

PRESS RELEASE

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Name of Event : A session on Agricultural Technology- Advancements in Innovative Farming

Date of Event : 9th Feb 2023

Venue of Event : FPM Hall, CIMP

Timing of Event: 12 noon

Guest Speaker : Mr. Devinder Sharma (Food and Trade Policy Analyst)

A session on 'Agricultural Technology- Advancements in Innovative Farming' organized at CIMP

Chandragupt Institute of Management Patna organized an expert session on the topic 'Agricultural Technology-Advancements in Innovative Farming'. The chief guest cum speaker of today's event had been Shri Devinder Sharma, Food and Trade Policy Analyst and an award-winning Indian journalist, writer, thinker, and researcher. On this occasion, Dr. Rana Singh, Director CIMP, delivered the welcome address.

In the interactive session, Shri Devinder Sharma said that 50% people in India are directly or indirectly connected to agriculture for livelihood. "Agriculture is the backbone of our Indian economy but the sad reality is that agriculture contributes lowest share in our economy and is at the bottom of the revenue pyramid. The reason is not that agricultural sector is inefficient but it is the neglected one. We need to upgrade it with technology but with sustainable, economically viable innovative technologies."

He said that as per a report of World Bank discussed at a conference at M S Swaminathan Foundation in 1996, it was predicted that till 2015 40 crores of rural population would migrate to urban areas. He also highlighted that the prices of food grains and agro-products are always kept low as it is part of the economy design and economic reforms all over the world. He said, "Agriculture is subsidizing the economy."

He highlighted the plight, insecurities and suicide of Indian farmers who are always at the bottom of the growth curve while the Agro-allied suppliers (like fertilizer companies) and Agro-buyers (like FPOs) are making huge profits.

He also talked about the latest innovative technologies being used in agriculture like pesticide spray using drone technology, and its pros and cons. He said, "Countries, like Thailand, are now focusing on 'Robo-Agriculture' without involvement of farmers or humans. However, technology alone do not help to promote agriculture and its productivity." He highlighted few cases of America, France and other European countries where despite technological advancements in agriculture, farmers were suiciding and their percentage constantly shrinking. Finland is the first country of the world to start a Synthetic Food Factory where artificially food rich in protein could be grown.

He said, "The need of the hour is to move into 'Agricultural Revolution 4.0' where the shift would be completely towards organic farming, recognizing the best native yet innovative practices of farming and achieving agro-ecology."

At last, he inspired students to have an inquisitive mind and never hesitate in putting up the right questions which may lead to revolutionary ideas. The students at the end of session

enthusiastically asked some relevant questions which were explained by Shri Devinder Sharma. The event ended with a vote of thanks and presentation of memento to the guest.

