

Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers Rights Authority, interacted with scientists and students of ICAR-RCER, Patna

An interaction programme was organized between scientists, students of IARI hub, Patna and Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers Rights Authority, and Former Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR on November 21, 2024 at ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region (ICAR-RCER), Patna. Dr. D.R. Singh, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour, Dr. P.K. Rout, Principal Scientist, ICAR Headquarters, New Delhi also graced the occasion.

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, in his address, appreciated the efforts of new initiatives of ICAR Research Complex, Patna in research and education. In his long interaction with the scientists and students, he suggested for 'Blended Learning' approach to enhance the skill and knowledge of the students. He advised the students to refer and read the books rather than depending on notes.

Addressing the issues of agriculture in the eastern region, Dr. Mohapatra informed that the region provides equal opportunities and challenges, with slow variety replacement rate and low technology adoption. He urged the scientists to look for the solution and change the scenario by infusing new thoughts and ideas. He also suggested for promotion of pulse in Tal area and best lentil variety in rice fallow area. He underlined that diversification is the key for enhancing income for farmers in the eastern region.

To bring the change in the livestock sector, Dr Mohapatra insisted to give more momentum on goat breeding. He suggested the scientists to develop a breeder stock and form different sire lines within Black Bengal breed for producing superior progenies to be distributed among the farmers.

Dr. D.R. Singh gave an inspirational talk to the students suggesting them to become job providers rather than the job seekers. He listed out the opportunities before the students in skill development and building their career. Dr. Singh also suggested scientists to look for and develop newer technologies, newer crops, biofortified varieties and crop diversification under Climate Resilient Agriculture.

Dr. P.K. Rout, in his address, appreciated the efforts of scientists of ICAR-RCER, Patna for successfully managing three All India coordinated projects with the challenging resources. He also encouraged the scientists to take projects in tribal areas of eastern region to enhance the reach and to come out with quality tribal animal process.

The sessions were then followed by interaction of scientists and students with the visiting dignitaries.

Earlier, Dr. Anup Das, Director, ICAR-RCER, Patna welcomed the dignitaries and explained the research activities of institute, flagship programme, new varieties and technologies developed by the scientists in the sphere of crop science, land and water management and livestock and allied sciences. He also explained the recent initiatives of the institute including imparting agriculture education to undergraduate students.

Finally, Dr. Kamal Sarma gave a vote of thanks.

