

Press Note
IARI visit of Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Shri Kailash Choudhary ji
(12th September, 2020)

On 12th September, 2020, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Kailash Choudhary ji visited ICAR – Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. During the visit the minister had detailed interaction and discussion with the Scientists of the institute. During the visit of pearl millet trials and demonstrations, the Honourable Minister of State expressed satisfaction on the performance of various new pearl millet hybrids and suggested research on improvement of various land races to maintain the food quality and climate resilience. The work on biofortification of cereal grains using various advanced scientific methodologies for improving quality and combating malnutrition problem was also appreciated by the MoS. Economizing nitrogen use in paddy through Leaf Colour Chart (LCC) based application which saves 40 to 60 kg N/ha in rice, use drone technology for plant phenotyping and herbicide resistance in paddy was also demonstrated. Honourable Minister of State took lot of interest in drone application and appreciated the efforts of the Institute. He suggested to popularize this technology to curtail 50 per cent nitrogen use. The trial on ten thousand landraces of paddy for identification of biotic and abiotic stress tolerance and other quality traits for inclusion in future breeding programme was also demonstrated and Director, IARI explained the same to Honourable MoS. Organic farming, conservation agriculture, new varietal improvement program on maize, legumes and horticultural crops and several other novel research works were also shown. Honourable Minister of State appreciated the multi-enterprise, multi-scale technological advancements made by IARI and called for furthering the research work on limited water and limited resource scenarios.

After the visit a review meeting was held by the Director IARI in the presence of various School Coordinators and Head of Divisions of ICAR – IARI, New Delhi. Hon'ble Minister also praised the new initiatives of IARI, including newly launched "Pusa Samachar" on IARI YouTube channel and made an appeal to the farmers to take maximum advantage of the Pusa Samachar.