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Twenty-third Meeting of ICAR Regional Committee No. 1

Dehra Dun, 18 June 2014. Twenty-third Meeting of ICAR Regional Committee No. 1, coordinated by Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute was



inaugurated by Minister of Labour, Khadi and Small Industries, Uttarakhand, Shri Harish Chandra Durga Pal, at Forest Research Institute. Shri Durga Pal highlighted the loss of apple production due to climate changes in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir. He called for effective technologies and field solutions for soil, water, forest conservation and climate resilient agriculture; and field solutions for soil, water and forest conservation on which development depends. Shri Durga Pal emphasized that water harvesting, flood control, soil conservation measures, organic farming and availability of seed and planting material for scientific inputs to boost agricultural, horticultural crops are prime needs of the region.

Dr N.K. Krishna Kumar (DDG, Horticultural Science) conveyed the message of the Secretary (DARE) and DG (ICAR) on the agenda note of the meeting. Dr Krishna Kumar highlighted the importance, composition and concerns of the meeting for the agriculture development in the hill states.

Shri Arvind R. Kaushal (Additional Secretary, DARE and Secretary, ICAR) focused on the facilities, role and strengths of ICAR; listing out the ICAR Research Institutes and Research Centers, Agricultural Universities, and Krishi Vigyan Kendra's that are addressing the challenges of agricultural problem in the region. The Secretary, ICAR remembered Dr Norman E. Borlaug and his contribution to agriculture. Importance of 'Family Farming', the theme of the year of FAO, was underlined. Five publications were released and ten progressive farmers of the region were honoured. The meeting identified major issues to be addressed by ICAR, SAUs and respective state departments on short-term and long-term basis.