

## **Review Workshop-cum-Monitoring Field Visit of Farmer FIRST Programme (FFP) organized by ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata**

22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023: The two-days Review Workshop-cum-Monitoring Field Visit of Farmer FIRST Programme (FFP) was organized at Bhubaneswar by ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Kolkata in collaboration with ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pradip Dey, Director-cum-Chairman, Zonal Programme Management Committee (ZPMC), FFP. In his inaugural address, Chief guest Dr. P.K. Roul, Vice Chancellor, OUAT, Bhubaneswar conveyed great satisfaction about the way the project is achieving its objectives and motivated the farmers to build greater coordination with institutes for achieving desired outcomes in crop cultivation. He also emphasized on adopting one or two villages and converging the efforts of all four centres in Odisha so that a replicable model emerges that would certainly draw the attention of other stakeholders and help us establish the contribution of scientific farming practices. Dr. Dey, in his opening remarks, pointed out the project status, its implementation and suggested that centres would have an optimum mix of crop, horticulture, livestock including fisheries, natural resource management, agri-enterprise and IFS module. He also suggested that a proforma of structured impact assessment for the entire project could be prepared to gauge the impact of the project with respect to livelihood improvement of the targeted beneficiaries.

The Guests of Honour Dr. P. Das, I/c Director, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar; Dr. A. Sarangi, Director, ICAR-IIWM, Bhubaneswar and Dr. P.J. Mishra, Dean, Extension Education, OUAT, Bhubaneswar also spoke on the occasion. Dr. K. S. Das, Pr. Scientist and Member-Secretary, ZPMC, FFP, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata presented a brief overview of FFP programme by explaining its objectives, uniqueness of the programme, past achievements including fund allocation and utilization by different centres. Principal Investigators (PIs) along with Co-PIs presented the achievements of respective centres. Farmer representatives from all the centres have expressed their views and showed great sense of satisfaction from the project and support associated with it and assured for sustainability of the project in the coming years. Earlier, a formal welcome was given by Dr. H. K. De, Pr. Scientist-cum-PI of ICAR-CIFA and Coordinator of the programme.



On the second day, a field visit was also conducted to monitor the progress of different activities being carried out by the Project Team, OUAT at their new adopted villages. The team different Heads of Departments of OUAT and others visited mushroom spawn production unit and various demonstration sites in villages. An animal health camp was organized at Gopalpur village. A Farmer-Scientist interaction programme was organised at Gobindpur village where farmers' queries were addressed. The programme ended with the happy notes from the farmers for including such activities under Farmer FIRST Project which benefitted large number of agricultural farmers in the adopted villages.

