

Press Release:

ICAR-ATARI, Pune Celebrates Kisan Samman Diwas on 23rd December 2024

Pune, Maharashtra – ICAR-ATARI (Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute), Pune, hosted a grand celebration of *Kisan Samman Diwas* on 23rd December 2024, marking the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, India's 5th Prime Minister. This event was dedicated to honoring the invaluable contributions of the nation's farmers and their significant role in advancing India's agricultural progress.

The event was presided over by Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, along with Maharashtra's Chief Minister, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Hon. Shri Chandrakant Patil, State Cabinet Minister for Higher Education & Technology, Government of Maharashtra, Hon. Dr. R. K. Singh, ADG, ICAR, New Delhi, and Dr. S. K Roy, Director, ATARI Pune. The occasion also saw the presence of ATARI Scientist, directors of various ICAR institutions from Maharashtra, Heads and Scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), and over 2312 farmers from across the state.

The program began with a warm felicitation of Hon'ble Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan by Dr. R. K. Singh, AGD, ICAR, New Delhi. Dr. S. K Roy, Director of ATARI Pune, also felicitated the Chief Guests, including Maharashtra's Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis and Hon. Shri Chandrakant Patil. In a special segment, beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and other central government schemes were honored by the dignitaries. Ten beneficiary farmers shared their inspiring experiences during the program.

In his presidential address, Hon. Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan spoke about the Union Government's commitment to farmers' welfare with the aim of increasing farmers' incomes. Shri Chouhan appreciated the efforts of KVKs in technology dissemination especially varieties of Grapes, Pomegranate and other technologies. He mentioned that Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently launched 109 climate-resilient and biofortified crop varieties developed by ICAR for the benefit of the farming community. Shri Chouhan urged farmers to adopt natural farming practices, recommending that each farmer dedicate at least half an acre or one acre of land to natural farming. He also called for the scientific control of chemical fertilizer use in agriculture.

In his inaugural speech, Hon. CM Shri Devendra Fadnavis emphasized that Kisan Samman Diwas is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Late Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh, the 5th Prime Minister of India, to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of farmers. Shri Fadnavis further praised the efforts of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) for their role in strengthening the connection between agricultural science and farmers. He also pointed out the growing global shift towards natural farming and reiterated that the government's policies aim to scale up natural farming practices in India. He encouraged farmers to embrace technological advancements, such as farm mechanization, through various government schemes. Additionally, he mentioned the Nanaji Deshmukh Krushi Sanjiwani Yojna, which is benefiting farmers in Maharashtra.



