

SKUAST-TAJ condemns Former MLA's allegation



Dr. Vikas Sharma chairing emergency meet of SKUAST-TAJ

The allegations levelled by former MLA Harsh Dev Singh regarding deterioration in functioning of SKUAST- Jammu including all its KVK's were strongly condemned by SKUAST-Teaching Association Jammu (SKUAST-TAJ) President Dr. Vikas Sharma. In a press statement, Dr. Vikas alleged that the irresponsible / false allegations from a seasoned politician are uncalled for being defamatory and demoralising to an upcoming Agriculture Varsity of Jammu province. He stated that some vested interests are highlighting old issues for settling personal grudge against the authority of the Institution which are already being probed by the State Vigilance Organization (SVO) for the past few years. He further opined that if at all, there are some financial issues then they are to be investigated by the university internal as well as external audit

panel and Mr. Singh needs to stay away from these issues in principle as it can be termed as interference in the routine functioning of an Autonomous Institution. Dr. Sharma said that SKUAST-TAJ is tirelessly working for the betterment of the university and is highlighting the problems of the teaching fraternity by launching a series of visits to all the KVK's as well as research stations in far flung areas and will not support any internal as well as external forces who are defaming the institution for their petty benefits.

Dr. Vivak Manohar Arya, General Secretary of the association stated that at present more than 57 Externally Funded Projects, 11 All India Coordinated Projects, 6 Network Projects and 7 Volunteer Centres are sanctioned to the university with an approximate budget of more than 20 crores out of which five externally funded projects are sanctioned to the KVK's of the university which in itself is a remarkable achievement and the scientific staff of the KVK's inspite of all the hardships are performing very well. He added that the functioning of the KVK's is being regularly monitored by the Zonal Project Directorate of ICAR as well as Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the university through Scientific Advisory Committee meetings every six months besides national workshop of KVK's under the chairmanship of DDG (Agricultural Extension, ICAR) annually. Dr. Arya stated that the institution is giving maximum output with in limited resources and inspite of no flood relief from the state and no help and support from the local politicians like Mr. Singh who incidentally is also chairman of Jammu Kashmir National Panthers Party for the cause of the only farm university of Jammu region which suffered an huge loss of infrastructure and high value equipments to an extent of Rs. 25 crores.

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Rai, Joint Secreatry SKUAST-TAJ added that varsity during the past one year have organised 5 National Conferences / Seminars besides launching many new innovative initiatives such as Advanced Centre(s) for Rainfed Agriculture as well as Horticulture for effective functioning and

focus on niche areas of research. He said that as many as 25 Scientists from various specialisations of SKUAST-Jammu have been awarded by National and International Organizations for their contributions to the cause of J&K Agriculture during the last one year which truly represents the efficient functioning and progress of the only Farm Institution of the region. The office bearers of the association Dr. Rajeev Bharat, Treasurer and Dr. Devinder Sharma, Publicity Secretary besides executive members of the association namely Dr. Poonam Parihar, Dr. Jai Kapoor, Dr. Vinod Gupta, Dr. Vijay Bahadur Singh were present in this emergency meet of SKUAST-TAJ.