

Second NICRA Review Workshop at ICAR-Barapani

Barapani, 30 January 2013

“Second Review Workshop of National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)”, a project on climate change in India, begins for two- day [30-31 January 2013] at ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam, Meghalaya- one of the consortium partners of the project for NEH region. Climate change is a reality, overlooking it means inviting vast arrays of ecological damages in the country.



“We need to have state-of-the art facilities to fight climate change issues in India. Climate change is measured mainly by two events: global warming and changes in rainfall pattern”, said former Deputy Director General at NRM division of ICAR- New Delhi and Vice-Chancellor of Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwa Vidhyalaya, Gwalior Dr. Anil Kumar Singh, the Chief Guest of the workshop, in his speech.

“NICRA has recently facilitated ‘Biochar facility’- a charcoal made of biomass through pyrolysis (fire), and can be used for carbon sequestration in future- at Agricultural division of the institute”, said Dr. S.V Ngachan, Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH region, Umiam during the workshop.

Furthermore, the NEH region is rich in biomass (biological materials); therefore it gives an ample amount of opportunity to use various types of biomass in Biochar which can open new avenues for research in the field of renewable energy production, told Mr Jonah Lavine of the USA during his presentation on the newly installed Biochar facility at ICAR.

“Praising ICAR for tirelessly working towards the installation of new facilities under NICRA, Dr. M. Maheshwari, principal scientist working at Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad suggested that accomplishment of major tasks such as data collection, weather updates at district level in north eastern region, should be categorized as sub-projects to do that an easy way.”

“Over the past few years in the century, across many parts of the NEH region, there were inundated farmlands-especially in Dhemaji, one of the remotest districts of Assam from the capital Guwahati, where submergence level was recorded to be from 20 cm to 8-10 feet. Farm productivity and soil fertility losses are main concerns under water submergence in the district. Therefore climate resilient agricultural technologies to mitigate climatic aberrations seem the only possible to be adopted by famers and the governments, said Dr G.N. Hazarika, Director of Research, Assam Agriculture University, Jorahat.

On the occasion of the workshop, Dr. R. Ravindran, Dean Collage of Post Graduate Studies (CPGS), Umaim , and Dr. O.N. Singh, Head & principal scientist, Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack also shared their climate- related research with the august house.

There were two technical sessions today: First “Breeding strategies for climate-ready traits”, and second “Strategies for soil and water management for climate resilient”.

Dr. VUM Rao, project coordinator of ‘All India Coordinated Research Project- Agro-Meteorology’, Hyderabad informed the NICRA-principal investigators - that strong meteorological data is needed further to assess weather properties for climate change in the long run. In this context, D-SAT and aqua crops are better to use. Presentations by different principal scientists of various illuminating research institutes from across the country were also delivered. They presented their research findings on breeding strategies for climate-ready traits and strategies for soil and water management for climate resilient on 30 January. Weather properties and climate change are closely related with each other.

“Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland in north east region have lost around 15% of their monsoon raining- an analysis done from 1991-2007 period by ICAR-Barapani. Prolonged drought and flood have been more intense in recent time across the region,” said principal investigator of NIRCRA at ICAR-RC-NEH, Umiam during his technical presentation today.

While on 31 January, two more technical sessions- namely livestock production strategies under climate change scenario and technology demonstration and community participation for climate smart agriculture presentations- where ICAR-Barapani and its regional centres, IVRI-Kolkata and Zonal Project Director-III Umaim, will deliver their presentations.

(Source: NAIP-Mass Media Project, ICAR-RC-NEH with inputs from NRM division, ICAR-Barapani)

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