

Symposium on Spices and Aromatic Crops (SYMSAC IX)

The Symposium on Spices and Aromatic Crops (SYMSAC IX) jointly organized by Indian Society for Spices (ISS), Kozhikode and School of Agricultural Sciences and Rural Development (SASRD), Nagaland University, Medziphema with the theme “Spices for doubling farmer’s income” was held during 15-17 March 2018 at SASRD, Nagaland University, Medziphema Campus, Nagaland.

The symposium was inaugurated by Shri. Padmanaba Balakrishna Achariya, Hon’ble Governor of Nagaland. Prof. Pardeshi Lal, Vice-Chancellor, Nagaland University was the Guest of Honour. During the symposium, Dr. S.P. Ghosh, Former DDG (Hort.), ICAR, New Delhi, Prof. T. Lanusosang, Pro-Vice Chancellor, NU, SASRD, Medziphema, Dr. V.A. Parthasarathy, Former Director, ICAR-IISR, Kozhikode, Dr. K. Nirmal Babu, Director and Project Coordinator (Spices), ICAR-IISR, Kozhikode, Dr. M. Anandaraj, Former Director, ICAR-IISR, Kozhikode and Prof. V.B. Singh, President, HSNEI, Medziphema, Nagaland were felicitated. During the symposium, the Souvenir, a book on Sustainable Horticulture and folders on cultivation practices of spices published by the Department of Horticulture and SASRD, Nagaland University were released.

During the Symposium various awards, viz., ISS Honorary Fellow, Sugandhasree Innovative Farmer, ISS Fellow, Dr. V. S. Korikanthimath and Smt. Vijaya Korikanthimath Awards for best Ph.D. and M.Sc. theses respectively, Dr. J. S. Pruthi (for best research publication), H. S. Mehta Memorial (best research papers - oral and poster) and Alapatti Prasada Rao (best research paper - poster) were presented.

The symposium had six technical sessions on various themes like, Status of spice industry in India with special reference to North East Region (NER); Crop improvement and biotechnology; Nutrient, soil, water and plant health management; Climate resilience in spice crops production; Technology - led organic production of spices and safe foods and Post harvest management, value addition and marketing of spices besides the plenary, separate session on developing road map for spice industry in NER region, farmer’s interactive sessions, business meet (B2B) and exhibitions during which the farmers representing different North Eastern states and other parts of India, entrepreneurs as well as industrial personnel participated.

The symposium witnessed the convergence of 86 officials representing various organizations, 65 students, more than 130 farmers and 75 Buyers/Growers/Exhibitors besides scientists representing ICAR and different State Agricultural Universities.