

Hon'ble Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR inaugurated Workshop for development of Chotanagpur plateau region

22 May, 2023, Purulia

ICAR- Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Kolkata organised a Workshop on 'Implementable technologies for Chotanagpur plateau region of Eastern India' at Kalyan KVK, Purulia. Chief Guest of the Workshop Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Hon'ble Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR, New Delhi told that Chotanagpur region requires farming/production systems which are suited to different toposequences in sloppy terrain. He called for convergence and coordination of various agencies for development Chotanagpur region including State Departments, ICAR Institutes, SAUs, KVKs, Financial Institutions, NGOs, and FPOs. He stressed that agriculture in Chotanagpur plateau region need to be transformed through the reform of policies, institutions and markets. He suggested for integrated farming system with crop, horticulture, animal, fisheries and agri-enterprise for improving farm income with reduced water and carbon foot print.



Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata and convener of Workshop mentioned that Chotanagpur Plateau region is a geo-historically unique region which is dominated tribal population with diverse agricultural activities. He stressed that the outcome of this workshop will help in identification and assemblage of doable technologies for conservation of soil fertility, efficient use of water and genetic diversity which will further improve the agricultural production and uplift the livelihood of the farming community as a whole.

Swami Vaskarananda, Secretary, Kalyan, Purulia and Swami Bhaveshananda, Secretary, Divyayan Krishi Vigyan Kendra enlightened the audience with their connect to the grassroot. Dr. Swarup Kumar Chakraborty, Vice-Chancellor of Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya lauded the effort of organising such a comprehensive workshop and hoped the outcome in the form of a mega project will go a long way for the service to the farming community of the region. Dr. T.K. Mondal, Vice Chancellor, WBUAFS, Kolkata said that comprehensive development of livestock and fisheries sector with traceability will help in boosting farm income of the region. Dr. Dipak Kumar Kar, Vice Chancellor, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, Purulia committed for his university's involvement, especially through social sciences sector for upliftment of farming community of the region. The deliberations include overview and potential of Chotanagpur plateau region of Eastern India, roadmap of supplying quality planting material for horticulture development, growing citrus and grapes, utilizing new rice varieties for food security, improving farm profitability through animal and fisheries component, empowering smallholder farmers through FPOs, revitalizing lac industry from seed to sale, breaking barriers through integrated farming system.

A panel discussion was also held to focus on the technologies that could be used as well as drawing synergy and resources from different Line Departments, Institutes, SAUs and KVKs for overall development of the region. Dr. Sujay Rakshit, Director, ICAR-IIAB, Ranchi, Dr. B.K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore, Dr. T. Damodaran, Director, ICAR-CISH, Lucknow, Dr. Kaushik Banerjee, Director, NRC on Grapes, Pune, Sh. Debasish De, District Representative, PRADAN, Sh. Subhas Mahato, CEO, Manbazar Agro producer company Ltd, Purulia, Sh. Sajal Kumar Ghosh, Project Director, ATMA, Purulia, Sh. Joydeb Mahato, Progressive Farmer, Purulia, and several Line Department Officials also participated in the discussion.



A newly developed heat resistant and highly immunogenic vaccine was released during the occasion. The live attenuated thermostable lentogenic strain ND vaccine does not need the strict maintenance of cold chain facilities, enabling it to be transported to remote village areas for vaccination of the backyard poultry birds. Several publications in local languages for the benefit of farmers were also released. About 130 participants from Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal including Scientists of ICAR Institutes, SAUs, KVKs, Officials of Line Departments and progressive farmers participated in the Workshop.