

## ICAR-CICR Celebrated National Unity Day on 31-10-2020



National Unity Day (*Rashtriya Ekta Diwas*) was celebrated on 31 Oct. 2020 at ICAR-CICR, Nagpur to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. A pledge was taken by all the staff of the institute for maintaining the unity. Dr. C.D. Mayee, Former ASRB Chairman, New Delhi was the chief guest of the function. All the scientists were participated including both sub-stations (Coimbatore & Sirsa) through video conference. Dr. Y.G. Prasad, Director, ICAR-CICR welcomed the chief guest and briefed about National Unity day. He insisted everyone has to follow the pledge and to be united as Indian citizen irrespective of our religion, language, caste, community or class. Dr. C.D. Mayee explicated the diversity of Indian culture and equated to Indian civilization. He mentioned number of empires ruled our country, but Indians maintained the culture, the heritage of social norms, ethical values, traditional customs, belief systems etc. India is the most populous democracy in the world and land of many languages. All the religions of the world exist in India and we respect each other's religion, culture & customs and live united. In short, India is "THE EPITOME OF THE WORLD". He requested everyone to be united and maintain the national integrity to solve political, social and economic issues of the country.



Dr. C.D. Mayee also presented the Indian agriculture scenario and challenges before the agricultural scientists. India is blessed with all the climatic conditions and located in the tropical region; therefore most of the rain is brought by the monsoon winds. India stands top three global producers of many crops including wheat, rice, pulses, cotton, peanuts, fruits and vegetables. India is also largest producer of milk and poultry. But we're in great demand of vegetable oil, since we consume 25 million tonnes of oil per year, but we produce only 10 million tons and 15 million tons are imported. Gossypol free cotton oil can solve this issue and restrain the import of oil. Otherwise, India can feed multiplying mouths without any problem. The meeting was ended with vote of thanks and prizes were distributed to sanitation workers.