



A lecture by Dr. K. Narayanan Founder Director Sthayika Seeds Pvt Ltd, Bangalore on "Recent trends in Agri Sector and Entrepreneurship opportunities" was jointly organised by DST NUTEC and NUCSER. The session was attended by over 100 participants including Mr. Giridhar Prabhu, Past President and Mr Ahmed Mudassar, Secretary, Kanara Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI), faculty and students from NUCSER and from St Aloysius College, Mangalore.

Dr. K. Narayanan is an eminent agricultural technology expert, an investor, mentor, CEO and founder-chairman of several companies in Agri Sector. He is a pioneer plant breeder, with a rich experience in academia and industry. Prof. Iddya Karunasagar welcomed the gathering and introduced the guest speaker to the audience. He gave a brief description of various companies headed by Dr K Narayanan two of which have been acquired by the TATAs. Prof Smith Hegde, Deputy Director NUCSER in her address referred to how we as humans are exploiting nature and need to shift our focus to more sustainable innovations.

Dr K Naryanan in his lecture explained how agri-innovation and entrepreneurship are demonstrating their potential impact around the world. He highlighted how the agribusiness sector offers many opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship, especially in the context of global challenges like increasing population which in turn increases the demand and growing urbanization, that affect food and agriculture. He also mentioned how climate change can affect agricultural businesses and how changing pest dynamics leads to economic burden. Advancing technology such as biotechnology, gene

editing, digital technology, or nanotechnology can help to improve efficiency and quality of the innovation. He mentioned how several Agri-startups, are innovating and competing along the line with the Internet of Things (IoT) making application of technology more real-time and establishing better connections between farmers and industrialists. He urged that it is important to scale up from primary agriculture practices to producing value-added products from agricultural produce and development of products from agri-waste for a better economic benefit, especially for the farmers. He gave a comparative analysis of agricultural GDP per economically active person in agriculture in India and globally. Lastly, he mentioned the importance of nurturing nature, along with developing modern high-end technologies that are sustainable and can also aid in water replenishments, waste management, livestock management, and so on, and help to meet the nutrient requirements of society. He gave a glance of precision farming and introduced the audience to biopharming which includes the use of crops for the bio-production of recombinant enzymes or antibodies which can offer tremendous economic and health benefits. The lecture gave a balanced view of ecology, economy, equity, and entrepreneurship to all the students and faculty present at the event. The lecture was followed by a discussion session. Dr Sudharshan Kini, faculty NUCSER proposed the vote of thanks.