

Strategic Research and Prioritization is the Key: Dr. Bhatt

ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna organized an interaction programme on “Sustainable AgriFood System in the Eastern Region” with Dr. B.P. Bhatt, Former Director, ICAR-RCER and Officer on Special Duty to the Director General, ICAR, New Delhi.

In his address, Dr. Bhatt emphasized that strategic research and clear prioritization must guide future programme in alignment with the national vision of Vikshit Bharat 2047. He urged scientists working in Natural Resource Management, to design projects from a national perspective and mobilize support from external funding agencies. He highlighted the immense potential of the Eastern Region to contribute significantly to national productivity targets, especially in

oilseeds, pulses, fisheries, and the meat sector. Dr. Bhatt called for focused project development aimed at enhancing productivity in rice-fallow oilseeds and pulses, expanding scientific aquaculture to harness the region’s abundant water resources, and strengthening meat production systems. He stressed that by 2047, the Eastern Region should aim to contribute substantially in farm mechanization, nutrient use efficiency, and greenhouse gas emission reduction.

He further emphasized the urgent need to enhance productivity of fruits and vegetables, noting that a threefold increase will be required to address the transition from food security to nutritional security. He advised scientists to prepare for collaborative assignments with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in areas such as nutri-rich crops, opportunity

crops, seaweeds, and the therapeutic potential of goat and camel milk to combat heavy metal toxicity, obesity, and hidden hunger. In the livestock sector, Dr Bhatt underscored the importance of adopting the One Health approach to address animal health challenges, ensure food safety, and enhance the export potential of livestock products.



Earlier, Dr. Anup Das, Director, ICAR-RCER, welcomed Dr. Bhatt and highlighted the major research achievements of the institute. He also presented two significant publications authored by ICAR-RCER scientists titled “Participatory Research Application for Year-Round Income and Agricultural Sustainability” and “Role of Women in Agriculture.” The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Ujjwal Kumar, Head, DSEE.



Source: ICAR RCER, Patna