ICAR-IARI Organized National Workshop on Improved Seed Systems at Ranchi, Jharkhand

25th June 2025

A National Workshop on *"Strengthening Research and Seed System for Enhancing Livelihood and Nutritional Security in Jharkhand"* was organized on 25th June 2025 at Nepal House, Ranchi by ICAR-IARI, New Delhi in collaboration with ICAR-IARI, Jharkhand and the Department of Agriculture, Government of Jharkhand with the objective of strengthening the seed system in Jharkhand so as to ensure the timely availability of quality seeds of improved crop varieties, thereby help in enhancing agricultural productivity, profitability, and livelihood security in Jharkhand. About 70 participants consisting scientists, line departments, seed corporations, SAUs, ICAR, KVKs, Progressive Farmers, FPOs and private organizations participated in this workshop

The event was graced by Shri Aboobacker Siddique P, Secretary (Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-operative), Government of Jharkhand; Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi; Shri Gopal Jee Tiwari, Special Secretary (Agriculture); Shri Bhor Singh Yadav, Director (Agriculture); Shri Anany Mittal, CEO, JSLPS; Shri Vikash Kumar, Director, SAMETI; Dr. Viswanathan Chinnusamy, Joint Director (Research), ICAR-IARI, New Delhi; Shri Pradeep Kumar Hazari, Special Secretary (Agriculture); scientists from ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, all ICAR institutes in Jharkhand, Birsa Agricultural University; representatives from National Seed Corporation (NSC), Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., private seed companies, and IARI awardee progressive farmers from across the state.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao emphasized the flagship role played by ICAR-IARI, New Delhi in transforming the food security in India. He underlined the importance of quality seeds, biofortified and climate resilient stress-tolerant varieties, and the need for developing a Seed Policy for Jharkhand including seed production and dissemination tailored to Jharkhand's agro-climatic diversity.

Shri Aboobacker Siddique P lauded the initiative and shared the state's efforts in providing 100% subsidized seeds under the Seed Replacement Program, while also highlighting challenges in meeting the seed requirements and quality. He emphasized the need for a long-term strategy including the promotion of Seed Village concept, and involvement of progressive farmers for achieving self-reliance in seed production. He assured full government support to ICAR institutes in development and strengthening the upscaling of seeds.

Shri Gopal Jee Tiwari called upon ICAR institutes in capacity building of farmers and officials to initiate decentralized seed production. The Director, SAMETI, raised concerns over the assured procurement of seeds produced locally, which was addressed with a suggestion for a dedicated follow-up meeting with state officials. NSC representative shared the challenges in infrastructure and other logistics in seed production within Jharkhand.

Presentations were made by scientists from ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, Dr. Gyanendra Singh, Nodal Officer, SPU on Farmers' Participatory Seed Production Model which shall be customized to Jharkhand. Dr. Gopala Krishnan S, Head, Division of Genetics presented a perspective for strengthening seed system in short, medium- and long-term perspective, with the need for demonstrations to ensure faster adoption of improved crop varieties, respectively. Dr. Harshavardhan Chaudhary, Principal Scientist presented high-yielding vegetable varieties suited to Jharkhand's conditions and encouraged FPO-led seed production under protected cultivation.

Dr. V. Chinnuswamy, Joint Director (Research), ICAR-IARI, highlighted the importance of region-specific varietal development, strengthening the public seed system, and scaling research-extension-farmer linkages. He emphasized the need for participatory seed models and on-farm varietal evaluations for impactful agricultural transformation in the state.

The workshop concluded with the idea of preparing a strategy and policy paper for a sustainable and self-sufficient seed system in Jharkhand in collaboration with ICAR institutes and other NAREES partners.

Source: ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi & ICAR- IARI, Jharkhand