

Task Force Committee Meeting On Strategies for Agricultural Development in Middle Gangetic Plains

(Patna 17.08.2021)

Meeting of the Task Force Committee on Strategies for Agricultural Development in *Middle Gangetic Plains* was held on 17.08.2021 at ICAR-Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna under the chairmanship of Dr. R.C. Srivastava, VC, Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar.

The main objective of this meeting was to suggest suitable strategies for identification of constraints & research priorities, extension mechanism and institutional linkages for overall Agricultural Development in Middle Gangetic Plains that includes Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Dr R C Srivastava, Chairman of this task force committee emphasized that the Middle Gangetic plains has rich natural as well as human resources. Although production of horticultural crops, like mango, litchi and Pomelo (Chakotra), etc are high in this region but its processing and value addition is hardly 5 %. He informed that 40 % of the sugarcane crops area is damaged by the floods. He urged scientists to gather information related to affect of milk productivity of the milch animal due to flood. He also accentuated on wealth from waste, high value low volume fish culture.

Dr Bijendra Singh, VC, Acharya Narendradev University of Agriculture & Technology, Ayodhya advocated for use of solar energy, protected cultivation and early season crop cultivars for fetching higher return.

Dr Rameshwar Singh, VC, Bihar Animal Sciences University, Patna propounded for social inclusion, gender empowerment, suitable developmental models for more infusion of technology for both public and private investment. He informed that we can get 17% more growth by efficient cross breeding techniques in livestock within 15 year time period.

Dr Arun Kumar, VC, BAU, Sabour emphasized upon promoting Resource Conservation Technologies, efficient use of wetland through scientific cultivation of Makhana, water chestnut, lotus and fish and micro irrigation for high value crops.

Earlier, **Dr. Ujjwal Kumar, Director**, ICAR-RCER, Patna and convener of the meeting, welcomed the participants and emphasized the scope of meeting. These task force committees have been constituted by the ICAR for each agro-climatic zone of India including Middle Gangetic Plains as per the suggestions of PM review meeting. Dr Kumar informed that the Middle Indo-Gangetic Plains (MIGP) covers **66** districts of Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh with a total geographical area of 18.07 m ha which is around 5.5 % of the total area of India and this zone has a population of around 18.4 crores that is around 14 % of India's population. The Middle Gangetic Plains has great potential for crop and livestock production.



Dr. Mithilesh Kumar, Director of Research, DRPCA, Pusa; Dr. H.C. Singh, Professor, ANDUAT, Ayodhya gave presentation on constraints and research priorities and modalities to address in middle Gangetic Plains; Dr. R.K. Sohane, Director, Extension Education, BAU, Sabour gave brief presentation on “ Strategies for extension mechanism involving KVKs, ATMA and line departments”

Dr. Anjani Kumar, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Dr. K.G. Mandal, Director, ICAR- MGIFRI, Motihari; Dr. S.D. Pandey, Director, ICAR-NRC-Litchi, Muzzafarpur; Prof. M. Feza Ahmad, Director (R), BAU, Sabour, Dr. K.K. Singh, Head ICAR-IARI, Pusa; Dr Shambhu Kumar, Head, CPRS, Patna and Sri. Dhananjay Tripathi, Additional Director (crop), Govt. of Bihar also gave their valuable inputs.

Sri R.K. Jha, Project Director, CAS on Climate change, DRRPCA, Pusa, Bihar ; Dr. R. Prasad, Director (R), BASU Patna; Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh, Dy. Director (R), BASU; All Heads of Divisions and Dr. A. Dey, In Charge PME cell and scientists of ICAR-RCER, Patna discussed on related issues. Officers from different government departments, SAUs, KVKs and ICAR institutions also joined the meeting through online mode.



The Chairman of the meeting constituted six sub-committees under Horticulture, Water Resource management, Crop Breeding strategies, Animal sciences, Fisheries and Extension & Linkages to compile the recommendations and strategies of different sectors in the region.

The meeting was organized in both online and offline mode. At the end, vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Shivani, Principal Scientist, ICAR-RCER, Patna.

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