

Interface meeting on Contingency planning for Bihar - Kharif 2016

An interface meeting on Contingency planning for Bihar - Kharif 2016 was organized jointly by CRIDA, Hyderabad and ICAR-RCER Patna at Patna on 30.05.2016. The meeting was attended by the Scientists of ICAR institutes, KVKs of Bihar, SAUs and CGIAR institutes. Dr. B.P. Bhatt, Director, ICAR-RCER, Patna welcomed all the participants and gave a brief introduction about the meeting and its importance. Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, CRIDA, Hyderabad made a brief remarks on the purpose of the meeting and said that the district based contingency plans have been prepared already for 614 districts in the country including 38 districts of Bihar. He also emphasized that not to implement any intervention as such, implementation should be situation specific. Dr. Rao also emphasized that there is a need to create awareness to the farmers and line departments about preparedness to overcome drought or drought like situations. He focused that seed is important but management is also equally important and stress tolerant short and medium duration variety of rice and pigeonpea need to be promoted in the state. Water harvesting structures are needed in the rainfall deficient regions and the harvested water should be used first for livestock and horticultural crops.

Dr. M. Osman, Principal Scientist, CRIDA, Hyderabad made a presentation on 'Enhancing the preparedness for contingencies in Bihar for kharif 2016'. He narrated that Bihar will receive below normal rainfall particularly in the districts like West Champaran, Gopalganj, East Champaran, Chhapra, Siwan, Bhojpur, Patna, Nalanda, Gaya, Aurangabad, Nawada, Munger, Begusarai, Khagaria, Bhagalpur, Purnia and Katihar, other will receive near normal rainfall except Rohtas which will receive above normal rainfall. Dr. Osman emphasized that diversification is needed and for that contingent crops like Bajra, sesame, pigeonpea, black gram and toria should be cultivated. He said that farm mechanization is very necessary in the region and promotion of drought proofing measures like in-situ moisture conservation and rain water harvesting is needed.

Dr. Bhatt in his concluding remarks urged all the Programme Coordinators of KVKs to prepare a detailed report on seed requirement for each district, including varieties grown so as to submit it to Govt. of Bihar for contingency seed plan. He also suggested to cultivate fodder crops in order to improve upon the livestock productivity. In drought or drought like situations, tuber crops also need to be promoted as contingent crop. Both the SAUs of the state have been requested to develop suitable varieties of pulses and oilseeds for the state. Dr. Bhatt also requested all the stakeholders of KVKs to validate contingency plans available so as to fine tune the cropping patterns.

