

## **ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal**

### **Press Note**

**27.06.2022**

One day webinar on ‘Prospects of Bamboo Cultivation in Managing Salt Affected Lands for Ecological Sustenance and Livelihood Security’ organized at Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal under ‘Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav’ (AKAM) program being run at country level in commemoration of 75<sup>th</sup> Year of India’s independence on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 in which more than 70 participants viz. scientists from ICAR, ICFRE institutes, universities, farmers, representative of bamboo based industries and NGOs, students and RAs/SRFs were the part of the event.

Dr DS Bundela, Head, Drainage Irrigation and Drainage Engineering (DIDE) on behalf of the Director, CSSRI inaugurated the webinar and in his inaugural address he stressed the need to work on bamboos for rehabilitation of salt affected lands. He also applauded the role of CSSRI technologies developed in course of its more than 50 year of journey to the national contribution and in the lives of farming communities.

At the outset, Dr Rakesh Banyal, organizing secretary welcomed all and briefed about the significance and outline of the webinar in reference to the salinity management through bamboos farming. He highlighted that bamboo farming has the edge to help in achieving the target of Land Degradation Neutrality by 2030 as per the commitment made by Indian union government in CoP-2019 declaration, envisaged in sustainable development goals (SDGs) of United Nations because of its capability to grow on degraded soils with omnipresence from coastal to mountainous temperate region.

Dr S Vishwanath, Director, KFRI, Thrissur, Kerala, Dr Ajay Thakur, Head, Division of Genetics and Tree Improvement, FRI, Dehradun, Dr Rakesh Banyal, Principal Scientist and Organizing Secretary, ICAR-CSSRI, Karnal, Haryana, Er. Sreekanth KS, NBM-MIDH, MoA&FW, GOI, Er Sanjeev Karpe, Director, KONBAC, NGO, Sindhudurg, Maharashtra, Sh. Dinesh Joshi, Program Manager, UB&FDB, Dehradun and Dr Barthi Nambigyar, Grow More Biotech. Ltd., Bangalore, Karnataka shared their in-depth insights which covered all the aspects of bamboo farming right from challenges and opportunities of bamboo cultivation in salt affected lands to nursery and propagation of bamboo, ways and means of integrating bamboo in farm lands for livelihood security of the growers/farmers, finished products and their marketing channels and finally the details of government schemes and programs for promotion of bamboo farming in marginal lands. The webinar was ended with a clear note that bamboo can be a potential option for salt affected lands but the focused research in the domain of screening of existing germplasm for determining the salinity tolerance, complete silvicultural package and finally the application of advanced improvement techniques to have the higher establishment rate and productivity are the points to ponder-upon to make it the reality in the times to come.

Dr. Rajay K Singh, Principal Scientist and Program Coordinator of AKAM, presented the formal vote of thanks to one and all for contributing in making the webinar a success.

# ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal

