



### **District Agriculture Development Forum Meeting**

**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> Feb., 2016**

**Venue: Hindi Bhawan, Mau, Uttar Pradesh**

A meeting of District Agriculture Development Forum was organized on 21 February, 2016 in the committee room of the Hindi Bhawan, Mau.

The convener, Shri Daya Shanker Tiwari organized this meeting under the banner of literary societies of Mau which has two main objectives, first, to felicitate Dr. R.K. Singh, Director NEFORD for his literary book-“Pokher ke paon hai biwai” for which he was given one of the highest literary awards, namely, “Sahitya Bhushan” by the Hindi Sansthan, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow. The book contains the lyrical poems on issues related to climate change and monsoonal uncertainties.

More than 50 participants belonging to different affiliations- Government, NGOs, College, Media, Farmers, Input Agencies and Writers- participated in the felicitation and subsequent discussion on “The impact of climate change on agriculture and rural livelihood”. The chief guest, Prof. Netra Pal Singh, a renowned writer, thinker and philosopher, spoke at length on the contribution of Dr. Singh both as a scientist and a littérateur. His lyrical poems on climate change reminded us of famous climatologist Ghagh. Dr. Singh was honored with a shawl, a memento and a bouquet by the organizers.

The meeting was chaired by another renowned writer, Dr. P. N. Singh who while speaking on the climate change in the context of global hunger, emphasized upon the fact that it is the farmers who are facing the problem of climate change on daily basis and hence more work needs to be done to help farmers deal with the problems arising due to climate change and in this context, the work being done by NEFORD under the leadership of Dr. R.K. Singh is highly commendable.

The second part of the program was the discussion on the impact of climate change on agriculture and rural livelihood. The discussion was initiated by Mr. Santosh Mishra, CEO NEFORD (Mau), who gave a detailed description of how farmers faced problems in rice cultivation during last year. Not only the monsoon was delayed, but also the rains were scanty and erratic. The farmers faced problems of nursery raising, transplanting of older seedlings (over 40 days) and drying of crops in the field due to lack of irrigation facilities. Mr. Mishra highlighted the performance of drought tolerant variety “Sahbhagi Dhan” which despite moisture-stress could produce high yields, ranging from 2.3 t/h to 4.3 t/h. Mr. Jokhu Singh, a farmer and recipient of the NERORD’s “Utkrisht Krishak Samman”, spoke on the problems of non-availability of seeds and fertilizer on time, power failure and lack of irrigation facilities. The Deputy Director Agriculture (Mau), Dr. A. Mishra provided a detailed account of the measures being undertaken by the Government. He specially mentioned about the provisions available under the new Prime Minister’s Irrigation Scheme and asked the farmers to take advantage of this scheme.



Dr. R.K. Singh, Director NEFOR, emphasized upon the following four options available to the farmers of climatically vulnerable stress-prone areas like eastern Uttar Pradesh:

- Use of stress-tolerant varieties as an adaptation strategy to climate change. Now varieties are available which can both improve and stabilize productivity under the changing weather

conditions, for example, rice varieties like Swarna sub-1 (submergence), Sahbhagi Dhan (drought), CSR-36 (Salinity), wheat varieties like Halna, NW1014 (heat), KRL-19 (Salinity).

- Sanda Method (double transplanting) ensures harvest under delayed monsoon conditions, saves water and energy.
- Alternate wetting and drying instead of continuous flooding of rice fields, saves water and ensures high yields.
- Micro-irrigation devices like drip and sprinkler irrigation, help saving of water without affecting crop yields.

Dr. Singh asked the participants particularly the media representative and farmers to promote above technologies by reaching out large number of farmers, so that they can take advantage of these developments in making their agriculture more efficient and profitable. Dr. Singh advised the media representatives to visit the NEFORD's demonstrations conducted on farmers' fields and write successes stories, so that more and more farmers become aware of these new developments.



Mr. Madhav Krisana, a young free-lance social worker, spoke on the need for more people and organizations like Dr. R.K. Singh and NEFORD to work closely with the farmers. Unless the

scientists and officials reach farmers and provide solutions to their problems right in the field, the plight of farmers is not going to improve. He had all the appreciation for NEFORD staff for visiting farmers almost on daily basis.

The meeting ended with a poem by Dr. Kamlesh Rai of DGSK PG College Mau highlighting the farmers' problems and also warning them that if they did not rise to the occasion, they might face more severe problems in future.

Shri Daya Shanker Tiwari proposed "Vote of Thanks".

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***Acknowledgement:***

***This document has been produced by NEFORD, Lucknow with the financial assistance from CUTS International, Jaipur under the project entitled Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP) funded by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Government of Australia. The views expressed here are those of NEFORD and can therefore in no way be taken to reflect the positions of CUTS International or DFAT.***

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