Celebration of National Productivity Week at ICAR-Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Nilganj, Barrackpore, Kolkata-700120

As per the directives received from the Council, the 'National Productivity Week (12-18 February, 2016) was celebrated at ICAR-Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres during the week. The National Productivity Day was celebrated on 12.02.2017. Following the theme of this year's Productivity Week, 'From Waste to Produce through Reduce, Reuse and Recycle' provided by the National Productivity Council, an essay competition was arranged for the technical staffs, research fellows and young professionals of the Institute on 'Strategies for Small Scale Recycling and Reuse of Crop Products', where ten participants penned down their views on recycle and reuse of crop products.

A panel discussion on 'Recycling and Waste Utilization of Fibre Crops' was organized on 18.02.2017, involving multiple stakeholders including expert scientists from ICAR-ICAR-Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, ICAR-National Institute of Research on Jute and Allied Fibre Technology, member from National Jute Board, representatives from Jute Industry and non-governmental organization, and progressive farmers. From the discussion among the panelists, following recommendations were emerged -

- Diversified utilization of non-fibre components (plant residue) of fibre crops hold great potential in enhancing farm productivity and reuse of waste materials. Several technologies are being tested in different countries for value addition of crop residues. Residue utilization and alternate use of fibre crops should be included in research mandates of ICAR-CRIJAF to develop suitable technologies for alternate use and reuse of fibre crops.
- Jute sticks that are traditionally used as low efficiency burning fuels, can be converted to charcoals for value addition, which has multifarious applications. the sticks can also be used as input for paper pulp production.
- Nutrient content and pharmaceutical properties of jute leaf have attractive market potential in East Asian countries. India should take advantage of suitable climatic conditions for production of jute as vegetable and tap the export potential.
- Development of composites, insulators, car panels, seed oil, absorbents etc. from whole plant or from fibre have high commercial potential.
- The retting exudates of jute, mesta and ramie are rich in organic matter and mineral nutrients, research are needed for developing useful applications of these waste products. Ramie gum can be used to extract pectin and the fibre can be used to produce pure cellulose.
- The high biomass and ligno-cellulosic nature of stem provides good scope for production of biofuel from these crops. Pilot scale use of these crops for biofuel production are already in practice in countries like USA, European union and China.

- Market research and industrial linkage establishment are essential for initiating start up business ventures of various diversified use of fibre crops.

Presentation of awards to the winners of Essay competition during celebration of National Productivity week at ICAR-CRIJAF

A panel discussion was held at ICAR-CRIJAF on 'Recycling and Waste Utilization of Fibre Crops' on 18.02.2017

Members participated in panel discussion:

Dr. D.K. Kundu, HOD, Crop Production	Chairman
Dr. S. Satpathy, HOD, Crop Protection	Member
Dr. C.S. Kar, Pr. Scientist, Crop Improvement	Member
Dr. A.K. Ghorai, Pr. Scientist, Crop Production	Member
Dr. S. Mitra, Pr. Scientist & In-charge AINP	Member
Dr. S. Sarkar, Pr. Scientist & In-charge Agril. Extension	Member
Dr. Bijan Majumder, Pr. Scientist, Crop Production	Member
Dr. Pratap Bhattacharyya, Pr. Scientist, Crop Production	Member
Dr. Ritesh Saha, Pr. Scientist, Crop Production	Member
Dr. S.K Jha, Pr. Scientist, Agril. Extension	Member
Dr. Pratik Satya, Sr. Scientist, Crop Improvement	Member
Representative from NIRJAFT	External Member
Sh Pulak Jha, National Jute Board	External Member
Sh Abdur Rahman, SEVA, NGO, Atghara	External Member
Sh Kenaram Ghosh, Progressive Farmer	External Member
Dr. S.K. Sarkar, Pr. Scientist & In-charge PME Cell	Member Secretary