

## ICAR-RCER, Patna Hosts National Conference on ‘Environmental Stewardship for Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change Mitigation

A three-day National Conference on Environmental Stewardship for Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change Mitigation (ESSACCM-2026) was organized by the ICAR RCER Patna in collaboration with the National Environmental Science Academy (NESAs), New Delhi, and ICAR-ATARI from January 22-24, 2026. The conference featured technical and poster sessions covering Climate Change & Sustainability, Green Technologies against Pollution, Translational Research for Climate Resilience, and Extension Research linking science with policy for Socially Challenged Farmers’. An exhibition by industry partners and research institutions was also held to promote farmer upliftment.



In his inaugural address as Chief Guest, **Dr. Inderjeet Singh**, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, Bihar Animal Sciences University, Patna appreciated the NESAs and RCER, Patna, for organizing the very important seminar for achieving sustainable development. He cautioned that human activities like indiscriminate use of chemicals and antibiotics and environmental neglect for



short-term gains may severely disrupt environmental and ecological balance. **Dr. Anup Das**, Director, ICAR-RCER, Patna, and Chairman of the Organizing Committee, emphasized that environmental stewardship is no longer a choice but a necessity. He stressed that quality food production must not come at the cost of environmental health, biodiversity, or farmers’ welfare, and highlighted the proactive environmental actions of the RCER Patna in addressing various food, nutrition and environmental security issues in line with the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. Keynote speaker **Dr. Arun Kumar**, Senior Research Scientist, Mahavir Cancer Sansthan,

Patna, Bihar, provided an overview of arsenic and other heavy metals contamination in Bihar, highlighting its sources, health risks, and urgent need for mitigation. **Dr. Anjani Kumar**, Director, ICAR-ATARI in his address as guest of honour elaborated challenges faced by the farmers in sustaining productivity and livelihood in changing climate. **Dr. Bikas Das**, Director, ICAR-NRC Litchi



empathized on nature friendly low-cost solutions to address environmental degradation and promote sustainable agriculture in changing climate. Students of IARI Patna Hub enriched the event by presenting a melodious welcome song.

The conference featured five keynote lectures, fifteen lead/invited talks and about 100 oral/poster presentations in various aspects of climate change, environmental pollution, greenhouse gas mitigation, ecological balance, sustainable agri-food systems etc by eminent experts including **Dr. Alison Laing** (CIMMYT), **Dr. Tanu Jindal** (Amity Institute of Environmental Toxicology), **Prof. Sribash Roy** (University of Hyderabad), **Dr. Rajesh Reddy** (Borlaug Institute for South Asia) among many others. A special farmers-industry-scientists interactive session on “Socio-economic Upliftment of Socially and Economically Weaker Farmers” witnessed active engagement of farmers on entrepreneurship opportunities, millet farming, PPP models, and agro-industry linkages to enhance their income.

**Sh. Bharat Jyoti**, Chairman, Bihar State Biodiversity Board, Patna, in his valedictory address as the Chief Guest emphasized on the vital role of biodiversity and highlighted agro-ecology as a key pathway towards the sustainable development. Guest of Honour, **Dr. S.S. Rathore**, Head, Division of Agronomy, IARI, New Delhi, stressed integrating ecological principles into modern agriculture for long-term sustainability. **Dr Shakeel Ahmed Khan**, Secretary, NESA, New Delhi highlighted the role of the Academy in promoting environmental awareness and safety among the public. Various important NESA Awards and prizes for best oral and poster presentations were conferred to the winners during the conference. **Dr Rachna Dubey**, Scientist, Environmental Sciences, and organizing secretary, proposed the vote of thanks to conclude the seminar. The conference witnessed enthusiastic participation from about 200 scientists, academicians, researchers, farmers, and students. The conference concluded on a high note, fostering knowledge exchange, collaboration, and a shared commitment toward building a sustainable, climate-resilient, and environmentally responsible future.

**Source: ICAR RCER, Patna**