

Front line demonstration of Rice varieties through FPO in East Champaran

Under the NASF Project “Development and Validation o Need Based Technology delivery model through FPO in eastern Region of India”



Frontline demonstration of Rice varieties (*Swarna Shreya*, *Swarna Samridhhi Dhan* and *Swarna Shakti Dhan*) are being conducted in *Chiraya* and *Sanrampur* Blocks of East Champaran, Bihar during *Kharif* 2021. Dr. Santosh Kumar, Dr. Anirban Mukherjee and Dr. Kumari Shubha visited and monitored the ongoing FLDs program of rice varieties in these two blocks

of East Champaran, on 4th September 2021. They participated in FLD followed by a scientist and farmers interaction and discussed about problems and prospects of seed production.

Under the project, rice breeder seeds (7.6 Quintals of *Swarna Shreya*, 2 quintals of *Swarna Shakti Dhan* and 2 Quintals of *Swarna Samridhhi Dhan*) were distributed to the farmers during the onset of *kharif* 2021 as a part of seed production program. It was sown in 43 ha of land in farmers’ field in the two blocks. The heavy rain and flood in the area during the month of June-July, 2021 this year devastated near about 15 ha of low land rice.



The Rice breeder Dr. Santosh Kumar, discussed about the potential of the varieties for drought and flood tolerance. In this era of climate change the rain fall is not uniform. It was observed that uneven rainfall during *Kharif* is creating problems for farmers. Now a days drought and flood tolerant varieties are performing better in the farmers field. He also

stressed upon improved practices of rice cultivation to the farmers.



Dr. Anirban Mukherjee, Principal Investigator of the project encouraged farmers to work in group for seed production. Seed business is one of the profitable businesses where farmers can earn handsome amount of profit. Seed production through FPO has huge scope and benefits to farmers. The quality seed produced by farmers themselves will reduce the cost of transportation and time of delivery. Therefore if an FPO is producing seed it can be distributed to the farmers in that district very quickly.

Dr. Kumari Shubha, Co-PI of the project stressed upon importance of bio fertilizer and organic fertilizer to reduce pesticide residue. She explained why the farmers should avoid chemicals fertilizer and use organic alternatives for environmental sustainability, good soil and human health. For meeting export standard the farmers of FPO must know the residue levels and therefore reduce the use of chemicals.



There were about 60 farmers from Chiraiya, Sangrampur and Ghorasahan block attended the FLD program and participated in scientist farmer's interaction. They learned first-hand knowledge about the drought tolerant rice varieties and their seed production techniques.

