

Two- Day Research Advisory Committee Meeting commences at IARI

The 2-day Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting commenced at IARI today (12.03.2025) under the Chairmanship of Prof. Sudhir K. Sopory the Emeritus Senior Scientist, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. At the outset, the Director, IARI, Dr Ch. Srinivasa Rao welcomed the Chairman of RAC as well as the esteemed members Dr. Surinder Singh Banga, DAE Raja Ramanna Fellow and Professor (Honorary Adjunct), Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, PAU, Ludhiana; Prof. Kailash Chander Bansal, Former Director, NBPGR; Dr. P.S. Naik, Former Director, ICAR-IIVR, Varanasi; Dr. M.R. Dinesh, Former Director, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru; Dr. Biswapati Mandal, Former Pro-Vice-Chancellor, BCKV, Mohanpur, WB; Dr. Vijay Paul Sharma, Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP, MoA&FM, GoI), Dr. Surinder Tikoo, Co-Founder and Director Research-Breeding and Development, Hyderabad; Prof. Appa Rao Podile, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Hyderabad, Dr Payal Mago, Principal, Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Science for Women, New Delhi; Shri Dharamender Singh Lakra, as well as the Deputy Director General (Crop Science), ICAR, Dr D.K.Yadava.



(Dr. Surinder Tikoo)



(Prof. Kailash Chander Bansal)



(Dr. DK Yadav)



(RAC Meeting)

The Director, IARI highlighted in his welcome remarks that IARI has been dedicatedly engaged in transforming agriculture for ensuring food and nutritional security as well as farmers' livelihood through cutting-edge technologies and improved varieties. He shared that IARI has made significant contribution in Basmati Production and trade, where IARI's varieties account for more than 90% of production and export earnings of Basmati. He informed the house that Honourable PM of India, Sri Narendra Modi ji spent more than two hours in experimental farm of the institute and dedicated 109 varieties to the Nation, in which 23 varieties were from IARI. He emphasised that IARI's Seed Production System in participation with farmers has been innovative and effective in ensuring quality seeds to the farmers. He focussed upon eight salient areas for strengthening the research and extension system, which included seed expansion, oilseeds, pulses, water, biodiversity, waste food management, FPO and start-ups, and impact analysis. He also highlighted that IARI's two other campuses i.e. IARI-Jharkhand and IARI-Assam as well as the Regional Stations have been engaged in research, education and extension endeavours of the main campus through projects and outreach activities.

Dr. D.K. Yadava, DDG (Crop Sciences) appreciated the quality works of IARI in the areas of development of seeds which have proven to be landmark varieties particularly in Basmati Rice, wheat, mustard and pulses (chickpea, lentil and moong-bean). He further exhorted the scientists to attain the necessary targets as per the national priorities. He stressed upon transformational change in the areas of attaining 1.5 to 2% genetic enhancement; solutions for emerging pests, development of guidelines for carbon farming, green chemistry, development of climate resilient varieties and technologies, production and productivity enhancement of oilseeds and pulses, translating the outputs of precision agriculture at farmers' fields, crop diversification in North-western plain zone, strengthening IARI's seed system, strengthening of research,

education and extension activities of two campuses and Regional Stations. He suggested that plans should be developed for them based on regional priorities. He also appreciated the contributions of students in making notable contributions in publications.

Dr. C. Vishwanathan presented before the house about the achievements of research, education and extension at IARI. He shared that during the last year (2023-24) 13 varieties of field crops and 14 varieties of horticultural crops were developed. He informed that IARI's varieties had made significant contribution in seed chain of Basmati Rice (92%), wheat (40%), lentil (15.5%), mustard (41.5%), pearl millet (26.70%). Recently, waxy maize variety of IARI has been released which could be used for food in North East, besides being an option for production of bioethanol. The institute obtained 294 licenses from 168 industries worth 497.57 lakh revenue. The scientists made more than 480 publications with impact factor more than 4.

The Chairman remarked that technology generation must keep into consideration about environmental consequences. Technologies should not lead to environmental degradation. There should be strategic use of new knowledge and data. There should be integration of Artificial Intelligence, genome editing, nano-technology. Farmers feedback must be encouraged and used in setting research priorities and developing location specific technologies and emphasis should be laid upon transdisciplinary approach. He further emphasized upon basic science-based research. Dr. K.C. Bansal suggested that disciplines like microbiology, genetics, and plant pathology should be engaged in basic science research. Dr. S. Tikoo pointed on consumer's education about bio fortified food and robust data management system. Dr. P.S. Nayak stressed upon IARI's role in bridging the major gap areas in research to address the national priorities.

Dr. Appa Rao Podile appreciated IARI's research program and motivated scientists for global excellence. He emphasized upon use of omics data. Dr. V.P. Sharma highlighted that focus should be laid upon pulse and oil seeds as well as mechanization. Dr. Payal highlighted about studies on socio-economic policies.

The significant research achievements of the School of Basic Sciences were highlighted by Dr. Renu Pandey, Head, Division of Plant Physiology, and Coordinator, School of Basic Sciences. The notable research advancements of the School of Crop Improvement were shared by Dr. Gopala Krishnan S., Head, Division of Genetics, and Coordinator, Crop Improvement. The key research contributions of the School of Horticulture Science were discussed by Dr. B.S. Tomar, Head, Division of Vegetable Science, and Coordinator, Horticulture Science. The financial matters were addressed by Sh. Rajesh Sahay, Senior Comptroller.



RAC members and IARI officials.