

## **ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna Celebrates 17<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day**

*(Ranchi 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017)*

ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna celebrated its 17<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day at Regional Centre, Ranchi on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017. Her Excellency Hon'ble Governor of Jharkhand, Smt Draupadi Murmu graced this occasion as Chief Guest. In her inaugural address she emphasized that in spite of productive lands in the eastern region, average productivity of various agricultural commodities is very low and farmers are dependent on other region of the country to fulfill their needs for vegetables, eggs, fish and other agricultural produces. Climate change and ground water depletion are some of the major concerns of the region that needs to be addressed. Hon'ble Governor also suggested that more emphasis should be given on scientific farming rather than traditional farming in order to generate more employment and to increase food security of the region. She urged educated rural youths to undertake agriculture as a profession to create more employment opportunity through farming. She further reiterated that farmers should be exposed to the latest technologies through regular training and other extension activities. She also advised to involve SHGs and women farmers in transferring agricultural technologies and employment generating activities. Since more than 70 % population is dependent on agriculture, strong linkages among research institutes, government agencies and farmers is needed to improve livelihood of the farmers.

During the programme, she also felicitated progressive farmers from 07 eastern states, representatives from press and media and employees of the institute for their outstanding work in the respective areas. An Exhibition to demonstrate the latest technologies in agriculture was also organized on the occasion where 10 stalls from ICAR Institutes, KVK, SAU, input dealers, agri- entrepreneurs, etc were displayed.

On this occasion Foundation Day Lecture was also delivered by Dr Parvinder Kaushal, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Birsa Agricultural University, and Ranchi. Dr Kaushal emphasized on strong research linkage between ICAR institutes and SAUs to address the problems of the region.



Earlier, Dr. B. P. Bhatt, Director gave a brief account of the Institute technologies, activities, outreach programmes, research publications, recognition to the scientists, technologies developed and commercialized, during last one year. He also emphasized on the need-based focused research programmes to cater the diverse needs of the eastern India.

More than 70 progressive farmers from all the seven eastern states ( Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jhakhand, Odisha, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) participated in the event. Farmers - scientists interaction was also organized.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Dr K. K Sharma, Director, IINRG, Ranchi, scientists from different ICAR institutes, Birsa Agril. University, Ranchi, officials of the state department, representatives of press and media. Around 300 participants including progressive farmers participated in the programme.

Dr A. K. Singh, Principal Scientist & Head, ICAR RCER, RC, Ranchi coordinated the programme and proposed a vote of thanks.

(Source: ICAR RCER, Patna)

