

Festival of Innovation & Research in Science & Technology

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FEMALE tech employees in India are doing very well in the area of Intellectual Property Rights. They have taken up all the streams of IP as profession and to celebrate this the National Research Development Corporation of India (NRDC), an enterprise of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, conducted an event “Women and Intellectual Property” on 26 April 2023 at Habitat Center, New Delhi.

Cmde Amit Rastogi (Retd), CMD, NRDC said that the event had representation from CSIR, DBT, DST, NRDC and IIT and many more. He added that the seed of the event was sown by Director General, CSIR Dr N Kalaiselvi, and the idea was made into a festival by NRDC on International Intellectual Property Rights Day. This year is also the 70th year of NRDC, he said. He further said that one of the mandates of NRDC is the promotion and sensitisation regarding IP in India. He also informed that the event was well represented by women representatives — almost 90 per cent of participants were women.

The chief guest of the event Director General CSIR, Dr N Kalaiselvi was excited to be part of the all-female intellectual property rights event by NRDC. She said that the Hon’ble PM of India has done a lot to promote science and technology in India. She emphasised that the next 8 years are going to decide the next 80 years of fate of this country. “Now our country should stand on its own. This can come up with creative thought process. With the aid of creative thought process, there will be great increase in the number of IP registration in the country and the number of innovative works in the country can increase. Thus Indian policymakers must give a lot of emphasis on intellectual property rights for the development of the country. CSIR labs are doing ground-level research and NRDC is giving industrial support to the basic lab research work. However, currently only 16 per cent of IP is registered by women in India. Days are not far off when creative and innovative ideas of women will be reflected in the statistical data.”

Dr Manoj Nardeosingh, Secretary General, AARDO said that AARDO has focused on rural development, as rural



development is very critical in the overall development of any place or country or continent. He asserted that economic slowdown is inevitable because of the pandemic and ongoing international tension. The coming seven to eight years are critical for positive development of all the countries of the world. He said that the people of India are very good at innovation and technological diplomacy required for extending this innovation for good of all.

While addressing the first technical session on “Women and Intellectual Property”, Dr Ranjana Aggarwal, Director CSIR-NIScPR said that this festival will give holistic idea of R&D innovation in India. Medical tourism in India is big because of cheap medical facilities provided in India. This medical tourism is going to double in the next three years in India. She added that R&D output of DBT is good. It is a good funding agency in the field of technological innovation in biotechnology. Institutions like ICMR, CSIR and DBT have created a great innovation-driven culture in India. India has also the challenge of sustainable development. Digital technology should be integrated into the agriculture industry. Agriculture in India is now not only agriculture but is slowly and steadily becoming agri-tech.

Dr Archana Chugh, Professor from IIT Delhi said that IITians have always demonstrated creative thinking. The spectrum of innovations in IITs is great. IITs have good liaisoning with NRDC and TIFAC.

Dr Suchita Markan, Scientist from ICMR explained that ICMR is working towards Make in India programme in diagnostic kit development. For making this programme a reality we need to bring infrastructure of research work in diagnostic medical field in place. The policy with regard to AI in medical science in India has been drafted, she informed. Device development is interdisciplinary work. One of the

important steps in the way of technology development is the stage of validation and this needs to be undertaken.

Dr Kalaivani Ganesan from DBT said that DBT is one of the youngest agencies of the Ministry of Science and Technology and is working towards innovative ideas. Promoting innovation is a challenge and DBT has done well in taking up this challenge. Grants to scientists working in biotechnology and who have career breaks are supported through some DBT programmes. DBT is constantly working towards helping women in the field of research work in biotechnology.

Dr Manju Gerard from ICAR said that ICAR has brought a green revolution in the country and has made India a food surplus country. Growth in the field of agriculture, horticulture and fisheries has been tremendous in the country. To sustain this development we need to increase the production of these produce in India. Many varieties developed by ICAR are fortified so that the food taken by the population of the nation is nutrient rich. Many kinds of innovation are happening across entire ICAR institutes, she informed. Many startups which are tech based are working in the agriculture field and helping in the promotion of crop produce in the country. Agri-tech sector is helping in precision farming and increasing the supply chain of food in the country.

Dr Vandana Kalia of DSIR said that DSIR has been very active in promoting scientific research in the country. She added that private sector in India was earlier just working in quality control and quality assurance lab. Now private sector is also working towards innovative product and design development. She said that scientists should work towards making and taking science to rural women.

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