

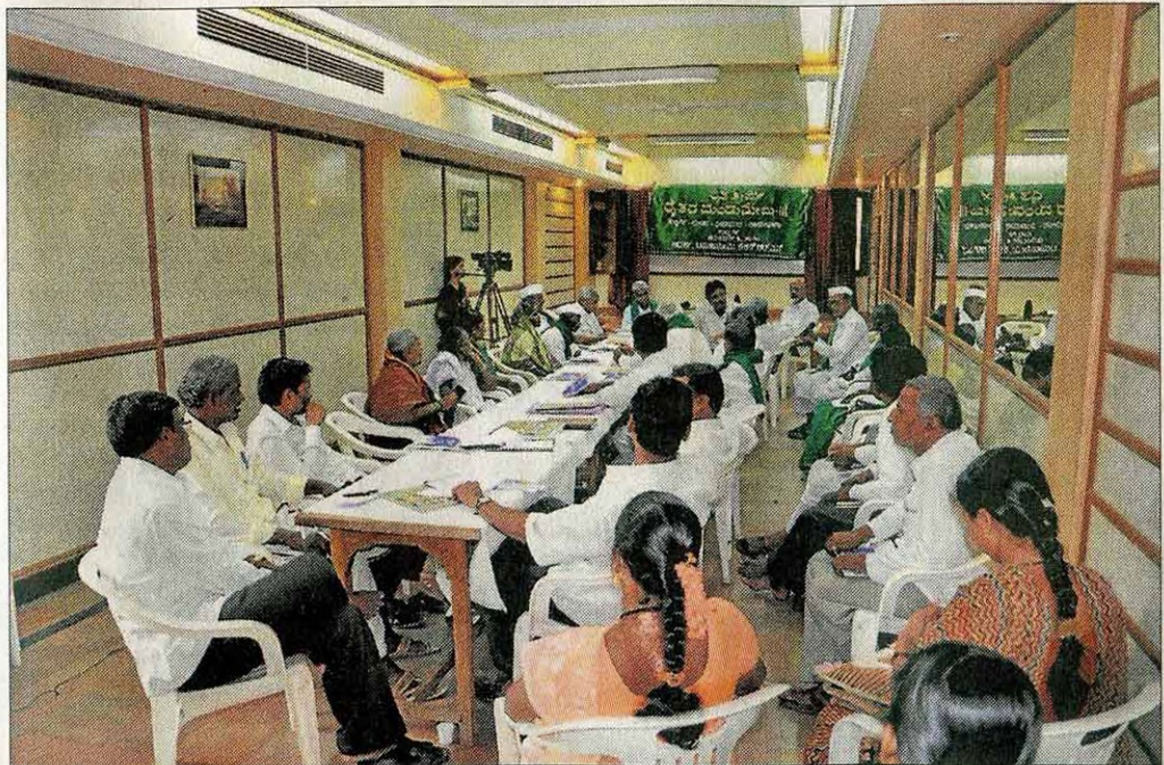
Democratisation of farm research demanded

Farmers' round table meet organised in Gulbarga

GULBARGA: A farmers' round table meet organised by the Alliance for Democratising Agricultural Research in South Asia (ADARSA) here on Friday has demanded thorough democratisation of agriculture research carried out by universities by involving farmers in them so that the farm research should not only be transparent but also useful to the farming community.

Called as 'Raita Teerpu' the round table meet was attended by about 40 farmers leaders from Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, Savayava Mission, Krishi Mission from the districts of Gulbarga, Yadgir, Bidar, Raichur and Bijapur. The Raita Teerpu provides a forum and opportunity for farmers and farmers leaders to ponder over the agriculture research carried out by universities and other government funded organisations by utilising huge funds of corporate bodies and other private companies having their own interest. In the wake of most of the research stuff remaining irrelevant and impracticable it has become necessary to democratise the whole farm research process to make it transparent, relevant and vibrant.

The Raita Teerpu came out



Prominent farmers' leaders participating in the round table meet organised by the ADARSA on farm research in Gulbarga on Friday. DH PHOTO

with a declaration called Gulbarga Declaration on major issues haunting farm research. It demanded among others: Agriculture universities must reject research funding by private and multi national companies; all agriculture policy formulations must be evolved with the involvement of farmers; it noted with concern the wide gap between farm research and farmers concerns. The research was aimed at promoting chemical

farming rendering farmers dependents on external inputs. Small and marginal farmers and dalits are the worst victims of research and have remained silent sufferers. The farm research must of farmer centric.

It felt that KRRS must take a clear stand in favour of traditional seeds and self reliant farming. The need was also felt to take the Raita Teerpu exercise further down the line to taluk and gram panchayat lev-

els. ADARSA Co-ordinator P V Satish described the exercise as historic since it has shown how the voiceless can play a prominent role in redesigning agriculture research which is normally seen as too complicated to be handled by farmers. The farmers leaders attending the meeting included Basavaraj Tambake, Basavaraj Ingin, Sidramappa, V G Desai, and others.

DH News Service