

## **Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (2019-20) -ICAR CTTRI RS, Jeelugumilli**

### **Field Demonstration on FCJ- 11, a high yielding line**

ICAR-CTTRI RS, Jeelugumilli organized a field demonstration on FCJ-11, a high yielding Virginia tobacco variety for NLS area under Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) - 2019-20 on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 at Thaduvayi village of Jangareddy gudem II APF, West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. The programme started in the forenoon around 11 AM. Dr. A. Srinivas, Scientist, Member, SCSP committee welcomed the Scientists, Schedule caste FCV tobacco farmers, Tobacco Board officials and Trade members.

Dr. D. Damodar Reddy, Director, ICAR-CTTRI; Shri Y. Raghunadha Babu, Chairman, Tobacco Board; Shri Ratna Sagar, Regional Manager, NLS; Dr. S. Kasturi Krishna, Head i/c CTTRI RS Jeelugumilli and Chairman , Dr. LK Prasad Member and Dr Srinivas Member, SCSP committee ; Dr. K. Sarala, Head, Division of Crop Improvement, ICAR-CTTRI; Shri Vasudeva Rao, Member, Tobacco Board; Shri Kalyan Rami Reddy, Leaf Manager, ITC; Atluri Satish, Progressive farmers and Vice President, Tobacco Farmers Association; Shri Thalari Yesu Dasu, Shri E. Ravi SC farmers; Tobacco Board Auction Superintendents and Field Officers of NLS and other Scientific Staff of ICAR-CTTRI attended the programme. A total of 250 Scheduled Caste (SC) farmers from NLS region were participated in the programme. Dr. Hema Scientist from CTTRI, Farm Manager and Technical Staff of the Research Station, Field staff of Tobacco Board and Trade also attended the programme.

Before the programme begins, the officers and farmers were visited to FCJ -11 tobacco variety demonstrated field in the field of Shri Atluri Satish, progressive farmer at Thaduvayi village. The significance of the variety was explained by the scientists in the demonstration field by showing the crop growth. As 'seeing is believing' is the major determinant in transfer of technology, most of the farmers actively interacted with the officials and clarified their queries in the demonstration plot. Farmers and trade, Tobacco board officials were impressed by the variety vigour, growth and quality.



After field visit, a meeting was arranged in the premises of Farmer fields. Dr. S. Kasturi Krishna delivered the introductory remarks and explained about the purpose of the SCSP programme and the importance of NLS FCV tobacco. Dr. K. Sarala, elucidated in detail about the field demonstration and highlighted about the FCJ-11, a high yielding FCV tobacco cultivar developed for release to Northern Light Soils (NLS) of AP. It has yield potential of more than 3300kg/ha under irrigated conditions of NLS .



Shri Ratna Sagar, Regional manager, Tobacco Board, emphasized the need of new varieties of high yielding and tolerant nature. He urged the farmers to go for this new variety by purchasing seeds from ICAR-CTRI from the next season.

Dr. D. Damodar Reddy, Director, ICAR-CTRI stressed the importance of this variety for the irrigated conditions of NLS region and assured the FCV tobacco farmers about the availability of seed of this new high yielding line FCJ-11 from the next season. He also advised the farmers to increase the cropping intensity in FCV tobacco by growing either kharif or summer before or after tobacco to get additional income.

Shri Raghunadha babu, Chairman, Tobacco Board appreciated the efforts of ICAR-CTRI in replacing the variety with added benefits to NLS irrigated conditions. He stressed the need for mechanisation in FCV tobacco to overcome the labour problem.

Shri Kalyan Rami Reddy, Leaf Manager, ITC; Progressive farmers Atluri Satish, Vice President, Tobacco Farmers Association; Shri Thalari Yesu Dasu, Shri E. Ravi SC farmers of the zone also expressed their views on the need of new FCV tobacco varieties from ICAR-CTRI to mitigate the existing challenges and productivity enhancement.

During the programme, a brochure published by ICAR-CTRI entitled as 'FCJ-11: A High Yielding FCV Tobacco Cultivar for Northern Light Soils of Andhra Pradesh' was released by the dignitaries and distributed to the officials and tobacco farmers. The programme ended with vote of thanks by Dr.A.Srinivas .

