

On 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister, GOI, Sh. Narendra Singh Ji Tomar inaugurated the campus of ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Dirpai Chapori, Gogamukh, Assam in virtual mode in the august presence of Chief Minister of Assam Sh. Sarbananda Sonowal ji, Union State Agriculture Minister Sh. Kailash Choudhary Ji, Pradan Baruah Ji, Member of Parliament, Lakhimpur, Dr. Ranaj Pegu, MLA Dhemaji, Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Director General, ICAR & Secretary DARE, Sh. Sanjay Kumar Singh, Secretary, ICAR, Dr T R Sharma, DDG, Crop Science, ICAR, Dr A K Singh, Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi and distinguished scientist of ICAR of different institutes. The report of the institute was presented and emphasised on water use efficiency from June to September in the north-eastern region and organic farming of local grown crops. Initially three Divisions will function namely Division of Crop Improvement, Division of Horticulture and Division of Animal Science & Fisheries. Sh. Pradhan Barua, MP Lakhimpur and Dr. Ranaj Pegu, MLA Dhemaji thanked the Government for bestowing one of the remotest regions of the country with IARI like institution. Additional Secretary DARE and Secy ICAR, Sh. Sanjay Kumar Singh welcomed the dignitaries. Secretary DARE and DG ICAR in his remarks highlighted the mandate of IARI Assam for bringing the benefits of improved agricultural research, education and extension to the region. Chief Minister of Assam, Sh. Sarbananda Sonowal Ji emphasised on research activities on locally grown horticultural crops of the region for enhancing farm income of small and marginal farmers through enterprise diversification. He also hopes that the north-eastern states will be again known as “Bowl of Rice” with the support of ICAR-IARI, Assam. Hon'ble, Agriculture Minister, Sh. Narendra Singh Ji Tomar appreciated the work of ICAR for food and nutritional security of the country through green revolution and encouraged the Scientist of IARI, Pusa New Delhi for developing several high yielding varieties particularly in rice and other important crops which ultimately benefitted the farmers of the country. He also emphasises the importance of locally grown crops for enhancing farmers' income and export opportunities.