

Brainstorming session on scope of Agri-Photo-Voltaics organized

A brainstorming session on scope of Agri-Photo-Voltaic system was held at Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi on 27th November 2017 under the chairmanship of Dr. T. Mohapatra, Secretary DARE and DG ICAR. Dr. T. Mohapatra in his opening remarks underlined the need of renewable energy for use in agriculture in the context of advancement in mechanization and to mitigate climate change. He further mentioned that suitable models are to be developed in the country to harness the abundantly available solar energy to produce electricity from the land that might also be suitable for farming. Participants included experts from ICAR, CGIAR institutes and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. Director General urged to compare the existing AVS models established so far by various agencies including ICAR. Dr. K. Alagusundaram, DDG (Engineering & NRM) highlighted the need of AVS in specific areas to produce green energy and appreciated the experimental model of AVS established at CAZRI, Jodhpur. The technical details of and experiences from the model established on one acre of land at CAZRI generated a lot of interest. Dr. A.K. Sikka from International Water Management Institute suggested formulating and extending Rooftop Solar RESCO model for AVS also. Dr. J.S. Samra pointed out the possibilities of leasing of lands by farmers to private sector for establishment of solar PV generation system in farmer's field in a participatory mode involving farmers and private sector making investment in energy generation. Sh. S.N. Tripathi Additional Secretary DARE and Financial Advisor, ICAR stressed to work out detailed economics of various models so far developed by different organization in the country. Mr. Girish Kumar from MNRE made a presentation on the possible schemes of installation of solar PV system in farmer's field through Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahaviyan (KUSUM).



All aspects of Agri-Photo-Voltaic System (AVS) were deliberated that included selection of land for establishing AVS, choice of crops, existing policies of government, investment needed and combining AVS with other systems of harnessing renewable energy including wind mills and solar parks.

Earlier Dr. S. Bhaskar, ADG (AAF&CC) welcomed the delegates and briefed about AVS of 105 kW capacity developed at CAZRI having crop production, PV-based electricity generation and rainwater harvesting. Dr. SK Choudhary, ADG (SWM), Dr. SK Chakrabarti ADG (PP), Dr. RK Singh ADG (CC), Dr. SK Singh, Director DKMA, Sh VP Kothiyal, Director (Works) and scientists from CAZRI also shared their views. Dr. O.P. Yadav, Director proposed vote of thanks.