Advanced Technologies for Enhancing Productivity and Sustainability in Agriculture

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Preface

Economic advancement in agriculture is crucial for inclusive national development. India's Green Revolution has led to significant increases in agricultural output, reducing poverty and hunger. However, sustainability must coexist with economic viability and livelihood security for farmers. Agriculture faces numerous challenges, including food and energy security, environmental protection, economic viability, climate adaptation, and social justice. Creative problemsolving, systems thinking, and cross-sector cooperation are needed to navigate these interconnected objectives. Understanding the ecological foundations of agriculture and related disciplines is essential for achieving sustainability.

An integrated approach that takes into account the social, cultural, political, and economic facets of sustainability is crucial to addressing the complex issues facing modern agriculture. The creation and application of cutting-edge, regionally specific, economical, and ecologically sustainable technologies that not only improve agricultural output and input use efficiency but also protect and replenish essential natural resources is at the heart of this strategy. A number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, are directly impacted by increased agricultural productivity and sustainability. By doing this, agricultural systems can become more equitable, resilient, and able to fulfil the twin objectives of environmental sustainability and food security.

In this context, a two-day national seminar has been organized by the Department of Agricultural Engineering, BHU (in collaboration with the Institution of Engineers-India, Varanasi Centre, ISAE-Varanasi Chapter) on the topic "Advanced Technologies for Enhancing Productivity and Sustainability in Agriculture" to address the issues and challenges ahead in the 21st century. The seminar provides a platform to scientists, academicians, students, scholars, industry experts, and policymakers to share innovative research, practical insights, and policy-oriented solutions aimed at shaping a more productive and sustainable agricultural future. Emphasis has been given on novel strategies based on the themes of the application of cutting-edge technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) and drones in agriculture; advancements in irrigation, drainage, and salinity management; soil and crop health in rainfed systems; precision farming and

robotics; climate change forecasting; post-harvest innovations; renewable energy use; waste management; and integrated crop improvement strategies.

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The organizing committee feels indebted to all those who directly and indirectly contributed towards the successful organization of the National Seminar and the efforts required for enhancing productivity and sustainability in agriculture.

Editors

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