

## **National Webinar on “Nutritional Security in India: Issues and Way forward” organized**

*4<sup>th</sup> September, 2021, Ranchi*

The ICAR-Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna organized a National Webinar on "Nutritional Security in India: Issues and Way forward" on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

In her address the Chief Guest Dr Neelam Patel, Senior Advisor (Ag.), NITI Aayog, highlighted the need to develop the value chains for nutritional products and stressed that there is need for strong collaboration between the researchers and policymakers to formulate better policies and nationwide programs to alleviate the nutritional imbalance in the society. She emphasized on development of healthy food products for their incorporation in government schemes like Mid-day meal.



The chairman of the function Dr Ujjwal Kumar, Director ICAR-Research Complex for Eastern Region emphasised on development of biofortified varieties as a potential option to achieve nutritional security in India. He also underlined that, in addition to farm and water productivity, the research projects should also focus on assessment and improvements in nutritional productivity of different agricultural interventions and products.

Speaker Dr Bikash Das, Principal Scientist with ICAR-RCER, highlighted how changing food habits and societal modernization is leading to obesity and hidden hunger among the community and put forth the pathways for ensuring food security in India. Speaker Dr S K Srivastava, Scientist, ICAR-NIAP, New Delhi derived the links between income trends and changing food habits and discussed the framework for bringing-in the nutritional balance among urban and rural communities.

The webinar identified pertinent ground realities and key factors responsible for nutritional insecurity and provided leads to formulate informed policies to achieve the nutritional security in India. The webinar was successful in creating the awareness about status of nutritional intakes, importance of balanced nutrition and possible pathways to achieve nutritional security amongst the scientists, faculties, students and other stakeholders.

A total of 175 participants including the Scientists, State Department Officials, Krishi Vigyan Kendra official, Students, NGOs and Academicians from the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha, Haryana, New Delhi, Sikkim, Maharashtra, Jammu and West Bengal participated in the Webinar.

*(Source: ICAR-Research Complex for Eastern Region, Farming System Research Centre for Hill & Plateau Region, Ranchi, Jharkhand)*