

## **Interface Meeting on ‘District Level Contingency Plans in Bihar**

***26th June 2014, Patna***

Central Research Institute for Dry Land Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad and ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region (ICAR-RCER), Patna organized an interface meeting on ‘Operationalization of District Level Contingency Plans in Bihar’ on 26th June, 2014.

Shri Narendra Singh, Agriculture Minister, Government of Bihar inaugurated the meeting as Chief Guest. In his address, he appreciated the efforts of ICAR for conducting such an important meeting in Bihar for *Kharif* 2014. Shri Singh stressed there is urgent need for short and medium duration of rice seed to combat drought like conditions in the region. He also advised scientists to prepare contingency plan for at least for next 3-4 years.



A technical bulletin on ‘Contingency Measures for Deficit Rainfall Districts in South Bihar’ was also released by the Chief Guest on this occasion.

Dr. A.K. Sikka, Deputy Director General (NRM and Extension), ICAR emphasized upon convergence of watershed development and water conservation programme with on-going government schemes for effective utilization. Dr. Sikka informed that NICRA project is operational in six KVKs to address issues related to climate resilience agriculture in Bihar. He said that ICAR will organize capacity building programmes on water management for officials of state agricultural departments.

Shri Amrit Lal Meena, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Government of Bihar advised officials to provide necessary inputs and their active participation for the preparation of district level action plan for *Kharif* 2014.

Dr. (Mrs.) M. Maheshwari, Director, CRIDA briefed the gathering about district contingency plans to face different monsoon scenarios.

Earlier, Dr. B.P. Bhatt, Director, ICAR-RCER, Patna welcomed the Chief Guest and delegates. He stressed upon effective utilization of ground water in Bihar and informed that ICAR-RCER has conducted six training programmes on watershed and water management during current year for the state officials.

Presentations on monsoon situation in Bihar 2014, District Level Contingency Plans, Strategy for Implementation and Real Time Implementation of Contingency Measures were also made by CRIDA scientists on the occasion.

More than hundred officials of Department of Agriculture, Government of Bihar, KVKs, Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Directorate of Rice Development and ICAR institutes participated in the meeting.

Dr. Ujjwal Kumar, Principal Scientist, ICAR- RCER, Patna proposed vote of thanks.

*(Source: ICAR-RCER, Patna)*