

## Scientist-farmer interaction must for agricultural growth: Mr Balyan

22 December 2014 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau

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Dr Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, union minister of state for agriculture who was the chief guest at the Kisan Goshti-cum-Exhibition organised in Barwala village of Muzaffarnagar on 14 December 2014, emphasized that such sensitization programs and live demonstration of technologies at the farmers' door will enthuse confidence to adopt modern technologies. Dr Balyan further stated that action research programs can help tremendously in diffusion of technologies.

The theme of the event was "Efficient water management for higher sugarcane productivity". More than 700 farmers participated in the program.

Dr Alok K Sikka, DDG (NRM), ICAR said that Muzaffarnagar district is known as Sugar Bowl of India as is under severe stress due to over-exploitation of ground water. In over-exploited blocks, the ground water is declining at a alarming rate and urged that integrated effort of managing demand and augmenting supply can reverse the process of declining water resources.

Dr HS Gaur, VC (SBPAU&T) stressed upon the soil health management and informed that soil health card is being prepared by KVK, Muzaffarnagar and fertilizer application based on soil test will help to balance the fertilizer application.