and put efforts to improve deficits in food grains, mutton, eggs, milk, pulses etc. by improving productivity and quality. The Scientists need to develop region specific and climate resilient varieties which can withstand drought conditions. He informed the house that real time contingency plan in consultation with line departments has been drafted and shall be made public soon. In order to improve the livelihood of our farming community there is need to focus on niche crops, HDP in apple, integrated farming systems & high value crops like Red rice, Aromatic Basmati, Kashmiri chili, Cucumber, Mushrooms, Honey, etc. He announced that one fodder variety has recently been approved for National release and some more varieties in pipeline will be released after completion of testing procedures. He further informed that the University is undertaking studies for conservation of Dal Lake and research programs for conversion of Dal weeds into organic compost and monitoring of pesticides residues in Dal waters shall be undertaken with LAWDA.

Earlier Director Research Prof. M.Y. Zargar while welcoming the members elaborated the Research achievements of SKUAST Kashmir and informed the house that University submitted 65 research projects to different funding agencies during last six months out of which 23 projects have been sanctioned with financial allocation of about 9.0 crores. One All India coordinated Research project (voluntary centre) for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants has been sanctioned in favour of the University. He informed that University is extending outreach of high density plantation of Apple and other fruits in collaboration with development departments. Various European varieties are being evaluated for their market acceptability and price index and efforts are on for finalizing package of practices for high density apple cultivation. The University is meeting indent of quality seeds as per the demands of line departments and furnishing improved varieties of different high density fruit plants annually to farming community.

Vice Chancellor complimented Scientists of the University for their good work and informed the Directors of line departments to actively participate and deliberate on programs and

policies governing Agriculture, Horticulture and livestock sectors. The meeting took stock of the research attainments of the University and their impact on socio economic condition of farming community. Various ongoing concluded & ongoing research activities were reviewed and new Research programs submitted by different Faculties approved.

On the occasion the Vice Chancellor released four publications on (Lentil, Pea, Manual on AM fungi and a book of GIS - Maps and one short film on Bee keeping: New opportunities (*Magazbani rozgar ke wasail*))

