

Dear Colleagues,

Heartiest greetings and best wishes to each one of you and your family members for a healthy, happy, blissful and prosperous New Year 2025.

The Year 2024 was quite satisfying for the Institute. Towards the nation's food and nutritional security, 03 varieties of field crops and 05 horticultural crops developed by the Institute have been released by the central/state committee during this year, which include 02 rice, 01 chickpea, 03 vegetables and 02 fruit. It is matter of pride that 01 rice and 01 bael varieties has been released by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. 13 technologies developed by our dedicated team of scientists has also been certified by the ICAR.

The technologies developed for sustainable intensification of rice-wheat system, greening rice fallow areas and integrated farming system models deserves special appreciations. The institute has developed ecofriendly solar operated water pumping system, paddy thresher, insect trap and fish vending kart. Also developed solar irrigation pump sizing tool which is adopted by MNRE under PM-KUSUM scheme.

Our efforts for the conservation of indigenous breeds continued with 05 more indigenous livestock species of Jharkhand submitted for registration in 2025. Animal health management especially new and emerging diseases has been our special focus.

In fisheries, we standardized breeding and seed production technologies for biofloc and seed production of common carp species.

The year has been especially important for implementing 24 externally funded research projects (RKVY, DST, NASF, NABARD, etc) including 02 foreign funded (IRRI & CIMMYT) projects.

Advancing the digital applications, eHRMS 2.0, SPARROW 2.0 were implemented and some mobile apps were also developed. Innovations in climate resilience, nature-friendly farming, diversified agriculture and integrated farming for augmenting productivity, sustaining natural resource base and farmer's income have been our thrust areas. Our varieties are getting wider acceptance for various on-farm testing as well as post-harvest processing and value addition.

Participatory Research Application for Year round income and Agricultural Sustainability (PRAYAS) have been implemented in 07 eastern states covering ~12000 farmers for livelihood improvements and doubling income of the farmers of the region, especially those belonging to weaker sections. Year 2024 also witnessed 24 partnership agreements for research, education & extension including 16 agribusiness activities with public and private entrepreneurs.

Developing a model village (Chotka Dhakaich) on 'zero hunger and zero technology gap' (in collaboration with ATARI, Patna) in selected agricultural technologies with focus on livelihood improvement through promotion of agri-based enterprises has been a satisfying activities of the Institute.

Disseminating improved crop and natural resource management technologies amongst >3000 farmers under CRA program of Govt of Bihar has been a special focus of the Institute. Provided 52 tonnes quality seeds of crops and 1.2 lakh quality planting materials to the farmers covering all the 07 states of eastern Region.

Renovation of guest houses in HQs. Patna, Research centre, Ranchi and KVKs (Ramgarh and Buxar) deserves special mention towards infrastructure development of the Institute.

As many as 05 scientists visited abroad for capacity building besides 10 scientists have attended pedagogy training during the year for capacity building and skill development in frontier areas.

Celebration of 24th Foundation with Honorable Governor of Bihar as Chief Guest has been a memorable event of the year. Further Tribal Farmers' Conclave & 'farmers fair' was a special attraction of the 24th foundation day programme. We received Honorable Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Sh Shivraj Singh Chouhan jee & Former Union Agriculture Minister Sh. Arjun Munda Jee in Ranchi Centre and Honorable Union Minister of State, Shri Ramnath Thakur jee in Patna (HQs) who provided their valuable guidance and interacted with staff and scientists of the Institute for agricultural development. Inauguration of IFS Unit in RCER, Patna and Implement shed in KVK Buxar by Honourable DDG, NRM, ICAR have been also a memorable event of the Institute.

Conducting the 4th QRT (2018-23) of the institute in a desired manner has been a learning experience. Visit of Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Honourable Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR to KVK, Ramgarh, ICAR-RCER was a memorable moment of the Institute. Eminent personalities like Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Chairperson (PPV&fra) & former Secy. (DARE) & DG (ICAR), Dr. Mangala Rai, former Secy. (DARE) & DG (ICAR), Dr. PL Gautam, former VC, Dr. A.K. Singh, former DDG (NRM) & VC RVSAU, Gwalior, Dr. US Gautam, DDG (Extn), Dr. P.S. Pandey, VC, DRPCA, Pusa, Dr. D.R. Singh, VC, BAU Sabour, Dr Rameswar Singh, VC, BASU; DR. K.D. Kokate, former DDG (AE), Dr BC Deka, VC, AAU, Jorhat; Dr. C.L. Acharya, former Director, IISS, Bhopal, Dr. P.K. Ghosh, Director & VC, NIBSM, Chhattisgarh visited to the institute and its centre & KVKs and provided guidance towards improving research & academic program of the Institute.

A team of scientists from IRRI, Philippines and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Washington, USA visited to the institute to discuss the issue of "Direct Seeded Rice" under the leadership of Dr. Gary Atlin, Senior Program Officer, BMGF-India and appreciated the effort of the Institute in developing multiple-stress tolerant rice varieties for the eastern Region.

The institute is the nodal institute of IARI Patna Hub and completed its first year of academic activities successfully with about 50% students scoring above 80% marks. 17 UG students admitted this year also to the Hub. Also provided 38 UG internship/RAWE/short term research training and 22 M.Sc & Ph.D. dissertation/thesis work to the students of other universities.

Media coverage of the Institute activities has also increased many-folds in past two years reflecting increase in our audiences and clients. Our endeavor towards convergence and linkages had spread to NABARD, NHM, DST, DBT, RKVY, IFFCO, Govt. of Bihar and other organizations. Institute renewed its work plan with CIMMYT, IRRI, BISA, IWMI, ACRISAT etc. during the year. Our efforts on developing a Multiple water use model for

smart water resource management in agriculture, establishing Swarna eVatika- an horti-based nutri-garden and Integrated natural farming system etc. are taking shape towards sustainable development. Besides we are now focusing in cutting edge areas like C-farming, metagenomics & metabolomics, agri-voltaic systems, AI-ML based monitoring of Ducks, drone applications, & developing future farm models among many other initiatives which will go a long way in developing science and technologies for sustainable future.

ICAR-RCER stands committed to provide technologies for a resilient agri-food system in the region. I am confident that our collective efforts to excel shall lead to generation of new technologies and innovations for nation building. On the eve of the New Year 2025, let us resolve to work with dedication in the spirit of one ICAR to make it a vibrant, integrated and self-reliant organization of global repute through outcome-oriented, project- based and delivery-focused research, education and extension for better future of the people and the country. We re-resolve our commitment towards a clean and green campus and surrounding. The year 2025 is of special significance for the Institute as we enter to the silver jubilee year and 25th Foundation day will be celebrated on 22 Feb, 2025. Let's celebrate the silver jubilee Foundation Day and year in a befitting manner.

Once again I wish all of you a fruitful & happy new year 2025.

With regards

Yours Sincerely

Anup Das
Director