

## **Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi celebrated Mahila Kisan Divas**

Krishi Vigyan Kendra(KVK), Reasi of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology-Jammu(SKUAST-J) celebrated Mahila Kisan Divas here today at organic village Talwara in Pouni block of Reasi district in J&K which was attended by more than 35 women farmers of the village. The programme was organised under the able guidance of Associate Director Extension and Incharge of KVKs of SKUAST-J, Dr.R.K.Arora. The programme was inaugurated by Dr.Banarsi Lal, Scientist and Head of KVK, Reasi with the warm welcome of the participants. He briefed about the significance of the Mahila Kisan Divas and highlighted the extraordinary contribution of women in agriculture. He said that around 80 per cent of agricultural work is performed by the women farmers and they have pivotal role to raise the economy of the nation by increasing the crops production and productivity. He said that women are actively involved in seed selection, sowing, planting, weeding, harvesting, post harvesting and other operations involved in agriculture and allied sectors but their contribution is always marginalised. He added that the efforts are needed to bring a positive change in the knowledge, attitude and skills of the women farmers by providing training and technical advice and also assisting them in taking decisions in adoption of new agricultural technologies. He elaborated number of services supportive for women's socio-economic empowerment such as Self-Help Groups, Pardhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Kisan Credit Cards, Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Indira Mahila Yojna, Mahila Samridhi Yojna, etc. He guided the women to form the Self Help Groups/farmers clubs and start the micro-entreneurships in the rural areas so that their socio-economic condition can be improved. The scientist also discussed on the balance diet for the rural women and guided them about the balanced dietary pattern for a good health. He also guided the women for mushroom cultivation, dairy farming, beekeeping, fruit and vegetables processing, cushions making, sericulture etc. He elaborated the Beti Bachao, Beti Padao campaign and said that there is dire need to control the declining sex ratio in the society. He said there should not be gender discrimination in the rural areas for the development of the society. He emphasized on the female literacy and asked participants to provide quality education to their female children. He also suggested the participants to plant the trees to celebrate the birth of their girl children. Dr.Suja Nabi Qureshi, scientist said that by commercial organic vegetables cultivation they can generate extra income and employment for them. He also spoke on entrepreneurship development in organic fruits and added that they should adopt the advance technologies in the organic horticulture. He elaborated the cultivation practices of fruits and vegetables under protected conditions. He added that policy planners should give due reconisation to women farmers while designing the developmental programmes and schemes. During the programme KVK scientists also felicitated progressive women farmers Smt. Neelam Kumari and Smt. Baby Rani with the shawls. In this event programme, women farmers interacted with the KVK

scientists and asked them various technical queries which the scientists answered in a satisfactory way. The programme was concluded by Dr. Banarsi Lal with the vote of thanks.

