Sub: Brief report on “Saron Mela” organized at ICAR-DRMR, Bharatpur on 18th February, 2016-reg.

Sir,

I am forwarding herewith a copy of the brief report on Sarson Mela organized at ICAR-DRMR, Bharatpur (Raj.) on 18.02.2016 for your information.

Yours faithfully,

(T.P. Singh)
Asstt. Commissioner (Oilseeds)

Encl. As above

Distribution:
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1. PPS to Agriculture Commissioner, DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
2. PPS to Joint Secretary (Oilseeds), Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Director (Oilseeds) Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
4. Dy. Director (Cord.) Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
5. National Consultant (Oilseeds) Dr. J.P. Singh/ Dr. M Dutta
6. Programer (Oilseeds) DA,C&FW, Shastri Bhawan for upload on DMS and NMOOP website

7. ADC (Oilseeds) ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

A national Sarson (Mustard) Mela sponsored by Oilseeds Division, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers’ Welfare, Govt. was organized at ICAR-DRMR, Bharatpur on 18 February, 2016 (F/X). Sri Mohanbhai Kalyanbhai Kundaria, Hon’ble Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Govt. of India was the Chief Guest in the Mela, and Sri Bahadur Singh Kohli, Hon’ble Member of Parliament was the Guest of Honour. The Sarson Mela was being celebrated by ICAR-DRMR w.e.f. 16-20 February, 2016 and the inaugural event was organized on 16 February, 2016 at Madhurikund Farm, Mathura in collaboration with Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Veterinary and Animal Science University.

Director, ICAR-DRMR, Dr. Dheeraj Singh while welcoming the delegates and participants including farmers from five states, gave a brief account of the improved technologies on mustard developed by the centre. The Member of Parliament, Sri Bahadur Singh Kohli appreciated the initiative taken by the Central Govt. to popularize the improved technologies through organization of such Farmers’ Fairs. The Chief Guest, Hon’ble Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers’ Welfare, Govt. Sri Kundariya in his address gave an account of recent initiatives taken by the Central Govt. for the benefit of the farming community including the soil health project, crop insurance, irrigation project, integrated marketing etc. at the behest of the Hon’ble Prime Minister. He urged the scientists to work in close collaboration with the farmers so that the technologies could make visible impact on the farmers’ fields and provide relief to them. Dr. M. Dutta, National Consultant, National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm, Govt briefly presented the objective of the mission and hoped that the cooperation extended to the crop based institutes of ICAR for organizing such farmers’ fairs will benefit the farmers in adoption of latest technologies. Important publications in Hindi viz. Rai Sarson ke Pramukh Keet: Pehchan evam Niyantran and Madhumakkhi Palan were released during the occasion for the benefit of farmers (F/Y).

The President, Bharatiya Kisan Sangh in his address to the farmers’ gathering elaborated on the various suggestions made by the Sangh to the Central and State Govts. for the welfare of farmers. The Mela was attended by about 2,500 farmers representing five states viz. Rajasthan, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand. Representatives of State Department of Agriculture (SDA), Rajasthan and UP were also present. Sixteen exhibition stalls showcasing various agro-products/inputs by different agencies were exhibited (F/Z). In the afternoon an important Question-Answer session was organized in which farmers were asked to give answers to questions related to mustard cultivation. Farmers who gave correct answers were rewarded with a certificate and a token prize. Farmers participated along with their best
crop varieties/ exhibits which were adjudged for their excellence and were rewarded. The event was widely published in the local newspaper (F/A).

During the Mela the following major issues were raised that require action at various levels:

- Recently developed high yielding varieties like RH 749, Bharat 2 (NRCDR 2) and Giriraj by ICAR-DRMR may be introduced in the seed chain and adopted on a large scale to increase mustard productivity and production. (Action: SDA and Central/State Seed Agencies/DRMR)
- Eastern and north-eastern regions of the country may be given special thrust on mustard production through utilization of nonconventional areas including rice fallows. (Action: DRMR/DAC&FW)
- Management technology for effective control of Orobanche weed may be developed and popularized. (Action: DRMR and SDA)
- Breeding of varieties of mustard including development of GM mustard should focus on specific traits important to farmers such as disease & pest resistance (white rust & aphids), abiotic stress (heat, frost & salt) and oil quality. (Action: DRMR/ SAUs)
- Competitive price and assured procurement of mustard produce are essential for encouraging mustard growers. (Action: DC&FW)
- Optimum plant population, life saving irrigation and protective disease and pest management method must be adopted for higher mustard production. (Action: SDA)
- Quality seed of mustard is made available by ICAR-DRMR during mid September and farmers may avail the opportunity. (Action: SDA)
- Participatory research may be undertaken by scientists for faster and easier adoption of appropriate technologies. (Action: ICAR-DRMR)

Farmers requested for organization of such fair regularly in future along with various inputs.