

## **ICAR Regional Committee Meeting Inaugurated at IISR, Lucknow**

*5<sup>th</sup> September, 2014, Lucknow*

Shri Narendra Singh, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Bihar inaugurated the 22nd Meeting of ICAR Regional Committee, Zone-IV here today. Speaking as Chief Guest, he highlighted the progress made by Bihar State and called upon to increase the investment in agricultural research and extension to strengthen the network of related institutions. He exhorted the scientists and educationists to be vigilant and realistic in development of plans for the welfare of small farmers.



Shri P.K. Sahi, Minister of Environment and Forests, Planning and Development and Shri Vaidyanath Sahni, Minister of Animal and Fish Resources, Government of Bihar were the Guests of Honour on this occasion. Shri Sahi highlighted the road map developed for Bihar and the progress made by the State in increasing rice productivity. He further emphasized on the quality fodder production and management of animal health. Shri Sahni appreciated the role of ICAR for providing a platform where the problems of the states could be discussed for finding out feasible solutions.

In his Presidential address, Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR said the this region offers tremendous scope and opportunities for multifaceted growth in agriculture sector, including animal husbandry, fisheries, horticulture, sericulture and others.

He highlighted that impetus will be imparted for fruits and vegetables, fodder seed production and in developing farm implements for the region. He also highlighted the need for trained manpower and skill development.

Shri V.N. Garg, IAS, Agriculture Production Commissioner, Government of Uttar Pradesh emphasized on developing infrastructure in terms of market & agri-business in PPP mode, early warning systems, weather prediction systems and drought management systems. He thanked ICAR for its role in developing drought contingent plan and helping UP State in its implementation.

Earlier, Dr S.K. Datta, Deputy Director General (Crop Sciences), ICAR and Nodal Officer, Regional Committee Zone-IV welcomed the dignitaries and participants and highlighted the role of biotechnological interventions in crops and livestock for enhancing productivity in the region.

Dignitaries released five publications of ICAR institutions and 17 innovative and progressive farmers of the region were honoured with Recognition Award.

The functionaries of agricultural institutions including Assistant Directors General of ICAR, Vice Chancellors of the State Agricultural Universities, Directors of ICAR research institutes, Deans of SAUs, senior officials of state line departments and progressive farmers from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand are participating in the two-day (September 5-6, 2014) meeting to discuss the agenda of agricultural development in the region.

Dr R.K. Singh, Director, IVRI, Bareilly and Member Secretary of meeting proposed vote of thanks.

(Source: IISR, Lucknow)