

ICAR-ATARI Patna Celebrated the 8th Foundation Day with Full Zeal

ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Zone-IV celebrated its 8th Foundation Day on 19th August, 2023. Dr. A.K Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi and former Deputy Director General, (Agricultural Extension), ICAR, New Delhi was the Chief Guest of the function and Dr. R.R Burman, Assistant Director General (Agricultural Extension), ICAR, New Delhi was the Guest of Honour. The occasion was also shown special presence of Mr. Anil Kumar Jha, Joint Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Bihar, Dr. Vishal Nath, Director, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, Dr. K.G Mandal, Director, ICAR-Mahatma Gandhi Integrated Farming Research Institute, Motihari Bihar, Dr. Anup Das, Director, ICAR-Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna, Bihar and Dr. Shantanu Kumar Dubey, Director, ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Zone III Kanpur.

At the outset, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Patna, Dr. Anjani Kumar welcomed the dignitaries and briefed about the activities and achievements of the Zone-IV. He informed the house during a brief period from its inception the Zone has crowned with different awards including President Medal for 03 farmers and most prestigious PADMASHREE” award to Mrs Rajkumari Devi (KISAN CHACHI) from Bihar and Mrs. Jamuna Tuddu from Jharkhand. Moreover, 06 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Award (Best KVK), 01 Best Innovative Farmer Award, 06 Jagjivan Ram Abhinav Kisan Puruskar, 01 Nari Shakti Award, 02 Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Antyodhyay Krishi Puraskar, 01 IARI Innovative Farmer Award, 01 IARI Fellow Farmer Award were also included in the same list.

Dr. A.K Singh in his Foundation Day Lecture emphasized that every KVK personnel should take pride in being a part of the front-line extension system and inculcate a sense of belongingness and responsibility towards the farming community and the nation on this day. In his address, the chief guest emphasized the importance of innovative techniques to farmers and shared insight into the significance of climate resilient technologies and diversification in the changing agricultural landscape. He said that Krishi Vigyan Kendra needs to develop ICT based initiatives to modernise the extension system looking at the future need of the precision farming. The scientists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra always need to concentrate more towards income enhancement of the farmers through various agri-based entrepreneurial opportunities to the farmers. On this occasion, he congratulated the Institute for its achievement.

The guest of honour of the program, Dr. R.R Burman emphasised the future course of action and priorities of Krishi Vigyan Kendras w.r.t to precision agriculture farming especially popularisation of drone technology, mobilisation of farmers towards ICT initiatives like Kisan Sarathi as well as to take lead in formation of FPOs as per the mandate of the government.

Mr. Anil Kumar Jha, expressed his views in the interest of the farmers on this occasion. He mentioned that till now, scientists are more focused on the production aspect of a sustainable food system, but present need of the system is to the improve R&D as per the demand of the farming community especially in post-production like processing, value addition and marketing.

Dr. Shantanu Kumar Dubey, briefed the house about the strength of this zone with respect to abundance of natural resources and crop diversity. However, the production is still a challenge in front of the research system to be well taken care of.

Dr. Vishal Nath, Director ICAR-IARI, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, Dr. K.G Mandal, Director ICAR-MGIFRI, Motihari, Dr. Anup Das, Director ICAR-RCER Patna, also shared their valuable insight during the event. They congratulated the Institute for its significant achievements and motivated to work in collaborative manner with all the sister Institutes towards the betterment of the farming community.

On this occasion few progressive entrepreneurs of Bihar and Jharkhand were also honoured along with release of publication. An exhibition from progressive entrepreneurs/FPOs were also organised. Subsequently, a scientist-farmers' interaction and farmer's meet were also organized in presence of experts Dr. R.K Sohane, Dr. M.S Kundu, Dr. A.K Thakur, Dr. Ujjwal Kumar, Dr. Manubrullah, Dr. Abhay Kumar and Dr. Amarendra Kumar. The programme was moderated by Dr. Pragya Bhadauria and Dr. Amarendra Kumar presented the formal vote of thanks during the programme.

