

Advisory committee meeting of the NASF project on “Development and evaluation of robotic harvester for grape bunches”

The advisory committee meeting for the project “*Development and Evaluation of Robotic Harvester for Grape Bunches*”, funded by the National Agricultural Science Fund (NASF) was held on January 13, 2025 at ICAR-Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Regional Station (RS), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. This collaborative initiative of ICAR-CIAE RS as Lead centre and ICAR-NRC Grapes, Pune as cooperating centers. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Indra Mani, Vice-Chancellor, VNMKV, Parbhani and attended by advisory committee members. Dr. Ravindra Naik, Principal Scientist and Head, ICAR-CIAE RS extended a warm welcome to the chairman and esteemed members of the committee. Dr. C.R. Mehta, Director, ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal shared insights on the necessity of the project for grape cultivation. Dr. Indra Mani, chairman highlighted the importance of the project and its anticipated benefits to grape farmers, emphasizing the potential impact on agricultural practices. Dr. A.P. Srivastava, Ex-national coordinator, NAIP, ICAR, New Delhi, outlined the challenges in the project and stressed the need to design a robotic harvester adaptable to diverse grape farm conditions. Dr. Jitendra Kumar, ADG, ICAR-NASF, New Delhi underlined the importance of tailoring the technology to meet the requirements of small and marginal farmers. Dr. Syed Imran S, Scientist and Principal Investigator of the project, presented the progress made in this project on each activities. The chairman and committee members expressed their satisfaction with the achievements and suggested recommendations, which will be implemented while executing the project activities. Initially, Dr NA Deshmukh, Senior scientist and CC-PI, ICAR-ICAR-National Research Centre for Grapes briefed about the project. The workshop was concluded with a formal vote of thanks. Dr T Senthilkumar, Principal Scientist and Co-PI of the project concluded the meeting with a formal vote of thanks.



