

Inauguration of Administrative Building of ICAR-ATARI, Zone-IV, Patna, Bihar

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare inaugurated the new administrative building of Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Zone-IV, Patna on 23rd Nov. 2021 in virtual mode. On this occasion Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR), Dr A.K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension) Dr. Randhir Singh, ADG (Agricultural Extension), ICAR was virtual connected from Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. Dr N Saravan, Secretary, Department of Animal and Fisheries Resources, Government of Bihar was also connected in online mode. Dr. Ujwal Kumar, Director, ICAR-RCER, Dr. M.S. Kundu, DEE, DRPCAUI, Pusa, Dr. R.K. Sohane, DEE, Sabour, Dr. J. Oraon, DEE, BAU, Ranchi, Dr. A.K. Thakur, DEE, BASU, Patna Dr. Keshav, Pr. Scientist, Headquarter, New Delhi and Dr. Anjani Kumar, Director, ICAR-ATARI dignified the stage.

Apart from these Dr. D.K. Shahi, DSW, BAU, Ranchi, Dr. Priyaranjan, Deep Narayan Sarkari Sansthan, Dr, S.B. Singh, Regional Director, ARI, Patna, Dr. S.K. Rai, Director, ATARI, Kolkata, Dr. F.H. Rahman, Pr. Scientist, ATARI Kolkata, Dr. Sambhu Kumar, Head, CPRI, Patna, Dr. A. Raizada, Principal Scientist, MGFRI, Motihari, Dr. R.K. Jat Scientist, BISA, Chief Engg., CPDW, Senior Scientist & Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra of Bihar and Jharkhand, Subject Matter Specialist of KVKs and about 135 farmers graced the programme.

Dr. Anjani Kumar, Director, ATARI, Patna formally welcomed the dignitaries and honoured all the person sitting on the dias with shawl, flower and memento. He briefed about activities of ATARI and coordination with KVKs of Bihar and Jharkhand state. ATARI, Patna was established at 19th Aug. 2015 but its activities was started from April 2017 since then it is serving the farming community through on-farm trials, front line demonstration and capacity building programmes. He expressed gratitude towards ATARI, Kolkata and Vice-Chancellor of all four University for their support. He was also thankful to KVKs to full fill the objective the ATARI. He mentioned that in the short journey of four years ATARI, Patna bagged three (03) Best KVK, National Award, Four (4) Zonal Award and about fifteen to twenty progressive farmers of this zone won award including President Award. At the last of welcome address he assured that ATARI, Patna will always smoothly coordinate with all the 68 KVKs of Bihar and Jharkhand and becomes important stake holder in development of farmers.

On this occasion first of all Dr. A.K. Singh, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension) delivered a virtual welcome speech from Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. He emphasized on the integration of other allied enterprises like mushroom cultivation, fish culture, apiary, water chestnut and makhana farming etc. in the existing production system of the farmers to effectively address the issues on livelihood of resource poor farmers. He also mentioned that KVKs under ICAR ATARI, Patna should

work to sensitize the farmers about ill effects of residue burning and climate resilient agriculture practices.

Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, DG, ICAR expressed his concern about the pace of technology dissemination and acceptance in Eastern part of India especially in Bihar and Jharkhand and hence the role of ATARI, Patna is very crucial to disseminate and strengthen agricultural technological support to farmers through the KVK of Bihar and Jharkhand.

Dr. Randhir Singh, ADG (Agricultural Extension), ICAR highlighted the pivotal roles played by the Council in apprising the small and marginal farmers about the various employment opportunities in Fisheries, Honeybee Farming, etc. He also accentuated on the ICAR and its KVKs' efforts for the promotion of Singhara and Makhana Cultivation in Bihar.

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare was the Chief Guest of the event expressed his pleasure over the completion of ATARI administrative building as it is very essential for the smooth functioning of any organisation and congratulate whole ATARI family. He stated that the enthusiastic and positive consequences of the persistent efforts made for the welfare in agriculture sector. Doubling of farmer's income by 2022 can be seen in the initiative taken by the government. He mentioned that KVK should disseminate the best technology developed by scientists like climate-resilient seeds for overall development in agricultural production, productivity and farmers income. During his address he also mentioned several schemes run by the central government like PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana through which till now one lakh sixty-two crores' rupees were given to the farmers. He emphasized the PM's goal of constructing cold storage and warehouse facilities in every village across the country for which one lakh crore rupees sanctioned as agriculture infrastructure fund, meant for setting up storage and processing facilities which will help farmers to get higher prices for their crops. Under Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme around 1.5 Lakh crores were given for animal husbandry, fisheries, apiary, food processing, herbal farming etc. He also emphasized on adoption of integrated irrigation systems by the farmers to improve productivity.

Dr Anjani Kumar, Director ATARI (Zone IV), Patna offered a vote of thanks to all.

