

## **27<sup>th</sup> Institute Foundation Day celebrated on 18/01/2023**

The ICAR-National Research Centre for Grapes, Pune celebrated its 27th Foundation Day on January 18, 2023, in a hybrid mode.

In his welcoming address, Dr Kaushik Banerjee, the Director of the institute narrated the glorious journey of the institute in the service of the Indian grape industry. He highlighted the key achievements of the institute in recent years, which were subsequently presented through a short video.

Former Directors, Dr. SD Shikhamany, Dr. S.D. Sawant and Dr. Indu S. Sawant congratulated the staff and also reminded about great expectations of the stakeholders community on ICAR-NRCG in improving production, productivity and quality of Indian grapes.

Dr. S.K. Singh, Director, ICAR-IIHR, Dr. P.C. Patil, Project Coordinator (AICRP-Fruits), Dr. S.R.K. Singh, Director, ICAR-ATARI-Zone IX, Jabalpur, Dr. P.S. Naik, Former Director, ICAR-IIVR also virtually participated and congratulated ICAR-NRCG staff.

Dr V.B. Patel, ADG (Hort. Science) inaugurated a new journal named *Grape Insight*. ICAR-NRCG launched this new electronic, open-access, peer-reviewed journal through the Society of Advancement in Viticulture and Enology (SAVE) with the objective to publish recent advances in grape research. In his address, drawing on the journey from the history, he emphasized on the requirement of promoting grape cultivation in newer areas to ensure its availability round the year.

The Guest of Honour Dr Swapan K. Jana, Director-R&D and Manufacturing from the Serum Institute of India enlightened the audience about "Vaccine Development & Its Manufacturing using a smart and Integrated High Throughput Technology with the application of Advanced Data Analytics".

In his Foundation Day Address, Dr A.K Singh, the DDG (Hort. Science) congratulated all staff of the institute. He expressed the need for crop diversification and expansion of the area in non-conventional areas so that volume of production enhances through linkages with the State Governments and local institutions for facilitation of grape production and wine making. He urged the scientists to decide how they can charter new research programmes to support increase in productivity and enhance export. He emphasized that taking the advantage of diverse geographical locations, advanced R&D facilities / expertise, and networking with stakeholders it would definitely be possible for ICAR-NRCG to improve the quality and trade of grapes. He mentioned that demand for organic grapes is rising by 15 to 18% and felt that there are definite potentials of solving the biological problems by applying biological inputs. He highlighted that Europe is going back to traditional tillage operations, minimizing chemical applications and through this India can resolve residue problems and promote export.

On this occasion, progressive grape growers Mr. Rajendra Waghmode and Mr. Vijay Jagtap were felicitated. The 'Best employee Award for the year 2022' was conferred to Mr. N.S. Pathan, Mr. B.B. Khade and Mr. B.R. Chakankar.

The Foundation Day Programme registered participation by both the retired and serving staff members of the Institute, Directors, and Scientists from the neighboring ICAR institutes, and the industry stakeholders.

Programme ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



