

Workshop-cum-Awareness Programme on Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act 2001 and Agro-Biodiversity Exhibition organized

28th August, 2024, Puri

A Workshop-cum-Awareness Programme on the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001, and an Agro-Biodiversity Exhibition were organized today by ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Kolkata, in collaboration with Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar, at the KVK, Puri, Odisha.

The Chief Guest, Dr. T. Mohapatra, Chairperson of PPVFRA, New Delhi, acknowledged the vital role of farmers, particularly in tribal areas, as stewards of traditional varieties and landraces. He emphasized the profound future potential in protecting these farmers' varieties, especially by integrating them into value chains and exploring their commercialization opportunities. Additionally, Dr. Mohapatra inaugurated the Demo-Unit of KVK Puri.

Dr. G. Saha, Vice Chancellor, BCKV, highlighted the importance of agro-biodiversity and traditional varieties.

Dr. R.R. Burman, ADG (AE), ICAR, outlined the detailed plan for the collection and documentation of farmers' varieties through KVKs to ensure their preservation for future generations and the nation.

Dr. Pradip Dey, Director of ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata, eloquently underscored the vital importance of preserving traditional varieties, which are the living treasures of our agricultural heritage. He assured that ATARI, in collaboration with the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the region, would unite their efforts to support the conservation and registration of these invaluable genetic resources, safeguarding them for generations to come.

In his address as Special Guest, Dr. Dinesh Kumar Agarwal, Registrar-General of PPVFRA, emphasized the profound importance of the PPVFR Act, 2001. He passionately urged farmers to register their cherished varieties, thereby unlocking the rights and benefits that this landmark Act bestows upon them.

Dr. P.J. Mishra, Dean of the Directorate of Extension Education, OUAT, highlighted the contribution of Odisha's KVKs in the conservation of plant varieties.

Dr. M.M. Adhikari, former Vice Chancellor of BCKV, and Dr. Ravi Prakash, Technical Consultant at PPVFRA, along with Prof. D. Mishra, DPME, OUAT, elaborated on the importance of farmers' rights and the process of registering farmers' varieties.



During an interactive session, farmers shared the challenges they face in conserving traditional varieties. They also highlighted the need for financial support for in-situ conservation efforts. A few champion farmers were felicitated with certificates and mementos for their exemplary role in conserving traditional varieties.

The event saw the submission of more than 120 applications for registration of farmers' varieties covering various crops from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Odisha, and West Bengal. An exhibition showcasing traditional varieties of rice, pulses, millets, and other crops was also held.



The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. P.P. Pal, Principal Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata.



More than 150 farmers, scientists, Heads of KVKs, and staff of OUAT-KVKs attended the workshop.