

G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar

Need for adoption of technology in rural areas for empowering farmers; Experts

Pantnagar. 11 November, 2009. Knowledge on Climate Change, Water Resources and Energy Security in the hill state was shared during the second day of 4th Uttarakhand State Science and Technology Congress (USSTC)- 2009 held at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUAT), Pantnagar from November 10 to 12 by Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology (UCOST).

Focussing on the adoption of newer technologies in rural areas Dr. B.S. Bisht, Vice Chancellor, GBPUAT said that there is a strong conviction that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) can be utilized to empower farmers, disadvantaged minorities in the rural and isolated regions of Uttarakhand." It is therefore important to ensure that the farmers and disadvantaged communities learn to benefit from the use of ICT in the mainstream society. The adoption of rural technologies by farmers through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) is a big leap in this direction, he added.

Dr. Bisht informed that entrepreneurs have also come forward in introducing hardware and software solutions for rural applications. They have developed computer and wireless connectivity solutions with indigenous components, software and open source systems.

Dr. Rajendra Dobhal, Director, UCOST, while addressing the delegates and scientists of the Congress said that climate Change leading to global warming will result in increase in winter and summer temperatures by 3.2 degree and 2.2 degrees Celsius respectively by 2050. This will pose an adverse impact on agriculture, corrective strategies and approaches need to be undertaken. He further added that newer researches in the field of Biotechnology, Biochemistry and Microbiology have allowed us to explore new species of medicinal value in the Uttarakhand region. A case in point is Ginko Biloba, an economically important tree species of medicinal value, which requires immediate attention for its propagation in the temperate forest zones of Uttarakhand. Dr. V.P. Singh, Scientist, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Chamoli informed that Agriculture Technologies like Mulching Techniques for higher vegetable production in hilly areas of Uttarakhand are required and is being adopted by the farmers of Chamoli District. The speakers also focused on Women Empowerment through Dairy Management, Nano-technologies, Weaving & designing Durries, Education Environment Affecting Learning Achievement etc. In the session on science for society intensive discussions were made on role of ICT for fulfilling the ever growing need for information among farmers. Mobile based information dissemination has already been initiated in many states.

Spanning over a three-day period, the congress is currently hosting 363 oral presentations and 303 poster presentations in disciplines of Agricultural Sciences, Biotechnology, Biochemistry and Microbiology, Botany, Chemistry, Earth Sciences Environmental Sciences and Forestry, Home Science including Textile, Food, Nutrition and Child development, Material Sciences and Nanotechnology, Mathematics, Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry and Zoology.

The congress has also served as a platform for brain storming sessions on Good Laboratory Practices in Science and Technology in the disciplines of Biotechnology, Biochemistry and Microbiology, Medical Sciences, Pharmaceutical Science and Nanotechnology. The valedictory address would be delivered by Chief Guest of function, Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Government of Uttarakhand on November 12, 2009.

(B. Kumar)
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Email Photo No.1- Session of the congress being held