



Regional Workshop on PPV&FR Act, 2001 and Exhibition on Agro-Biodiversity



A two day Regional Workshop on PPV&FR Act, 2001 and Exhibition on Agro-Biodiversity was organized at ICAR-National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack during May 11-12, 2023. Nearly 80 farmers from different districts of Odisha; Scientists from ICAR-NRRI, ICAR-CTCRI Regional Station, ICAR-CHES, OUAT, Odisha Millet Mission and representatives from civil society organisations like WASSAN and MSSRF; Kaveri Seeds; Seed Industry of Bengal; Bharat Nursery; Debagiri Seeds; Centurion University; Agri Plos Pvt Ltd. etc participated.

During the inaugural session on May 11, Padma Shri Ms Sabarmatee was the Chief Guest; Sh Natabar Sarangi, Farmer and Conservator of traditional varieties, was the Guest of Honour. Following an introduction about the workshop by Dr B C Patra, Officer I/c ITMU and brief remarks by Dr M J Baig, Director (A), ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack, Padma Shri Ms Sabarmatee spoke about the importance of conservation of traditional varieties by farmers. She urged that every farmer should conserve at least one traditional variety for future. She suggested for inclusion of traditional varieties as “Prasad” in temple so that farmers are encouraged to conserve and grow them for profit. She highlighted with statistics the concept “*Desi se Besi*”, i.e., farmers can reap better profits by cultivation of traditional varieties that require less input but provide better nutrition and stress tolerance. Sh Natabar Sarangi, Farmer and Conservator, discussed about the initiative called



Rajendra Traditional Variety Research Centre at Niali, where nearly seven hundred endangered, traditional rice landraces, collected from different states, are being conserved. He advocated for practices that would support conservation of natural resources namely soil, water and biodiversity.

Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPV&FRA, discussed about the genesis of the *PPV&FR Act, 2001*, different provisions under Farmers' Rights, importance of IP protection of traditional varieties by farmers and

communities and how farmers can be benefitted. He informed that till date about 775 traditional rice varieties are registered from Odisha and urged for more efforts in that direction.



An agro-biodiversity exhibition was organized to showcase varietal diversity in cereals, millets, oilseeds, pulses, fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants and their value added products by ICAR-NRRI; MSSRF, Jeypore; Odisha Millets Mission; OUAT, Bhubaneswar; ICAR-CHES; ICAR-CTCRI, Regional Station,



Bhubaneswar.

Participating farmers interacted with great enthusiasm with the resource persons and enquired about the important varieties, cultivation practices, nutritional factors and value addition.

During Technical sessions, lectures were delivered by Dr M M Hossain, Director, MSSRF Regional Centre, Jeypore; Dr S R Dhua, Former Principal Scientist, ICAR-NRRI and Sh Dipal Roy Choudhury, Joint Registrar



on different topics including bio-diversity conservation; characterization and registration of farmer's varieties from Odisha and different provisions on Farmers' Rights as per *PPV&FR Act, 2001*.

On May 12, 2023, Dr Kundan Kishore, ICAR-CHES and Dr Kalidas Pati, ICAR-CTCRI Regional station made presentations on biodiversity of horticultural and tuber crops. Farmers showed great interest in obtaining planting materials and technology for processing and value-added products.

Dr Shiv Dutt, IP&TM, ICAR, discussed about procedure, practices and intellectual property protection mechanism in ICAR. He also spoke about Agri-Business incubation, Agri Innovate, interplay of different international legislations like TRIPs, ITPGRFA; CBD and Nagoya Protocol, domestic legislations like PPV&FR Act, 2001 and



Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Sh Dipal Roy Choudhury,



Joint Registrar, PPV&FRA gave a lecture on DUS testing mechanism, databases, descriptors of Rice, plant variety registration process etc. Sh Subrat Mani, M/s Agro Plus Pvt Ltd, discussed about a model for promotion, variety protection and marketing of sustainable seed systems for aromatic rice in Odisha. All the participants interacted with the resource persons.

Dr T Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPV&FRA, chaired the concluding session and interacted with the representatives from Seed Industry, scientists, farmers and resource persons. Industry's query regarding patenting and PPV&FR registrations were addressed. Farmers cited examples of three of traditional rice varieties, namely Nandikiri, Jhumuri and Khoda, highlighted their importance and the valuable traits that these three varieties possess. It was suggested that such varieties being nurtured and grown regularly by farmers should be collected and evaluated for the traits at ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack. Chair agreed to the proposal of farmers to conduct such training cum awareness programmes on a regular basis.

