

U.S. Charge d' Affaires to CSISA Visited ICAR-RCER, Patna

16th June 2014, Patna

Mr. Michael Pelletier, U.S. Charge d' Affaires and Ms. Helen LaFave, Consul General in Kolkata visited Sabajpura research farm of ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region (ICAR-RCER), Patna on 16th June, 2014. The objective of this visit was to monitor the progress of Cereal System Initiatives for South Asia (CSISA) Research Platform activities funded by USAID and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Project activities are aimed at improving agricultural productivity of small and marginal farmers of Bihar through sustainable improvement in the cereal production systems under the emerging scenario of climatic stresses.



Dr. B.P. Bhatt, Director, ICAR-RCER welcomed the dignitaries and gave a brief introduction about the institute.

A meeting of the officials of US embassy was arranged with CSISA hub officials, scientists of ICAR, women self help groups and service providers from different districts of Bihar. During the interaction session with stakeholders, dignitaries enquired about the problems faced by service providers; demand of small and marginal farmers to access the services; conviction of farmers regarding the usefulness of small farm mechanization to mitigate labour and energy crisis; and integration of women self help groups in mechanized agricultural operations.

Dignitaries were satisfied that the project is helping small farmers through access to cost and energy saving innovations and technologies. They appreciated the partnerships of ICAR with CIMMYT and state government for giving fruitful results in improving the cereal system productivity and sustainability in the region.

Dr. Abdul Haris, Principal Scientist and PI, CSISA Platform Research, ICAR-RCER briefed about the agricultural scenario in Bihar.

Dr. R.K. Mallick, CSISA Hub Manager, Bihar; Dr. Virender Kumar, Agronomist(CSISA); Dr. S. Punia, Agronomist, CSISA; and members of self help groups from different districts of Bihar were also present during the visit.

(Source: ICAR-RCER, Patna)