

Activity-II

RANCHI CHAPTER of ISG&PB, New Delhi

The Ranchi Chapter of Indian Society of Genetics & Plant Breeding, New Delhi organized a Lecture by Dr. D.S. Virk, Professor (Retired), Bangor University, Bangor (UK) on 13.05.2019 in the Department of Genetics & Plant Breeding, BAU, Ranchi. At the outset Dr. Z.A.Haider, Secretary of the Chapter and Chairman, Genetics and Plant Breeding, BAU, Ranchi welcomed and explained the academic achievements of Dr. Daljit Singh Virk.

Dr. Virk spoke on **“Smart or clever crosses in Plant Breeding: Theory and Practice”**. During the talk, he advocated the use of only a few cleverly chosen parents to achieve desirable genotypes in the segregating population.

In a few cross strategy, one of the parents preferably be a locally adapted variety already popular with farmers. This strategy greatly reduces the number of crosses that are usually made conventionally. Further that in choosing a breeding strategy there are three fundamental questions (i) How do you choose the Parents? (ii) How many crosses do you make? and (iii) What population size do you use?

He further explained each and every aspect elaborately by giving examples. And concluded his talk with few points viz., theory and practice show that a few clever crosses with large segregating populations increase the efficiency of Plant Breeding. For use of few crosses, choice of parent is very important. We need to change the strategy from many crosses to a few better targeted crosses.

Dr. D.N. Singh, Director Research, BAU and Councilor, Northern Zone of ISG&PB, New Delhi acknowledged the contributions of Dr. D.S.Virk and also that for his collaboration with BAU, Ranchi several varieties of Rice and Maize were developed.

The lecture was attended by the Faculty members, Post Graduate and Under Graduate students of Agriculture Faculty.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. Nutan Verma, Treasurer, Ranchi Chapter of the society.