

22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2023, Patna

The ICAR-Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna, Bihar celebrated its 23<sup>rd</sup> Foundation Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2023 under the theme “Millets for Nutritional Security in Eastern India”.

Dr. Vilas A Tonapi, Former Director, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad delivered the Foundation Day Lecture on “India’s Millet Makeover: Current Status & Opportunities”. He highlighted the importance and nutritional composition of millets and emphasized on the diversification of food plates with millets. He stressed on the need of mainstreaming millets for nutritional security and improved livelihoods. Dr. Tonapi also highlighted the future research thrusts for improvement of millets yield potential, genetic and its processing.

In his inaugural address, the Chief Guest, Dr. N. Saravana Kumar, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Department of Animal & Fish Resources, Government of Bihar congratulated the Director and employees of the institute for foundation day. He focused on strengthening collaborative research among ICAR, State Government and Agricultural Universities for better research and technology promotion. He stressed on the impact of climate change on agriculture and needs for promotion of climate-resilient crop production technology for supporting farmers. He also emphasized on development of measures for utilization of wastelands for agricultural purpose. Furthermore he added, to adopt new technologies for sustainable agriculture, 'Organic Corridor' for organic crop production and inclusion of market facilities in the fourth road map of agriculture in Bihar for farmers adopting organic farming.

Earlier, welcoming the dignitaries, Dr. Anup Das, Director, ICAR-RCER, Patna congratulated the employees on the occasion of 23<sup>rd</sup> Foundation Day highlighted the major achievements of ICAR-RCER during the last one year.

Dr. Rameshwar Singh, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, BASU, Patna highlighted on integrated nutrient and farming management, balance fertilization, precision agriculture and technologies for improvements in livestock production.

Dr. B.S. Mahapatra, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, BCKV, Coochbehar emphasized on the importance of millets production and processing as well as its nutritional benefits. He also stressed on various resource conservation measures for sustainable use of natural resources and farmers livelihood.

Dr. Anjani Kumar, Director, ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Patna, Bihar emphasized on the nutritional importance of millets and insisted on adopting millets in the Mid-day meal programs.

Dr. Bikas Das, Director, ICAR-NRC Litchi, Muzaffarpur urged to work in farming system mode for more sustainable and climate ready agriculture.

Shri Anil Kumar Jha, Joint Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture and Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture, Govt. of Bihar also addressed the gathering and appreciated the effort of the institute in bringing farmers from all eastern states on one platform and celebrating foundation day by inviting all other organizations..

Total 14 employees of the institute were awarded for their outstanding contributions during the year 2022. Around 56 Progressive Farmers from Eastern states viz. Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Eastern UP, Jharkhand Odisha and West Bengal were also felicitated for their contributions in agriculture during the occasion.

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



