

ICAR-IARI Celebrates International Women's Day

March 8, 2025

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-IARI), New Delhi, organized training-cum-field visits to experimental farm for farm women to celebrate *International Women's Day* on 8th March, 2025 and accelerate **farm women empowerment under the project Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and New Extension Methodologies and Approaches**. The event brought together distinguished scientists, experts, and stakeholders to discuss women's contributions to agriculture and ways to enhance their participation in sustainable farming practices. The event was attended by over 75 participants including women farmers of Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh and Rudrapur district of Uttarakhand as well as the scientists and students of IARI. Besides the significance of International Women's Day, and IARI's endeavours towards women empowerment through various projects like NEMA, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, *Farmers FIRST, model village and IARI-Voluntary Organization based partnership programme*; salient issues for income and employment generation through crop diversification with floriculture-based farming, commercial flower cultivation, integrated farming system, protected cultivation, *nutrition and women's empowerment*, gender-inclusive nutritional interventions were discussed. Women farmers and representatives shared their experiences and contributions to the agricultural sector, emphasizing the need for greater gender inclusivity. Dr R N Padaria, Joint Director (Extension) deliberated upon *Women's Empowerment through Technology and Institutional Innovations* and stressed upon capacity building, networking, application of innovations, and girl child education for fostering gender equity in agriculture. Later the Pusa vegetable seed kits were provided to women for kitchen gardening and nutritional security. Quality seeds of paddy seeds were also given to women farmers of project villages of Mathura for promotion of direct seeded rice and system of rice intensification practices.





Brainstorming Workshop Organized

Brainstorming Workshop on “Accelerating Women Empowerment through Sustainable and Climate Resilient Water Management Technologies and Policies” was organized jointly by WTC, ICAR-IARI and RPCAU, Pusa Bihar on the occasion of International Women’s Day on 8th March 2025 at WTC Auditorium in IARI Pusa campus with the objectives of analyzing the present challenges faced by rural women in agricultural water management in the backdrop of climate change and accelerating the empowerment of rural women through integration of sustainable and climate resilient water management technologies and policies. The expected outcome of the Workshop in the form of technological and policy options for sustainable and climate resilient water management in agricultural sector will aid in achieving the targets under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 of the United Nations (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all), SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

The inaugural session of the Workshop was graced by Dr. Jaya N Surya, Head, NBSSLUP Regional Centre, New Delhi, Dr. C. Viswanathan, Joint Director (Research), Dr. P.S. Brahmanand, Project Director, WTC and Dr. A.K. Singh, Director Research, RPCAU. They have highlighted the importance of research and policy support for sustainable and climate resilient water management for prosperity of rural women empowerment and emphasized on the revival of traditional water harvesting structures for ensuring sustainable water management. The presentations on climate resilient water management and its success stories and revival of water bodies for women empowerment were delivered by P.S. Brahmanand, Project Director, WTC, Dr. Susama Sudhishri, Professor, WST and Dr. Ratnesh Jha, Project Director, RPCAU during technical session chaired by Dr. Seema Jaggi, ADG (HRD), ICAR and Co-chaired by Dr. D.S. Gurjar, Senior Scientist, WTC, IARI. Dr. Seema Jaggi appreciated the potential positive impact of the bankable climate resilient technologies and stressed on the necessary efforts for improving the proportion of women in water resource management. Later, the Panel Discussion on “*Integrating climate resilient water management technologies and policies for accelerating women empowerment*” was organized which was moderated by Dr. N. Subash, Head, Division of Agricultural Physics, IARI. Dr. R.N. Padaria, Joint Director (Extension), IARI, Dr. K. Narsaiah, ADG (Process Engineering), Dr. Jaya N. Surya, Head, Regional Centre of ICAR-NBSSLUP, New Delhi, Dr. Amaresh Chandra, Dean, College of Basic Sciences & Humanities, RPCAU, Dr. P.P. Srivastava, Dean, College of Fisheries, RPCAU and Dr. U.K. Behera, Director of Education, RPCAU acted as Panelists. The major emphasis was on development of integrated action plan which included effective extension methods for faster adoption of proven water management technologies, development of women farmer friendly implements, low-cost rainwater harvesting techniques, integrated farming system, strengthening Amrit Sarovar Scheme, Jal Jeevan Mission etc. The policy brief on climate resilient

water management for women empowerment will be prepared based on the deliberations of the Workshop. Overall, about 70 delegates comprising of researchers, academicians, staff and students of ICAR-IARI, ICAR Head Quarters, NBPGR and other institutes located in New Delhi and RPCAU, Bihar have actively participated in this workshop.



Source: ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi