

National Seminar on “Rice Fallow Management in Eastern India”

(ICAR-RCER, Patna, Dated: August 26, 2021)

ICAR-Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna organized a National Seminar on “Rice-fallow management in Eastern India” on August 26, 2021 in hybrid mode (online and offline) under the theme “Food and Nutrition for Farmers” as a part of the “Azadi ka Amrut Mahaotsav” to commemorate 75 years of India’s Independence. The major objective of the National Seminar was to create the awareness, and update the knowledge of the scientists, faculties, extension workers, NGOs, policy makers, students and other stakeholders regarding technological intervention and adoption to bring about sustainable crop intensification in rice-fallow areas of eastern India.

Dr RC Srivastava (Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, DRPCA, Pusa and the *Chief Guest*), in his inaugural address, emphasized the need for redefining and sub-dividing the rice-fallow areas based on the amount of annual rainfall received, and called for separate technological interventions to each such sub-division of rice-fallow areas in eastern India. **Dr RK Sohane** (Director Extension Education, BAU, Sabour and the *Guest of Honour*) opined that rice-fallow areas of eastern India held potential for contributing significantly to food and nutritional security in the eastern regions. Earlier, **Dr Ujjwal Kumar** (Director, ICAR-RCER, Patna and *Organizing Chairman*) welcomed the Chief Guest, Guest of Honor, our esteemed speakers and all the participating delegates. The Organizing Chairman briefed about the importance of rice-fallow management for improving socio-economic condition of the farming community of the eastern regions of India. **Dr Rakesh Kumar** (Organizing secretary), in his introductory remarks, narrated the rationale for organizing this National Seminar. During the function, one technical bulletin and one extension



folder, dealing with various aspects of rice-fallow management in eastern India, was released by the Chief Guest.

Dr SK Chaturvedi (Dean, Agriculture, RLBCAU, Jhansi) delivered the first lecture on “Enhancing pulses production from rice-fallows areas: Strategies & policies”. He suggested a number of technological interventions to realize sustainable crop intensification by including short duration, high-yielding varieties of pulses such as chickpea, lentil, grass pea, pea, green gram and black gram. He also discussed the policies issues, and emphasized to ensure the availability of quality seeds of pulses at the farmers’ doorsteps in rice-fallow areas. **Dr PK Rai** (Director, ICAR-DRMR, Bharatpur) delivered the second lecture “Oilseeds production in rice-fallows: A perspective”. He narrated the details of all the schemes of Govt. of India for promoting oilseeds production in rice-fallow agro-ecology of eastern India. He could recognize the strength of rice-fallow as a large unutilized land having fertile soil for promoting oilseed crops especially toria, safflower and linseed.

Dr JS Mishra (Director, ICAR-DWR, Jabalpur) delivered a lecture on “Agronomic interventions for crop intensification in rice-fallow areas”. He discussed the details of possible agronomic interventions based on his own research performed for improving the productivity of rice-fallow areas in Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhatisgarh. He also emphasized on carbon farming and payments to farmers for ecosystem services. **Dr Bal Krishna Jha** (Principal Scientist, ICAR-RCER FSRC HPR, Plandu, Ranchi) delivered another lecture “Intensifying rice-fallow with vegetables, spices and aromatic crops”. He discussed in some detail the possible production of cucurbitaceous crop, mentha and coriander after harvesting of rice for improving the profitability in rice-fallows areas of eastern India.

Dr KG Mandal (Director, MGIFRI, Motihari) discussed on “Water management in rice-fallow production system”. He emphasized on delineation of rice-fallow areas, development of water harvesting structures and integrated farming system modules for improving the livelihood of farmers in rice-fallow areas of eastern India. **Dr Pradip Dey** (Project Coordinator, STCR, ICAR-IISS, Bhopal) delivered the last lecture of the Seminar on “Nutrient management in rice-fallow system: A perspective”. He stressed the need for adoption of seed priming with micronutrient (Zn, Fe, and Mo), and highlighted the use of *biochar* as most of the rice-fallow areas have acidic soil.

All the expert speakers interacted with the participants of the national seminar. The Seminar was attended by a total of 405 registered participants (from 26 states of India, Nepal, Germany and USA), The Seminar was organized and coordinated by a team of scientists namely, Dr AK Choudhary (Convenor & Head, Division of Crop Research), Dr Rakesh Kumar (Organizing secretary, Senior Scientist), Dr Santosh Kumar (Co-Convenor, Senior Scientist) and Dr Saurabh Kumar (Co-Organizing Secretary, Scientist) with the active support of the Director, ICAR RCER, Patna, and the technical back up from Sarfaraj Ahmad (Technical Officer) and Mr Hansraj Hans (SRF, CRP on CA project). The Seminar ended with vote of thanks to the Chair by **Dr AK Choudhary** (Convenor & Head, Division of Crop Research) who convened the event since beginning to the end of the Seminar.

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