

# Democratisation of agri research

**GULBARGA:** In a bid to reclaim agricultural research from the business houses, the Alliance for Democratising Agricultural Research in South Asia (ADARSA) has decided to democratise the agriculture research by involving farmers in it for getting valid input from them.

To achieve the objective it has been decided to organise an interface between farmers and agricultural scientists and Research scholars in Bangalore at Fireflies from November 28 to December 1. The programme is called 'Raithara Teerpu' (Verdict of Farmers).

Speaking to media persons here on Tuesday, Deccan Development Society (DDS), Zaheerabad, Andhra Pradesh, P V Satish said that the very purpose of holding a face to face of farmers and researchers was to undertake agriculture research based on the actual needs of

farmers. The farmers will narrate their experience and would tell what really required and based on that the agriculture research should take place to benefit the farming community, Mr Satish said.

He pointed out that the agriculture research that was going on in India was motivated by big business houses and multi national companies which have no relevance to the problems of farmers.

Mr Satish pointed out though most of the activities take place on democratic basis it was only agriculture research which has been kept away from farmers. At no stage farmers are involved in research process. The hush hush nature of agriculture research was aimed at benefiting business interests of the MNCs and other big companies. Mr Satish said that a growing demand has emerged to make agriculture research

farmers centric based on the democratic process in different parts of the world. The International Environment and Development Society (IEDS), England, has been organising a number of activities to democratise agriculture research in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. ADARSA formed in Karnataka is a part of it.

Mr Satish said an Observers Committee has been formed comprising among others eminent personalities such as justice M N Venkatachalaiah, Dr H Sudarshan, former vice-chancellor Dr Dwarakinath, litterateur Devanur Mahadeva. It will work as 'Farmers Tribunal'. Genuine farmers, small holders and food grain producers, those having knowledge of ins and outs farming can become members. Farm organisations may also suggest the names of farmers on phone 9972157413.

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