

## SKUAST-Jammu Conducted 10<sup>th</sup> RIC Meeting under RKVY-RAFTAAR Project



*Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu Chairing 10<sup>th</sup> RIC Meeting*

SKUAST-Jammu under RKVY-RAFTAAR project conducted tenth R-ABI Incubation Committee (RIC) meeting of Agri-Business Incubator, SKUAST-Jammu under the Chairmanship of Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu. Prof. Tripathi appreciated the innovative agri-business ideas and products showcased by potential agri-entrepreneurs having the scope of tapping the opportunities and gaps present in the agriculture sector. Prof. Tripathi, in his concluding remarks said that special attention needs be given to the fact that business ideas should be commercially viable and profitable so that they can be sustainable in the long run. Motivating students to become agri-entrepreneurs; natural farming, infrastructure development, vocational education, brain storming on critical problems and hand holding of start-ups were listed as key action points by him. He expressed satisfaction that Agri-Business Incubator, SKUAST-J is taking the right steps in this direction and appreciated Prof. Jyoti Kachroo, Head AEABM, P.I of the project and her team for their efforts in nurturing and developing agri start-ups. It is worth mentioning that one of start-up of SKUAST-Jammu had an interaction with Hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to Palli village of Samba district on National Panchayati Raj Day. Candidates were evaluated for admission to 7<sup>th</sup> batch of two months agri-entrepreneurship training programmes whereas incubates of 6<sup>th</sup> batch were evaluated for recommending them to Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, GoI for funding under RKVY-RAFTAAR project. The funded start-ups of 2<sup>nd</sup> batch were evaluated for release of second instalment of grant-in-aid in their favour. Certificates were also distributed to candidates of 6<sup>th</sup> batch for successful completion of their two month agri-entrepreneurship training programmes.

Earlier, Prof. Jyoti Kachroo briefed about all the major activities and progress achieved in the recent past by Agri-Business Incubator, SKUAST-J and also formally welcomed all the esteemed RIC members. She also outlined that 68 startups in 6 batches of agri-entrepreneurs have already been incubated at SKUAST-Jammu and funding to the tune of Rs. 2.33 crores in total has been sanctioned in favor of 21 incubates.

The RIC members from different fields viz. Prof. Ashok Aima, Former Vice Chancellor, CUJ; Prof. Dileep Kachroo, Ex-Registrar, SKUAST-Jammu, Prof. S.K. Gupta, Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu, Mr. Mahesh Verma, Jt. Director Marketing, Department of Agriculture, Ms. Urmil Lata, DGM, NABARD, Mr. Annil Suri, MD, AB Industries, Jammu and Dr. Manisha Mani, ICAR-IARI nominee, New Delhi attended the meeting and evaluated the business ideas of the participants. Co P.I's of the project namely Prof. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Dean, Students Welfare, Dr. S.P Singh, Assoc. Prof. and Dr. Anil Bhat, Asst. Prof. Division of AEABM were also present during the meeting. The proceedings of the meeting were conducted by Dr. Yamini Raut & Mr. Tarunjeet Singh from A.B.I SKUAST-J ably supported by Dr. Malika Sharma, Asst. Prof; AEABM. At the end, vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Sudhakar Dwivedi thanking all the distinguished dignitaries for their valuable time & participation.