

ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING OF AINP ON VERTEBRATE PEST MANAGEMENT ORGANIZED AT ICAR-CAZRI, JODHPUR

Annual Review Meeting-2023-24 of the All-India Network Project on Vertebrate Pest Management was organized from 8-9 January, 2025 at ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur. The meeting was presided over by Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director, ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur. Dr. T.R. Sharma, Deputy Director General (CS), ICAR, New Delhi was the Chief Guest and Dr. Poonam Jasrotia, Assistant Director General (PP&B), ICAR, New Delhi was the guest of Honour. The meeting was attended by over 60 delegates from various parts of country. Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director of ICAR-CAZRI, extended a warm welcome to Dr. T.R. Sharma, DDG (Crop Science), Dr. Poonam Jasrotia, ADG (Plant Protection and Biosafety), ICAR, New Delhi and the esteemed experts appointed by ICAR for evaluating the ARM, Dr. R.S. Tripathi and Dr. V. Vasudeva Rao. He also acknowledged the Principal Investigators (PIs) and scientists from various centers, as well as the Heads, Scientists, and Technical and Supporting Staff at ICAR-CAZRI. He expressed his gratitude to ICAR for choosing the Institute as the venue for this prestigious review meeting. Dr. Vipin Chaudhary, Network Coordinator presented the consolidated Annual Project Report of AINP on VPM for 2023-24. He briefly discussed the action taken report on recommendations of the last meeting. He then briefed the house about the latest amendments in the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 and complicity associated with the development of management strategies for wild herbivores in the light of latest changes in the act. Dr. Poonam Josrotia, ADG (PP&B) and Guest of Honour, appreciated the efforts of Coordinator and express his satisfaction on the progress made by the project. She emphasized the need for the development of new and advanced technologies to manage animals encroaching on agricultural lands. Unlike other network programs, this one presents unique challenges due to legal, research, and social constraints. The methods employed in one field often drive animals to neighboring fields, causing further damage. Under the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, only non-lethal measures are allowed to manage these animals. Dr. T. R. Sharma, DDG (CS) and Chief Guest praised the work done by the project. He opined that the AINP on VPM is a distinctive program among the 22 AICRPs and 10 AINPs under ICAR and requires an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating expertise from social scientists, evolutionary biologists, chemists, physiologists, electrical and mechanical engineers, and economists. He emphasized upon the use of digital technologies, plant deterrents and genetic approach in the management of these higher vertebrate pests. The dignitaries released the various publications of the project. Inaugural function ended with vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Mani Chellappan, Principal Investigator at KAU Thrissur.

The progress made by different centers during the period was presented in various Technical Sessions held from 8 to 9, January, 2025 by Principal Investigators of the respective centers. A separate session of collaborating Institutes and Industry was kept. In the plenary session a thorough discussion on the output of the Project along with various recommendations and future technical program was made.

Photos



Dignitaries Inaugurating the Meeting



Dignitaries Addressing the Meeting



Release of publications



Technical Session in progress