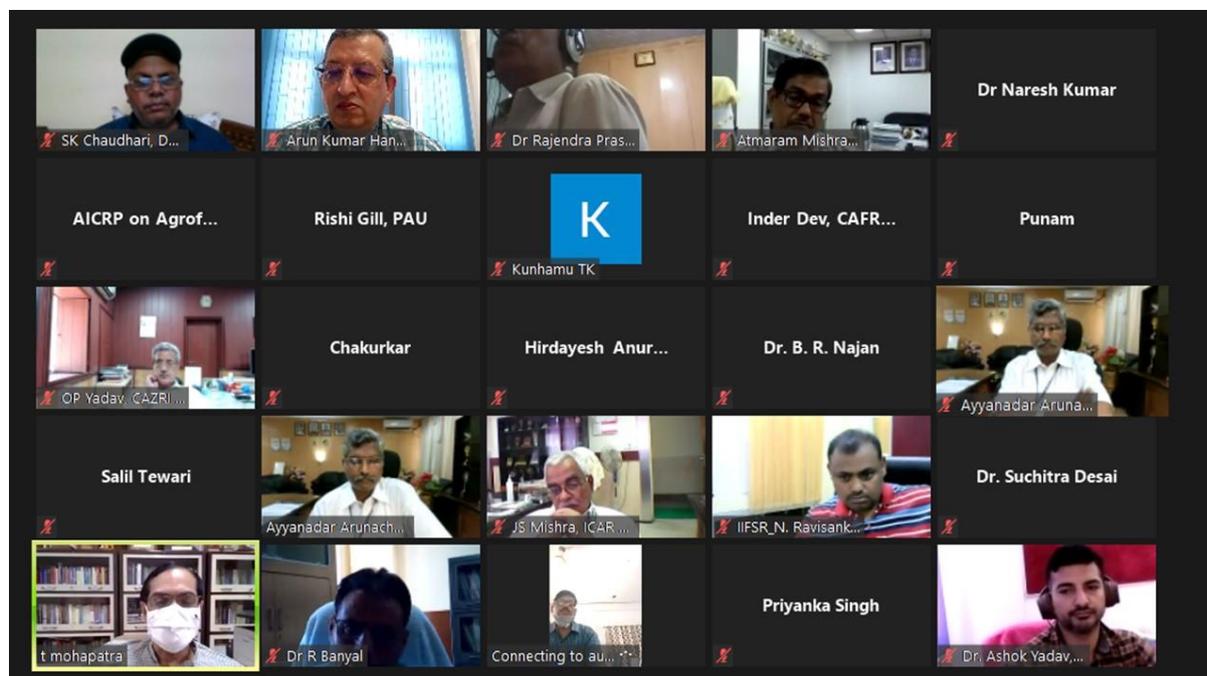


'Har Med Par Ped'

ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi organized a Virtual Brainstorming Session on 'Har Med Par Ped' on the 26th of April 2021 to discuss the constraints and challenges of growing trees on farm bunds and boundaries. As we all know, the call for 'Har Med Par Ped' was given by our Hon'ble Prime Minister in 2015 that became to mission and movement in the entire country. Addressing the Brainstorming Session, Dr. T. Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR warranted choice of species to be grown on bunds and boundaries in different agro-climatic regions of the country. While doing so, we need to keep the productivity attributes, environmental services and the socio-economic imperatives of tree growing on farmlands in mind and suggest remedies to the constraints and challenges in implementing the objectives of National Agroforestry Policy, he added. Dr. S.K. Chaudhari (DDG, NRM, ICAR HQ) in his opening remarks, underlined the importance of tree plantations and emphasized on upscaling of success stories in this regard. Dr. A. Arunachalam, Director, CAFRI extended the scope of the discussion by narrating that about 17 lakh trees are cut in our country every year against planting of 2.6 million trees, most of them in lands outside forest governance. Experts from different zones such as Himalaya, Semi-arid, Indo-Gangetic, Coastal and northeast region gave their perspectives on the subject. Representative of tree-based industry and a progressive farmer shared their field experiences. In all, it was agreed that the tree farming should be promoted, for which, suitable areas including bunds and boundaries to be identified and to be planted with ecologically suitable species. Further, the value addition and market space need specific addressing to quality 'har med par ped' to be a profitable proposition for the farmers and other practitioners. Technically, a tree species with faster growth, clear bole, thin canopy, and deeper root system along with lesser water requirements and productive tree-crop interaction are essentially required to suit to the



space availability in the bunds and boundaries are preferred so that the farmer is not compromising his/her land for field crop production.

The brainstorming session identified the following constraints that needs further attention of the researchers, industries, and policy makers to prescribe a workable solution to the farmers:

- Variable size and nature of bunds in farm landscape
- Land Tenure and Ownership issues on bunds
- Agro-ecological choice and management of trees on bunds and boundaries
- Availability of quality planting material

The experts opined that 28th June must be observed as the nation-wide *Tree Plantation Day* whereby every citizen is encouraged to plant at least one tree a year.

For this, a close coordination between research institutions and developmental agencies are pre-requisites for a resilient pathway to tree farming. On one end, effective institutional arrangements of linking KVKs with state governments, understanding the economic flow of trees on farmlands as a proportion of total trees outside forests. Further, we need a strong communication module to make people aware of the importance of tree culture for food, nutritional and environmental securities.

The brainstorming session was attended by leading scientists from Indian Council of Agricultural Research and its constituent research institutes, faculty/scientists associated with ICAR's All India Coordinated Research Project on Agroforestry in the State Agricultural Universities and ICFRE Institutes, representatives from State Forest Department, Industry, and progressive farmers.