

ICAR-NRC Grapes, Pune Celebrated National Science Day on 1st March, 2021

ICAR-National Research Centre for Grapes, Pune celebrated the National Science Day on 1st March, 2021. The celebration was chaired by Dr. R.G. Somkuwar, Director (Acting). Dr Y.S. Nerkar, an eminent scientist and Former Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri was the guest of eminence. The program was coordinated by Dr Kaushik Banerjee, Principal Scientist. The scientists and other institute staffs actively participated in the program physically, and also through the virtual mode.

The program started with ICAR Song. In the beginning Dr. R.G. Somkuwar welcomed the delegates and briefed the theme of the National Science Day, "Future of STI: Impacts on Education, Skills, and Work". He mentioned about the Government initiatives on popularizing science and highlighted the guidelines of ICAR that had been received through the SMD in this regard. He further mentioned how ICAR-NRCG scientists are regularly helping the grape growers in solving their pre- and post-harvest problems through applications of technological innovations.

Ms. Pushpa Deore, Research Associate, NRL presented a brief outline of the program, which commemorates the announcement of Raman Effect on February 28, 1928. The discovery was eventually recognized with a Nobel Prize in 1930. Dr Banerjee explained the concept of Raman Effect, and highlighted its applications in identification of food adulteration and food-fraud.

Dr Nerkar shared his vision on the future of science, technology and innovation based on his lifelong experience in working with various academic organizations and farming community. He presented the major subject areas on which the World Food Prize has been awarded so far, and enlightened the participants about the innovative and strategic endeavours of those great scientists whose contributions have benefitted the global community. He appreciated the services that ICAR-NRCG is rendering to the grape community on a regular basis through need based advisories. His talk was followed by an interactive session with the scientists and project staffs.

In the post-lunch session, through posters and models, the research fellows and students of the institute presented various technological innovations related to production and processing of grapes, the quality and safety aspects of fresh and processed grapes, and the role institute plays in the strategic implementation of the residue monitoring plan on grapes that has enhanced the country's export and farmers' income significantly over the past 17 years. All the innovative products so far developed by the institute, including grape-pomace based cookies, cake, and anthocyanin (nutraceutical) capsule were displayed. A debate was also organized on the relevance of consuming fresh fruits and vegetables in daily diet, which was followed by a quiz contest on general science, discoveries and innovations. A practical session was also organized where the research fellows demonstrated the simple techniques by which food adulteration can be identified at the household level.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Roshni Samarth, Senior Scientist of the institute.

