

“International DUS Testing Workshop on Potato” held on 11th & 12th June, 2018 at ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla

Two days workshop on “DUS tests in Potato” at ICAR-CPRI, Shimla was conducted on 11th & 12th June, 2018 by Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Right Authority in collaboration with ICAR- Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla under Indo-German Bilateral Co-operation in Seed Sector Development. More than forty participants participated including representatives from seed development sectors *viz.*, Pepsico, ITC, Rasi Seeds and Mahindra HZPC Pvt Ltd. and also scientists from DUS centres.



The training was inaugurated by Dr. V. K. Dua, I/c. Director, CPRI, Shimla and welcomed all the scientists and participants. The Inaugural remarks were given by Dr. R. C. Agrawal, Registrar General, PPV&FRA followed by briefing of programme by Dr. T. K. Nagarathna, Registrar, PPV& FRA. The Director, CPRI, Shimla explained about the current scenario in Potato Research and Development in India. He also informed about quality seed production through involvement of KVKs, progressive farmers and establishment of Aeroponics. A detailed presentation on PVP System in India, infrastructure and harmonization was given by Dr. T K Nagarathna, Registrar, PPVFRA, and explained about the registration procedure of plant varieties and farmers rights of PPV& FR Act.



Video conferencing was arranged with German expert Dr. Stefan Haffke, who explained about “Principles of DUS testing of potato according to the UPOV system”. He also interacted with participants and clarified many questions raised by the participants. Dr. Dalamu, Scientist, ICAR-CPRI, Shimla explained in detail about the procedure for DUS testing in potato. Participants also suggested revision of few descriptors in the DUS guidelines of potato. Authority shall amend the characters only after the detailed inspection and discussion.



On the second day of the training programme a field visit was arranged to field gene bank in Kufri, where participants visited DUS experimental plot of potato and later to farmers’ field in Talai village. Participants interacted with the progressive farmers and discussed about different varieties in potato grown by farmers. The training programme was concluded by distributing certificates to all the participants.