**Tripartite MoU for Empowerment of Farming Community**

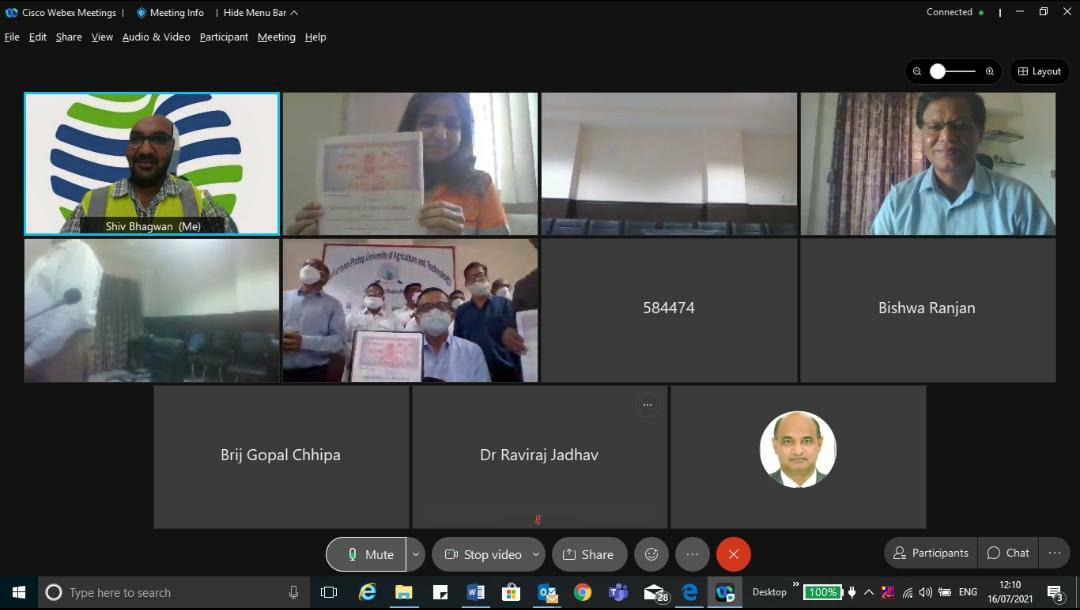
A MoU was signed between Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT), Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) and BAIF on 16th July, 2021 in the presence of Dr. Narendra Singh Rathore, Vice Chancellor, MPUAT, Mr. Bharat Kakade, President, BAIF, Ms. Anupam Nidhi, Head – CSR, HZL, Deans, MPUAT Colleges and HZL and BAIF Project teams.

The tripartite agreement aims at benefitting more than 30,000 farming families through various agricultural and livestock innovations under the SAMADHAN Project which is currently being implemented with the support of HZL.

Ms. Anupam Nidhi, emphasised on the need to encompass climate smart agriculture and carbon neutral initiatives apart from improved agricultural practices, ensure better remuneration to the farming community through community-based organizations with focus on post harvesting technologies and processing units and recognize the critical role and contribution of women farmers to the agriculture sector.

Dr. Narendra Singh Rathore highlighted the need to empower farming communities through large-scale integrated farming system and ensure food security. With the transformations in agricultural practices, emphasis on plant health was necessary to ensure ecological balance as well as food safety, he added. In the long run, natural farming would provide more benefit to the farming communities, he further added.

Mr. Bharat Kakade expressed his appreciation of the scope of the partnership in creating space for ushering in synergy which in turn can lead to impactful transformation. He also stated that considering the present challenges posed by climate change, such collaborations can provide further opportunities for developing and implementing programmes for the benefit of the rural communities.

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