

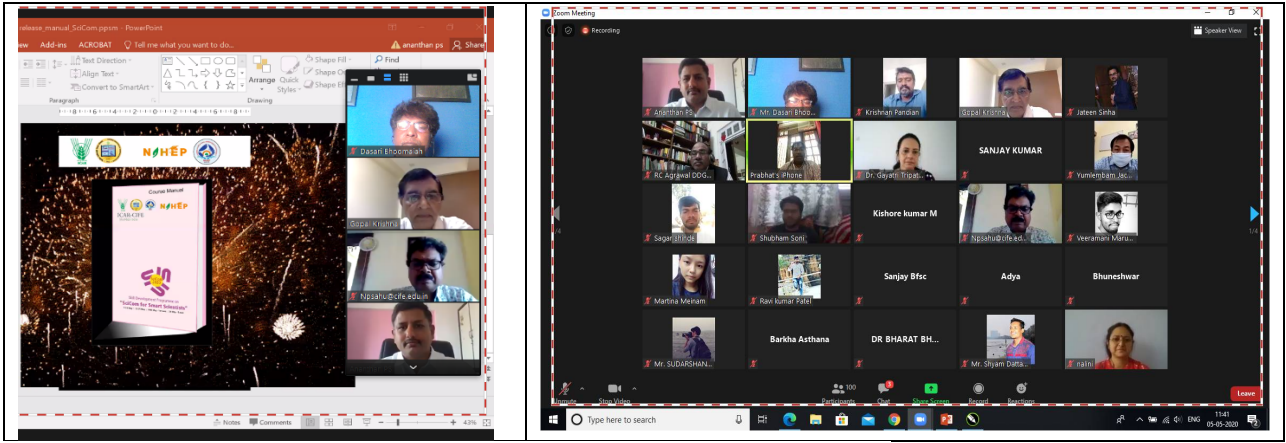
## **Dr. R. C. Agrawal, National Director, NAHEP flags off the ICAR-CIFE's Online Course "SciCom for Smart Scholars"**

SciCom for Smart Scholars is a tailor-made flexible online short course designed primarily for practicing scientists/faculty and research scholars working in NARS (ICAR/SAU/CAU/DUs) to enable them to become smart practitioners and communicators of science. This one-of-its-kind, flexible and free two weeks online course was inaugurated via an online Meeting app on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.

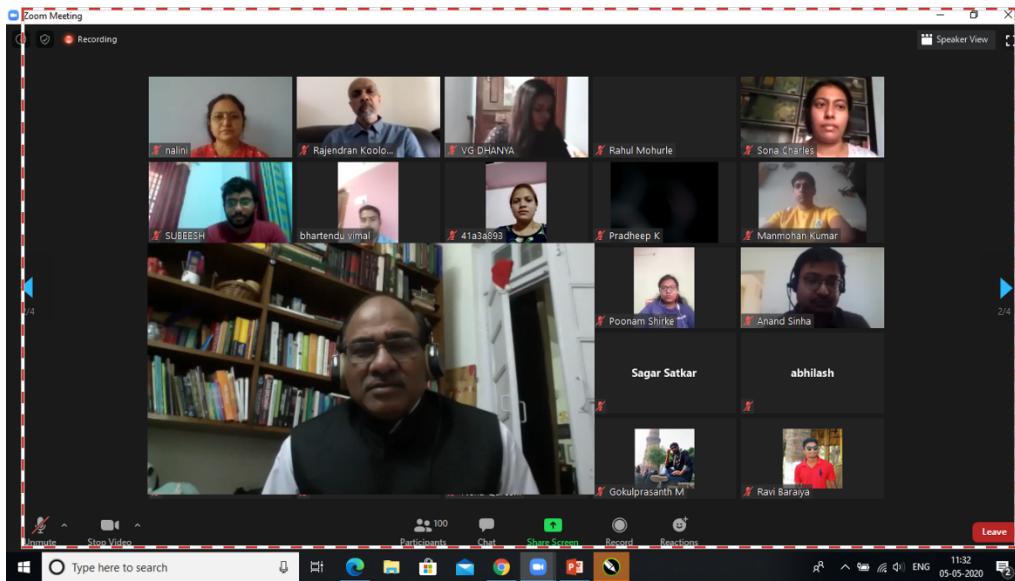
The inaugural session started with a brief introduction to the programme by **Dr. N. P. Sahu**, HoD, & Component Leader (Pedagogy). **Dr. Gopal Krishna**, PI, NAHEP-CAAST Project & Director, ICAR-CIFE welcomed all the guests and participants and presided over the function. He highlighted CIFE's initiative and importance in taking education online so as to reach a large community of students and scholars, especially in challenging times. **Dr. Prabhat Kumar**, National Coordinator, NAHEP-CAAST, who was the Guest of Honour, dwelled upon various facets of science communication and lauded the timely launch of this relevant program. The Chief Guest, **Dr. R. C. Agrawal**, National Director, NAHEP & DDG (Education), ICAR, declared the programme 'virtually' open and released the manual on 'SciCom for Smart Scholars'. Stressing upon the Scientists' Social Responsibility (SSR), he wanted scholars to communicate science effectively not only to the scientific fraternity but also to the farmers and other stakeholders. He quoted interesting anecdotes, as a statistician, to illustrate his perspective. All the Heads of Divisions, ICAR-CIFE, Nodal Officer, CIFE\_NAHEP and external experts (Dr. P. Krishnan, NAARM & Mr. Anand Sinha, Data Analyst) for SciCom along with 100 trainees attended the inaugural function online.

SciCom course intends to familiarise the scholars to the state-of-art online & offline tools so as to makes them smarter in the digital era, and to enable them with new-age skills to practice, collaborate, visualise and communicate science better and smarter. The course is being offered online via Google Classroom/ Moodle LMS platforms. It would consist of 12+ online sessions of 40-60 min. duration, covering both theory and practice, live and recorded, spread over 2 weeks. In addition, participants are expected to spend a minimum of 20-25 hours for completing assignments, exercises, assessments and tests. There was an overwhelming response with 750 participants have already registered for the course online. The online course is being conducted in batches beginning 5-18 May, 12-25 May, 19 May-1 June and 26 May-8 June, 2020. As registrations continue to pour in, the training would continue with additional batches.

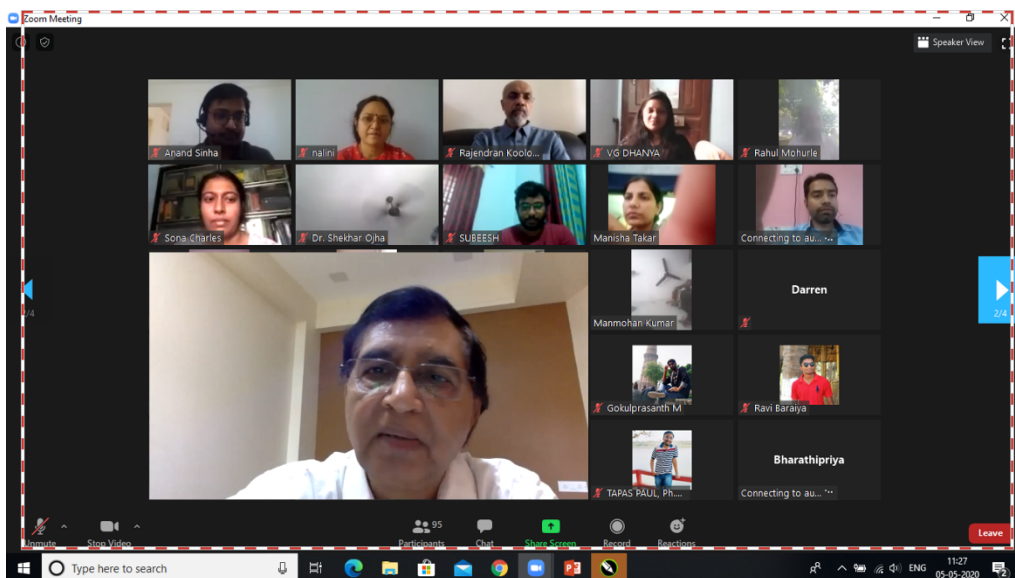
**Dr. Ananthan, P. S., Mr. D. Bhoomaiah** and **Dr. Nalini Poojary**, ICAR-CIFE, the Training Coordinators for SciCom Course, anchored and moderated the Session.



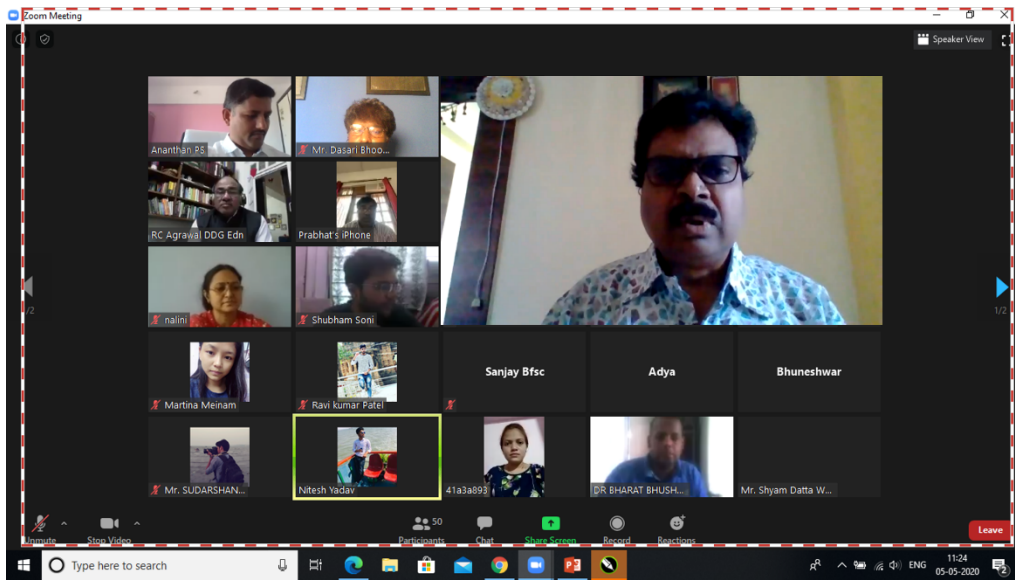
**Release of SciCom2020 Course Manual & Participants Online**



**Dr. R. C. Agrawal, ND, NAHEP & DDG (Edu), ICAR addressing the participants**



**Dr. Gopal Krishna, PI, NAHEP & Director, ICAR-CIFE delivering welcome address**



**Dr. N. P. Sahu, Leader (Pedagogy), & HoD, ICAR-CIFE introducing SciCom**