

ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack organized Regional Committee-II Meeting on 14th October 2022

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India conducted the XXVI Meeting of ICAR Regional Committee -II comprising the States of West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 14th October 2022 at ICAR-National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack. The ICAR has set up eight Regional Committees on the basis of agro-climatic regions. The purpose of the Regional Committee is to provide a forum to the researchers and the State Government functionaries to examine the major gaps in the current research and training efforts in agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries; to identify priorities; and to decide agenda of research and extension education in different agro-ecological regions of the country for the coming two years. A research agenda of national relevance in the areas of agricultural technology assessment, refinement and transfer is set up for discussion in the regular meetings of the Regional Committee, which is held once in two years.

Hon'ble Union Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Shri Kailash Choudhary Ji attended the programme virtually and stated in his address that this region is full of adversities like flood, drought, cyclones, insect-pest attack, etc. If past 100 years' climate happenings are analyzed, one would find 90



years with one or other kinds of natural calamities. Thus, efforts are taken at different levels to mitigate the problems. He also emphasized that such type of review is essential not only to examine the progress, but to pin-point the problems and chalk out the possible solutions. States like Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are becoming highly affected by the adverse climatic conditions. Therefore, new climate-smart technologies for the farmers should be developed. He claimed that until the agricultural activities are taken as a commercial venture, one can't reap full potential benefits and get remunerative returns. Sri Choudhury also emphasized that, research results need to be reflected in farmer's field. Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) & Director General (DG), ICAR, Dr. Himanshu Pathak stated the objectives of the programme and emphasized that in spite of COVID-19 pandemic, India's exports of Agricultural and Processed Food



products increased by 13% as compared to previous year. However, the share in world export of food product is only about 3% due to low level of processing and lower value addition. Also low level of processing is reflected in the composition of India's food export basket which essentially consists of primary produce like rice, flour, sugar, meat, fish, etc. He also expressed his concern about the low productivity of this region due to various reasons like poor soil quality, low

use of fertilizer, insect-pest infestation and high dependence on monsoon rainfall.

Many high level officials from ICAR, Vice Chancellors of Universities, Directors of Institutes and Scientists of ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack participated in the programme. Dr. RK Singh, ADG (CC&FFC), ICAR welcomed all the dignitaries and. After the inaugural session was over, State-wise problems and research needs/ development issues were discussed during the technical session. Action Taken Report (ATR) with respect to the issues finalized during earlier meeting



were deliberated and discussion made to prepare a roadmap for the development of agriculture including animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, natural resource management and human resource development in the region. This meeting will help to establish the link between ICAR and state governments for identifying state specific problems related to



agricultural and allied aspects and offering suitable solutions through achievements and accomplishments of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) of the concerned states within specific timeline. Dr. P.K. Agarwal, ADG (Coordination), ICAR, New Delhi offered the formal vote of thanks for the whole programme.