

## Signing of Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on Development of Food Processing Sector in Andhra Pradesh between ICAR-National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB), Trichy and State Government of Andhra Pradesh



**Dr.S.Uma, Director, ICAR-NRCB briefing about activities of ICAR-NRCB to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu**



**Dr. S. Uma, Director, ICAR-NRCB briefed about the new developments in research and export of banana sector**

A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between ICAR-NRCB, Tiruchirapalli and State Government of Andhra Pradesh was signed on 16.10.2017. **Dr. S. Uma**, Director, ICAR-NRCB and **Shri M. Girija Shankar**, Secretary to Government, Industries and Commerce Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh signed the MoC in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, **Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu**.

Andhra Pradesh (AP) is the leading producer of several crops including banana in India. The post harvest losses being 25-35%, special impetus was given to food processing industry in the state. Government of AP issued a policy exclusively (APFPP: Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Policy, 2015 -2020) for which the State Govt. of AP sought R&D support of selected premier institutes in the country and ICAR-NRCB had the privilege to be one among them. This included seven other ICAR institutes and 11 central and state government institutions. About 107 investors also signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to support the cause of Food Processing in the state by investing to the tune of Rs 837 crores.

ICAR-NRCB will be the 'Knowledge Partner' in developing technologies towards value chain management, supporting banana export, organic production and waste utilization. Institute will provide training, human resource development and hand holding of growers and entrepreneurs to promote indigenous and commercial varieties for domestic and export market.

Govt. Of AP has constituted a task force with Chief Secretary as Chairman and Directors of selected research institutes as members, who will advice measures to promote the food processing sector of AP besides consolidating the unorganized sector into Cooperatives/channelizing them with the existing food processing units, cold chains etc.

On this occasion, Dr. S. Uma, Director, ICAR-NRCB briefed about the new developments in research and export of banana sector to Hon'ble chief minister of AP who expressed his happiness to sign MoC with a premier institute like ICAR- NRCB, Tiruchirapalli.