

ICAR - Research Complex for Eastern Region inks Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with farmer for his unique Jackfruit variety

The ICAR - Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna, Bihar signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Shri. Bandhu Oraon, who conserved elite early vegetable type of Jackfruit tree at Gadri (Tonkatoli) village in Ranchi district of Jharkhand. The farmer has named this jackfruit variety as **Bandhu Amxi Gathna**. The MoA was signed by Dr. A.K. Singh, Head, Farming System Research Centre for Hill and Plateau Region, Ranchi on the behalf of ICAR-RCER and Shri. Bandhu Oraon, custodian of elite early Jackfruit tree. The MoA aims at large scale multiplication and sale of this unique jackfruit variety by ICAR-RCER, Patna. The institute will share 50% of the revenue earned from the sale of the saplings with Shri Bandhu Oraon.

In his address, Dr B.P. Bhatt, Director, ICAR-RCER emphasized that this MoA will encourage the farming community to conserve their valuable germplasm and will save the time, money and other resources involved in exploration and conservations of germplasm by the institutes. Dr A.K. Singh said that the farmers, especially tribal people, have tested large number of crop varieties over the years and have conserved the unique germplasms at their farms. Benefits of commercialization of such conservations should directly reach such farmers. This Memorandum of Agreement will also serve as a catalyst for other farmers to conserve the elite materials.

Shri. Bandhu Oraon applauded the ICAR's initiative for promoting the conservation and multiplication of his jackfruit variety with the concept of mutual benefit sharing. Presently, Shri Oraon earns about Rs. 25000-30000 every year from single jackfruit plant. The tree is more than 100 years old and yields about 700-800 kg of vegetable type fruits (preferred size 0.8-1.5 kg/fruit). The fruits are sold mainly for vegetable purposes. This variety is an early fruiting type which becomes ready for harvesting from mid-December and continues up to April. This variety gets the advantage of earliness and better price as many other vegetable type jackfruit varieties are generally available in the market from April onwards. Another unique feature is that the fruits require less time for boiling than other commonly available vegetable type jackfruit varieties.

The officials of the Project, PME and ITMU were also present during the occasion.



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