

Report on
"UBA NERIST and NIPHM Hosts Successful Virtual Training on Farm
Equipment for Plant Health Management"

Regional Coordinating Institute, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), NERIST, organized a three-day virtual training program on "Farm Equipment for Plant Health Management." This program was conducted in collaboration with the Plant Health Engineering Division at the esteemed National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM), Hyderabad, and took place from the 2nd to the 4th of May, 2023. Participants from across India, totaling 81 in number, registered for this highly informative and engaging program.

The training program commenced with an inaugural session, where Dr. Vidhu Kampurath P, Joint Director of PHE, NIPHM, introduced the training program. Dr. T. Patel, Coordinator UBA NERIST, warmly welcomed all the resource persons and briefed them on the importance of awareness of plant protection equipment. The Programme Guest of Honour, Dr. Alice R P Sujeeta, Director General (i/c), NIPHM, emphasized the significance of proper plant health management. She highlighted that it can optimize crop production and minimize the unnecessary use of pesticides, herbicides, and other agrochemical detrimental to the environment and human health. Prof. P. Lingfa, Dean (Students' Affairs) & Regional Coordinator UBA RCI NERIST, provided an overview of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), its objectives, and its importance. The Chief Guest, Prof. M Muralidhar, Director, NERIST, spoke about the essential nature of training programs for Plant Health Management and their contribution to the agricultural sector's future.

The following technical sessions were packed with valuable insights and covered various topics. The sessions included discussions on Farm Mechanization in India, Equipment and Practices for Land Preparation, Equipment and Practices for Seeding Transplantation, Plant Protection Equipment - Sprayers, Other Plant Protection Equipment (Weeders, Dusters), and Advances and Innovations in Plant Protection Equipment. On the last day of the program, the 4th of May 2023, experts delivered deeper into the Environmental Impacts of Spraying and Carbon Footprints, Digital Tools for Plant Health, Plant Protection, Enhancing Productivity, and the Use of Drones in Agriculture. Again, participants gained valuable insights and knowledge, which will undoubtedly contribute to the growth and development of the agricultural sector in India.

