FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Enrolment begins for the part –II, Massive Open Online Course in agriculture

Hyderabad, India (19 November 2015) — After successful completion and in continuation to its first Massive Open Online Course (MOOCs) in agriculture, Part-II of the course is now being launched - Diseases of Horticultural Crops and their Management. This was announced by the National Virtual Academy for Indian Agriculture under the umbrella of “One Agriculture One Science Consortium”.

The two month free online course, which begins on 30 November 2015 and concludes on 29 January 2016, is an initiative by a team of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in agriculture experts and educators from the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and its partners together with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay.

“Complementing Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi’s dream of a Digital India where – Quality Education reaches the most inaccessible corners driven by Digital Learning, we are excited to see the launch of MOOCs (Part-II) in India, which offers high quality learning opportunities for students across the country,” said Dr David Bergvinson, Director General, ICRISAT.

The Part-I of the free online course (Diseases of Horticultural Crops and their Management – PATH372.1X), which was announced on 2 February 2015 in Chennai by Professor MS Swaminathan, Father of India’s Green Revolution and Emeritus Chair of the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) concluded on 27 April 2015. The course witnessed over 900 enrolments from learner participants from across the country ranging from participants holding degree from junior high school to doctorate level.

“The course materials have been methodically planned and prepared by highly experienced team of educators and professors in the agricultural field, who have devoted their time and effort to educate the Indian masses on sustainable agriculture practices,” said Dr Sumanthkumar, Scientist – ICT for Development, ICRISAT.

The Part-II course will cover distribution, symptoms, causes, disease cycles and management of diseases of important horticultural crops and their economic importance. The course can be used as a supplementary study material at the universities in the current semester where “Diseases of Horticultural Crops and their Management (PATH372)" course is being offered.

Participants appreciated the efforts of ICRISAT and its partners to initiate MOOCs on agriculture and expressed their interest for future courses.

For enrolments, please click on https://www.iitbombayx.in/courses/NVAforIA(PATH372.2x/2015-16/about or email us at oneagriculture@cgiar.org.
About ICRISAT
The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid-Tropics (ICRISAT) is a non-profit, non-political organization that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners throughout the world. Covering 6.5 million square kilometers of land in 55 countries, the semi-arid tropics have over 2 billion people, and 644 million of these are the poorest of the poor. ICRISAT innovations help the dryland poor move from poverty to prosperity by harnessing markets while managing risks – a strategy called Inclusive Market-Oriented development (IMOD). ICRISAT is headquartered in Patancheru, Hyderabad, Telangana, India, with two regional hubs and six country offices in sub-Saharan Africa. It is a member of the CGIAR Consortium.

About ICRISAT: www.icrisat.org; For ICRISAT’s scientific information see: http://EXPLOREit.icrisat.org

CGIAR is a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future. Its science is carried out by 15 research Centers who are members of the CGIAR Consortium in collaboration with hundreds of partner organizations. www.cgiar.org

About National Virtual Academy for Indian Agriculture
A National Virtual Academy for Indian Agriculture is a strategic coalition of regional, national and international partners for bringing widespread systematic change in the existing educational approaches of Indian Agriculture.