

## DRWA conducts Stakeholders' Meet on Women Friendly Farm Tools and Equipment

*Bhubaneswar*

A two-day interaction meet on women friendly farm tools and equipment was held on 4-5 October 2010 by Directorate of Research on Women in Agriculture (DRWA), Bhubaneswar in collaboration with the State Department of Agriculture, Orissa, OUAT and CRRI, Cuttack. Scientists from DRWA, CIAE, Bhopal, CRRI, Cuttack, CIPHET, Ludhiana, IISR, Calicut, NRC on Seed Spices, Ajmer, OUAT and AICRP on Home Science, ANGRAU, KVKs and Research and Development Agency of Department of Agriculture and manufactures participated.



The main attraction of the Meet was the participation of about 50 farm women carrying out different types of farming including turmeric farmers of Kandhamal. A display of about 50 farm tools and equipment including household level drudgery reducing equipment and protective clothing suitable for use suitable for farm women was arranged on the occasion.



The Meet was inaugurated by Shri U. P. Singh, Principal Secretary-cum-Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Orissa. The important recommendations of the Meet included:

A catalogue on women friendly farm tools and equipment needs to be developed based on the contributions from the R&D institutions. Good market potential exists for women friendly tools and equipment and hence there is a need to promote the manufacturing of such items with after sales services.

While identifying equipment for farm women under government schemes for subsidy a gender expert may be included in the technical committee.

Proper training need to be imparted to farm women in the operation of identified tools and equipment and for the purpose a set of such equipment may be made available at the block level.

Increasing trend in the enrolment of girl students in engineering courses is a good opportunity for designing, development and refinement of farm tools and equipment in women perspective. Ergonomics may be introduced as a core course in the U.G. curriculum.

