

J&K IWMP participates in National Watershed Convention

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 15: The J&K Integrated Watershed Management Programme implementing Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna today participated in the National Watershed Convention which was organized by the Department of Land Resources, GOI at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

The National Level Convention, first of its kind by the Department of Land Resources was inaugurated by Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. Giri Raj Singh virtually and physically attended by Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Steel Fagun Singh Kulastae. Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti, Minister of State for Rural Development and Kaplishwar patil, Minister of State for Panchayati Raj attend the convention virtually from Fatehpur U.P and Calcutta respectively.

The Secretary Department of Rural Development Nagendra Singh and Secretary, Department of Land Resources Ajay Tirke were among the Presidium.

The Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj appreciated the milestones achieved by the Department in successful implementation of watershed programme and hoped that Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna- Part two will surpass the targets and help our farmers in doubling their income by adopting soil and water con-

servation measures, horticulture and integrated farming.

The success stories by eminent environmentalists and crusaders were hallmark of the convention. Jadav Molai Payeng of Assam popularly known as the “Forest Man of India” told about his mission of planting and tending millions of trees spanning over several decades. Awarded Padma- Shree, Molai gave an account of difficulties he faced in his mission. His passion and concern for planting trees and conserving them has earned him the title of “Forest Man of India”.

The Union Territory of J&K was represented by CEO, IWMP Dr. Bharat Bhushan besides Project Managers of Poonch and Samba. The Watershed Development team Members of Jammu & Kashmir Divisions and three progressive farmers of J&K were part of the team. The team interacted with officials of Department of Land Resources and their counterparts of other parts of the country.

Tunda Singh- a progressive farmer of Kathua who pioneered Turmeric cultivation on large scale and Rakesh Kumar of Dadwara, Billowar who cultivates flowers over several acres thanked Commissioner Rural Development Department, J&K for giving them opportunity for exposure. They expressed confidence that this participation has inspired them to work more efficiently besides disseminating the learning.