

## Winter school on “Integration of Conventional and Biotechnological Approaches

A winter school on “**Integration of Conventional and Biotechnological Approaches for Improvement of Dual Purpose Crops and Grasses**” sponsored by the Education Division, ICAR is being organised by the Crop Improvement Division from 28<sup>th</sup> January to 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2016. Twenty candidates including three women trainees representing eight states viz., Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu are participating in this training programme. Dr NK Krishna Kumar, DDG (Horticultural Science), ICAR, graced the inaugural function as the Chief Guest. He emphasized the importance of achieving sustainability in the context of population surge and mounting pressure on food production by integrating traditional and molecular breeding approaches and management practices across the disciplines in his inaugural address. Guest of Honor, Dr OP Chaturvedi, Director, CAFRI, highlighted the importance of dual purpose crops in the present scenario of limited land resources and the challenges being faced in fodder production. Dr PK Ghosh, Director, IGFRI, while chairing the session, stressed upon the intervention of biotechnological tools in addressing the complex issues limiting the genetic improvement of grasses. Dr P Kaushal, Course Director, welcomed the gathering and highlighted the importance of breeding dual purpose crops and grasses and briefed about the lectures to be delivered along with the practical sessions, comprising both conventional and modern biotechnological approaches from the local experts. However, some guest lectures from very learned speakers like Drs Manoj Prasad (NIPGR), Sujay Rakshit (IIMR), M. Dutta (NBPGR) and Dr. Nadarajan (TNAU) are also arranged. Dr MK Srivastava coordinated the programme and Dr VK Yadav proposed vote of thanks.

