

**PRESS RELEASE dated 06.01.2025 at 10 AM**

**ICAR targets transformational changes in agricultural research, education and extension to buttress India's strides for transformed nation by 2047**

On the occasion of New Year 2025, the staff of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) participated in walkathon and gathered in the sprawling playground of Pusa Institute today, braving the rain and chilly winds to firm up the resolution for advancing the pace of technology generation and dissemination, agricultural education, and capacity building in 2025 in order to enhance food, nutritional, and environmental security as well as farmers' income.

At the outset, Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI, greeted the chief guest Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary, DARE and Director General (DG), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) as well as the Guests of Honour Shri Sanjay Garg, Additional Secretary, DARE and Secretary ICAR, Ms. Alka Arora, Financial Advisor (ICAR), and extended a warm welcome to all the dignitaries and staff members present on this occasion.

Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary, DARE and Director General (DG), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in his address to the staff of ICAR appreciated the staff for engaging in Fit India campaign as well as for landmark achievements made in 2024 in different spheres. He emphasized that during 2024 the largest number of varieties were developed in field and horticultural crops. It was highly encouraging that ICAR's 109 varieties for climate resilience and nutrition were dedicated to the nation by the honourable PM Minister of India Sri Narendra Modiji from the fields of Pusa institute. Appreciable achievements have been made in natural resource management with development of more than 500 climate resilient villages and 438 GAPs, while initiatives have taken to develop Block Contingency plans. Fisheries division has identified 2 new species of fishes, while 8 new breeds have been developed by NDRI. The Extension division trained 23 lakhs farmers and 2 lakhs extension workers, while agro-advisories were sent to 6.6 crore farmers. At present 2.3 crore people are associated with the Kisan Sarthi Portal for agro-advisory services. The Agricultural Education division has initiated new measures in pursuance of the National Education Policy, 2020. The strength of enrolment of students has been increased. Fellowship has been initiated for foreign students. The research works of ICAR have attained peer recognition with more than 6000 research papers published in journals of high impact factors. There has been steady growth in ICT applications in governance with upgradation of online management systems.

Dr. Pathak exhorted the scientists and staff to rise to the occasion and strive hard towards transformational changes in research, education and extension in order to continue the legacy of ICAR's glorious contributions towards food security and nation building. As the country has embarked upon the path of becoming Transformed Bharat by 2047, ICAR too should take pledge to bridge the gaps in production and productivity of pulses and oilseeds, for which India has to depend on other countries. Our achievements of securing food security and relegating to history the westerns' critique that post-independent India will disintegrate, should embolden us to take up the current challenges in agriculture and find effective solutions. are imported Focusing on India's future, DG, ICAR Calls for a greater push towards Self-Sufficiency particularly, in Oilseeds and Pulses production.

He stressed that the nation cannot grow to become transformed Bharat until agriculture grows. Therefore, investment in science and research as well as education and extension are highly essential. He assured that very soon Innovation Centre, Centre for Excellence in Genomic Editing, Speed Breeding Centre, an Academic Block, and students hostels with modern facilities will be built at IARI.

Shri Sanjay Garg, Additional Secretary, DARE and Secretary ICAR; highlighted that priorities of agriculture are changing fast and ICAR must address the emerging problems with cutting-edge technologies. He reiterated that ICAR's governance is committed to promote quality research, education and extension. Ms. Alka Arora, Financial Advisor (ICAR) appreciated the contributions of IARI in technological innovations as well as quality human resource development by quality education and producing brilliant young researchers.

Later a friendly cricket match between IARI and ICAR was organized to promote Fit India.