

A brainstorming session-cum- three days training on custard apple cultivation in Jharkhand was organised

7-9 October 2024, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Farming System Research Centre for Hill and Plateau region, Ranchi, ICAR-Research Complex for Eastern Region, organized a Brainstorming Session on “Custard Apple Cultivation in Jharkhand: Ways and Forwards” on 7th October 2024. The custard apple is not extensively cultivated for commercial purposes in the region; however, it is found in significant quantities within the forest areas of the plateau region. The programme aimed to improve custard apple cultivation and promote its processing in the Jharkhand.

In his address, Chief guest and Chairman of the session Dr Bikash Das, Director, ICAR-NRC on Litchi emphasised on the quality planting material and use of rootstock for its adaptation in the region. He solicited collaboration with research institutes, NGOs, and KVKs for the promotion of cultivation in the region.

The special guest of the program Mr. Mukesh Kumar Sinha, Director, State Horticulture Mission, Jharkhand stressed on improving the status of horticulture in Jharkhand and Developing the rural economy. He promised the participants that the department would provide them with required assistance.

The head of the Centre, Dr A.K. Singh highlighted on adopting the Custard Apple based production system, fruit nursery establishment as well as custard apple orchards management for higher income generation. He also urged the tribal farmers for implementing the Custard Apple-based entrepreneurship models.



Dr T. Sakthivel, Principal Scientist at ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, and Dr Vishal Nath, Principal Scientist & OSD at ICAR-IARI, Jharkhand, delivered presentations during the session. The presentations focused on the custard apple

cultivation practices, new technologies, and varieties that have been developed in the country to establish a comprehensive framework for the production of custard apples in the region. Dr M.K. Dhakar and Dr Meenu Kumari, both scientists at the Centre, provided an overview of the research initiatives aimed at enhancing custard apple production in the region. The session also brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including scientists, NGOs, KVKs, and producers, who are all working to establish the custard apple.

The farmers were also trained for three days on the different aspects of custard apple cultivation namely orchard establishment, water & nutrients management, propagation, canopy management and plant protection measures during the programme to strengthen the farmers' knowledge regarding the custard apple cultivation in the plateau conditions of Jharkhand. To further acquaint themselves with the custard apple crop production technique, the farmers were also visited Nandi Green Solution farm in Kunti, Jharkhand.

About 54 delegates participated in the brainstorming session and a total 27 farmers of Lohardaga, Simdega, Ranchi, Khunti and Gumla districts of Jharkhand participated in the three days training programme.

(Source: ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna)