

Workshop on Convergence Platform of CSISA organized jointly by ICAR-ATARI Kolkata and OUAT Bhubaneswar

16 June, 2023, Bhubaneswar

A Workshop on Convergence Platform of CSISA was jointly organized by ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata, CSISA, Bhubaneswar and Directorate of Extension Education, OUAT at Bhubaneswar today. The aim of the workshop was to converge towards common goal of bridging the yield gaps and to develop a consensus in promoting demand driven research and extension within Odisha and West Bengal.

Chief Guest of the function Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, IAS, Principal Secretary, DAFE, Govt. of Odisha in his address stressed the need for sharing and exchange of need-based training materials with Government Department and other extension agencies on assessment and mutual interest in Kharif season. He further added that sharing of monthly /Bi-monthly messages on key interventions and development of catalogue of messages for farmers' use is also important. He Called for expansion of the gender-based work stream through backstopping by the SAUs, research Institutes and KVKs. There is an urgent need for joint participation and presentation of outcomes in the state planning meeting of Kharif and Rabi seasons.

Prof. P.K. Rout, Vice Chancellor, OUAT and Chairman of the session appreciated the convergence among all the stakeholders for a better agriculture in Odisha and West Bengal. He advocated to conduct on farm trials and on farm research on maize in selected districts of Odisha for its replication in the entire state/region. He also underlined the need to popularize millet cultivation in the state followed by highlighting the problem of soil acidity in the state. He advised to involve PG students in LDS program for exposure and also to involve other students in agriculture development programs. He also emphasized on bringing out quality publications out of CSISA and flagship programs.

Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ATARI, Kolkata and Convener emphasized that the synergy between policy makers, researchers and field functionaries is essential for inclusion of suitable technology in Government policies. He added that such joint efforts are being proposed through creation of network of all partners including ICAR institutes through ATARIs, State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), KVKs and public as well as private sector-based input sector for evidence-based data generation in selected districts. He added that landscape diagnostic survey has the potential to generate good data to take up further research strategy and also to convince policy makers.

Dr. R.K. Malik, Country Coordinator, CSISA-CIMMYT told that this model has been piloted in three states including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha. He proposed to hold two meetings annually: one each before the start of kharif or rabi planning meetings in each state. He suggested for joint evaluation of technologies in few districts before releasing based on the consensus of joint demonstrations. He highlighted about predominance of MTU 7029 rice varieties, excess / lower dose of N application, less use of P and K in Odisha, non-preference of farmers towards rice hybrids and importance of farm mechanization in rice, maize and pulses for better yield and cost minimization.

Initially Dr P J Mishra, Dean Extension Education welcomed the dignitaries and all participants and briefed about the agenda of discussion for the workshop.

The technical session started with a presentation by Dr Ashok Kumar Yadav, Coordinator, CSISA, Bhubaneswar on mechanized DSR, rice hybrids, farm mechanization, biofortification with zinc, weed management, crop diversification with maize and pulses etc.

The programme was attended by Dr S.K. Swain, Dean of Research, OUAT, Dr H.K. Patro, Dean, College of Agriculture, OUAT, Dr P.P. Pal, Principal Scientist, ATARI, Kolkata, 9 Heads of KVKs of Odisha and West Bengal and State Government officials, ARS probationers, Officials of CSISA, SMS, leading NGOs and other stakeholders.

