

## ***Innovative Sericulture Farmers' Workshop* inaugurated at CSRTI Mysore**



**Smt. Rama Lakshmi, IFS, Commissioner of Sericulture Andhra Pradesh, inaugurating the Workshop.**

An one day *Innovative Sericulture Farmers' Workshop* was organised by the Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute, Mysore on 16 -12- 2011. Inaugurating the *Workshop* Smt. Rama Lakshmi, IFS, Commissioner of Sericulture Andhra Pradesh, said that these innovations/machineries gain more importance in these days when the labour shortage is acute and family labour concept is diminishing as younger generations are being attracted towards other lucrative job opportunities in urban areas. She therefore emphasized the need of popularizing new technologies and bivoltine sericulture during the 12<sup>th</sup> plan to make industry more remunerative. 'We need to bring down the cost of production in order to make sericulture more profitable and mechanization will certainly help towards this' she felt. She assured the supply of few such machines to the Andhra pradesh sericulturists in her state. She hoped that this unique workshop will help seri-farmer innovators to discuss and exchange these ideas to come out with more and more meaningful innovations. Incidentally, she informed that Andhra.Pradesh is planning to introduce *Seri-clinics* which will supply machines and appliances on rental basis to seri farmers. After releasing the publication "Seri-success through innovations", she stressed on the need to bring out all language versions of the booklet and distribute it to the seri farmers. She also suggested to organize the video film of the same publication in *Krishi melas* and the like. She congratulated the organizers for conducting such a meaningful workshop.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri. Lakshmikantharaje Urs, Joint Director, Department of Sericulture, Govt. of Karnataka, Mysore felt that these innovations will go a long way in making sericulture more viable and competitive. He informed that rotary moutage was the invention of Japanese farmer'!.Our farmers are no less to any scientists' he felt.

In his concluding remarks Dr. S.M. H. Qadri Director CSRTI Mysore appreciated the efforts put in by farmers in bringing out such useful and practical innovations in sericulture. He expressed that sericulture currently haunted by the increased labour cost and water scarcity and our farmer innovators have aptly tried to address the situation. He spoke about the sincere efforts of the institute which successfully introduced bivoltine sericulture & brought a revolution in silk production in the country recording a quantum jump in productivity from a meager 14 kg/ha during 1960s to the present 96 kg /ha. Expressing concern about the declining mulberry acreage, he felt this challenge is being beaten up by the technologies developed by institute which helped to maintain production levels due to increased productivity. He also cited the example of bivoltine revolution in Tamil Nadu. He further said that the workshop is a timely intervention to keep going sericulture unabatedly and that the main objective of the workshop to provide a platform to farmer innovators to showcase their innovations and exchange ideas with other farmers and the scientists is met successfully.

In his valedictory talk, Dr.K.Narayana gowda - Vice- Chancellor of University of Agricultural sciences Bangalore congratulated CSRTI for organising such a unique workshop . He called on the concerned to bring down the cost of production of silk and make sericulture more sustainable and profitable by adopting labour saving machines/ techniqs. Emphasising on the ever increasing labour problems he said these innovations and machineries gain more importance .

He adviced farmers' innovators/scientists to always keep in mind: relative advantage of their innovation over the existing one;simple and user friendly nature of the innovation / technology and social acceptance of the innovation and its availability . He called on the sericulturists to take up the quality silk production as a challenge. He also expressed his concern about the *farming- shy* younger generation and citing example of CRC as an highly viable economic enterprise suggested that efforts should be made to make sericulture profitable with many more such technologies so that it can attract the younger generation .

Around 35 farmer innovators exhibited their products/ technologies. About 150 sericulturists besides scientists/officials of CSRTI Mysore & DOS of states participated in the event. During the occasion, the innovative farmers facilitated and the best three will be awarded during the forthcoming *Krishi mela* being organised at Raichur.