

## **Celebration of World Water Day at ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna**

ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna organized World Water Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023 with the theme on “Accelerating the change to solve water and sanitation crisis”. Around 50 farmers participated in this event. The Programme began with the lighting of a lamp, followed by playing of the ICAR Song. The welcome address was given by Dr. Shivani, Principal Scientist, Division of Land and Water Management. Scientists of different disciplines delivered lectures on the eve of World Water Day. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Head, Division of Crop Research highlighted about awareness on importance of water and its conservation and stated ways for judicious use of water. Dr. Rachana Dubey, Scientist, Division of Crop Research highlighted quality of irrigation water and suggested ways to treat poor quality water efficiently and in an eco-friendly manner as well as stressed on conjunctive use of water. Dr. Ashutosh Upadhyaya, Head, Division of Land and Water Management highlighted about awareness on efficient irrigation water management. He suggested various ways to maintain quality of irrigation water as well as soil water conservation such as soil test based fertilizer recommendation, promotion of organic and natural farming, rain water harvesting etc. Also he shared his experiences on practical and eco-friendly ways to conserve water as well as reutilization of water. Dr. Amarendra Kumar, Principal Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Patna stated importance of water, crop diversification with less water requiring crops, rain water harvesting, water harvesting structures, sustainable use of water as well as arsenic contaminated water and its treatment and conservation etc. Dr. Ujjwal Kumar, Head, Division of Socioeconomics and Extension highlighted the water stress and effects of drought. He suggested ways for improved methods of irrigation water application. Dr. Anjani Kumar, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Patna stressed about water scarcity. He also highlighted about awareness development for water conservation as well as sustainable use of water resources. Dr. Anup Das, Director, ICAR-RCER, Patna suggested improved methods of crop cultivation for efficient irrigation water management. He highlighted about rain water harvesting and utilization, various water saving approaches in day to day life, drought tolerant crop varieties, waste water recycling, insitu water management practices etc. During this programme, farmer-scientist interaction was also carried out. Mr. Amarjeet Kumar, a farmer from Danapur village described his experiences on water shortage in the peak season for crop cultivation sometimes due to lack of monsoon as well as lack of water harvesting structures. He urged the scientists to develop ways for water recharge and conservation. The Programme was ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Shivani, Principal Scientist, Division of Land and Water Management. In this programme, improved rice varieties (Swarna Shreya, Swarna Samriddhi Dhan, Swarna Unnat Dhan, Swarna Sukha Dhan, Swarna Purbi Dhan 3) developed by Dr. Santosh Kumar, Senior Scientist (Plant Breeding) was distributed among the farmers. The programme was coordinated by Dr. A. K. Singh, Principal Scientist; Dr. Shivani, Principal Scientist; Dr. Bikash Sarkar, Principal Scientist; Dr. P. K. Sundaram, Senior Scientist; Dr. Akram Ahmed, Scientist; Dr. Pawan Jeet, Scientist and Dr. Sonaka Ghosh, Scientist, Division of Land and Water Management, ICAR-RCER, Patna.



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