

## **One day Farmer Awareness Camp Organized by AMFU, Rajouri (SKUAST - J)**

**AMFU, Rajouri (SKUAST- J), Jammu & Kashmir** organized one day Farmer Awareness Camp *cum* Kisan Mela on the theme “Weather, Climate and Farmers” on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 in collaboration with KVK, Rajouri to create awareness among farmers of the Rajouri and adjoining districts to minimize the losses due to weather related uncertainties in their day to day agricultural activities. More than 250 farmers participated in the programme. The Chief guest of the function Dr K. S. Risam, Director Extension (SKUAST –Jammu) inaugurated the programme. In his presidential address, he welcomed the step taken by AMFU, Rajouri for organizing the event. He emphasized upon the farming community to adopt improved / modern technologies like agro advisory services, SMS Farmer Portal Service, Integrated pest and nutrient management, adoption of mechanized / customized farming systems, etc to improve the livelihood of the people of the area.

Dr. B. C. Sharma Principal Nodal Officer, AMFU, highlighted about the program “Weather, Climate and Farmers” and role of weather in different aspects of agricultural and allied entrepreneurship field operations. He apprised farmers regarding the use of weather and climate based agro-advisories in day to day agriculture activities and stressed upon the farmers to make more and more utilization of Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) Services rendered by India Metrological Department (IMD). He gave detailed information on role of medium range weather forecast in agricultural crops under mid-hill conditions of J & K. He appreciated the farmers on participation during the programme. Dr Vikas Tandon, programme Coordinator KVK, Rajouri gave lecture on Fruit crop production under mid-hill conditions of J & K under changing weather paradigm.

Dr. Rohit Sharma, Technical Officer (Agro-meteorology), AMFU, Rajouri gave information to the farmers about the role GKMS services and different types of weather forecasting. He advised farmers about the importance of taking cues about day to day weather updates, which can help farmers in overcoming of planning their crops. He said that more than 3000 farmers have been registered with SMS Farmer portal Service by AMFU, Rajouri and are getting regular weather updates and forecasts that will help them in managing agricultural operations in better way. He motivated the farmers to take maximum advantage from this awareness programme and register them in Farmers Portal to get the benefit of SMS.

Dr. Deepak Kumar, Jr. Scientist, RARS, Rajouri discussed on role of medium range weather forecast in disease management of crops and minimization of pesticide use for the safer produce and maximizing the profit of farmers by utilizing the service of AMFU under mid-hill conditions of J & K. Dr. Arvind Isher, SMS, KVK, Rajouri also discussed on role of advisory issued from AMFU in respect to insect pest management of crops under mid-hill conditions of J & K.

The major attraction of the programme was exhibition organized by RARS, Rajouri and KVK, Rajouri to highlight / display the technologies developed at RARS & KVK Rajouri. Different Departments like, Department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Apiculture, of J & K Govt. etc also displayed their technologies to make farmers aware about different new technologies in agriculture and allied fields for intermediate, low and high zone of District Rajouri. Dr. Rohit Sharma demonstrates the various instruments in exhibition which are used in measuring of different weather parameters.

Kisan Goshthi was also organized during the event in which farmers had interaction with the scientists of the university about day to day problems faced in agriculture and allied sectors. The scientists who participated were Dr. Vinod Gupta, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Dr. Narinder Panotra, Dr. Saurav Gupta, Dr. Rajesh Kumar and Dr. Parul Gupta. A technical bulletin by Dr. Vikas Sharma, Jr. Scientist, RARS, Rajouri on quality seed production of maize was also released on the occasion.

A visit to meteorological observatory at RARS, Rajouri and to the experimental fields of the Research Station was also arranged as a part of this programme.

