

International Women's Day

International Women's Day was celebrated at ICAR- National Research Centre for Grapes on 9th March, 2023 in collaboration with ICAR- Directorate of Floriculture and SAVE (Society for Advancement of Viticulture and Enology). The programme was coordinated by a team of scientists, Dr Nishant Deshmukh, Dr Roshni Samarth, Dr Prabha and Dr Sharmistha Naik. The Director, ICAR-NRC Grapes, Dr Kaushik Banerjee and the Director DFR, Dr K.V Prasad highlighted the significance of the International Women's Day and highlighted the contribution of women in different sectors of science and technology specially in horticulture. The event reached to a special height due to deliberations on the significance of adopting the organic and natural farming practices in grape cultivation and floriculture. The Chief Guest, Mrs. Monika Mohite, Joint Managing Director of Mohite Industries shared her long experience in organic farming and explained how her efforts benefited the entire community especially the farmers of the low-income group due to low input cost and a significantly higher financial return. Dr. Banerjee shared his intriguing experience of visiting Mrs. Mohite's farm along the Dy. Director General (HS), Dr. A.K. Singh, in which he witnessed a comprehensive demonstration of organic agriculture, livestock farming and poultry farming. She also emphasized the need of adopting organic farming for a sustainable horticulture production and explained the long-term benefits of the on-farm use of the products such as *Panchagavya* (an organic product which acts as an immunity booster and growth promoter for plants) and *Dashparni Ark* (a herbal pest repellent). Her presentation on preparation and mode of action of these products was highly appreciated by the participants. Listening to her life practices and success stories, many of the young staff of the institutes got encouraged to develop their entrepreneurship skills. Both institutions organized farm visits after the talk, where the organic farming practices were demonstrated to the participants.

