



## IRMA convocation



The 38<sup>th</sup> annual convocation of Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) was held on April 18, 2019 at NDDB's TK Patel Auditorium. Shri SM Vijayanand, former Chief Secretary of Kerala was the Chief Guest. Shri Dilip Rath, Chairman, NDDB & IRMA presided over the ceremony. Shri Hitesh Bhatt, Director IRMA; Board members, faculty & staff of IRMA and parents of the graduating students were present.

This year, a total of 171 students were awarded the Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management (PGDRM) and two the Fellow Programme in Rural Management (FPRM).

Shri Dilip Rath said, "When we look back on the contribution of IRMA to nation building, we indeed feel proud of the fact that about 70% of close to

3,000 IRMA alumni have consciously chosen to work in sectors like development and livelihoods, dairy cooperatives, social entrepreneurship, agribusiness, environment, education, renewable energy, research & academia, policy & advocacy, consulting etc. It is indeed satisfying to note that the IRMA alumni have continued to follow the values and ethos of IRMA and have chosen their careers, which despite being less remunerative in monetary terms, have offered them an opportunity to serve the rural masses."

Shri Rath advised the graduating students not to compromise on IRMA and associated organisations' core values like integrity, commitment, professionalism, empathy etc., which have been cherished and nurtured by these institutions over the



years. He further said that that the rural sector needs new technologies and innovations and business as usual may not lead to optimum impacts. The ultimate analysis of professional growth will depend upon the extent of contribution in bringing about change in the lives and livelihoods of rural households.

Shri Rath conveyed, "We should always remember that in a country like ours where majority of the farmers are small and marginal, inclusive and sustainable growth in rural, agriculture and allied sectors will only be possible by promoting and strengthening producer centric institutions representing the collective interests of the farmers."

