

“Atmanirbhar Bharat is only possible if we transform lives of rural India through innovation and technology development” asserts Mr. Shrikant Dube during inauguration of AGRESAR 2022 at DMT, RCOEM

The inauguration of **AGRESAR 2022**- Two days AICTE Sponsored Inter- disciplinary National Conference on ‘Atmanirbhar Grameen Bharat empowerment through strategies and appropriate technology research’ was organized by Department of Management Technology (DMT), Shri Ramdeobaba College of Engineering and Management (RCOEM), on 11th March 2022. The conference was conducted on the theme - Innovation and Entrepreneurship towards sustainable and resilient communities. The aim of the Conference is to understand the challenges of Grameen Bharat and to explore the solutions by providing Engineering, Management, Technical and Social interventions through innovations and entrepreneurship.

AGRESAR 2022 was officially inaugurated in the presence of Chief Guest Mr. Shrikant Dube, Sr General Manager & Plant Head, Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd, Nagpur. He was welcomed and felicitated by Dr. Rajesh S. Pande, Principal, RCOEM. The Chief Guest spoke that in order to be an Atmanirbhar Bharat and improve rural economy, we need to stress upon innovation and technology. He said that Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd. has been transforming lives of rural India through technology, products, processes and innovations since 1970s. He stressed that Atmanirbhar is more than self-reliance but also creating business opportunities or entrepreneurship. He focussed on five pressing issues faced by rural India today viz. health, agriculture, businesses agriculture, sanitation and education. These issues can be tackled through innovation and use of technology. He cited some examples of Israel, where with simple solutions they have revolutionized agricultural sector. He also suggested some of the customized solutions for problems faced by rural communities.

In his opening remarks, Co-ordinator of Conference, Dr. Chandan Vichoray said that AGRESAR is an attempt to venture into an area which is unconventional and trying to find the solutions for rural populace. He also informed that RCOEM is a part of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan scheme of Government of India and that RCOEM is currently developing 15 applications and interventions for rural problems.

In his address Dr. Rupesh Pais, Head of the Department of Management Technology, briefed about the already ongoing initiatives in rural innovation & entrepreneurship. He also informed about the initiatives which are ongoing and being planned under Centre for Rural Appropriate & Future Technologies (CRAFT).

In his Presidential address, Dr. Rajesh Pande, RCOEM expressed that the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative of Govt. of India, launched during COVID times, is the need of the hour. He explained the concept of Atmanirbhar Bharat and how we can achieve this through strengthening the rural economy. Further, he also informed about the initiatives of the Institute in this regard, through various projects and research work thereby developing solutions to rural problems.

The vote of thanks was proposed by the Co-coordinator of AGRESAR 2022 Dr. Gayathri Band. The Inaugural session was compered by Prof. Rijuta Joshi.

After the inauguration, the keynote was delivered by Dr. Hemant Pande, General Manager, South Eastern Coalfields Ltd wherein he appreciated the initiatives of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for creating pollution free country. He also talked about various CSR activities undertaken by Coal India that include educational programs and provision of various facilities to villages affected by mining.

In the plenary session Dr. Sachin Mandavgane, Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, VNIT, discussed the biomass and various agro waste management ways through innovative products and methods.

More than 45 papers were selected for presentation in the Conference. Being an inter disciplinary conference we received papers from various fields like Engineering, Commerce, Management and Applied Sciences. Paper presentation on both the days were significant in bringing diversity to the theme of conference by receiving responses from varied field.