

Dr. H. S. Jat has joined as Director, ICAR-IIMR



Dr. H.S. Jat was born in the village Jaitpura, Rajasthan on 2nd September 1974. He graduated from SKN College of Agriculture, Jobner with B.Sc (Ag) Hons in 1997; Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi for M.Sc and Ph.D. (Agronomy) in 1999 and 2003. He joined the ARS services in the year 2003 and started working on

Natural Resource Management in arid and semi-arid ecosystems. He made his outstanding contribution in developing and scaling Conservation Agriculture (CA) based management technologies for predominant cereal systems of western IGP. Most of his work is on the sustainable management of reclaimed sodic soils for its efficient utilization, and to prevent it from resodification through sustainable intensification (SI).

Dr. Jat generated fully validated science-backed

evidence on CA and demonstrated that system-based targeted management practices portfolio has the potential to produce more food from less inputs (water, nutrients and energy) while improving profitability and lowering carbon footprints. His work also related to the development of rice varieties for DSR conditions and also on the management of saline soils through composting using municipal solid waste and crop residues. He also served to International Maize & Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) from year 2013 to 2018 under the SIP program.

He has bestowed with FAI Golden Jubilee Award for Excellence- 2019, CSSRI Excellence Award in Soil Salinity- 2019; National CSR Award- 2020 by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India and a fellow of many National Academic Societies including NAAS. Dr. Jat has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers in leading World Scientific Journals. Dr. H.S. Jat joined as Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research on 15.02.2023.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Patent granted

The technology entitled, “Dynamic volatile collection system” was granted a patent, Indian Patent No. 431210, on 8th May 2023. It is a dynamic sampling system that simultaneously collects volatiles from

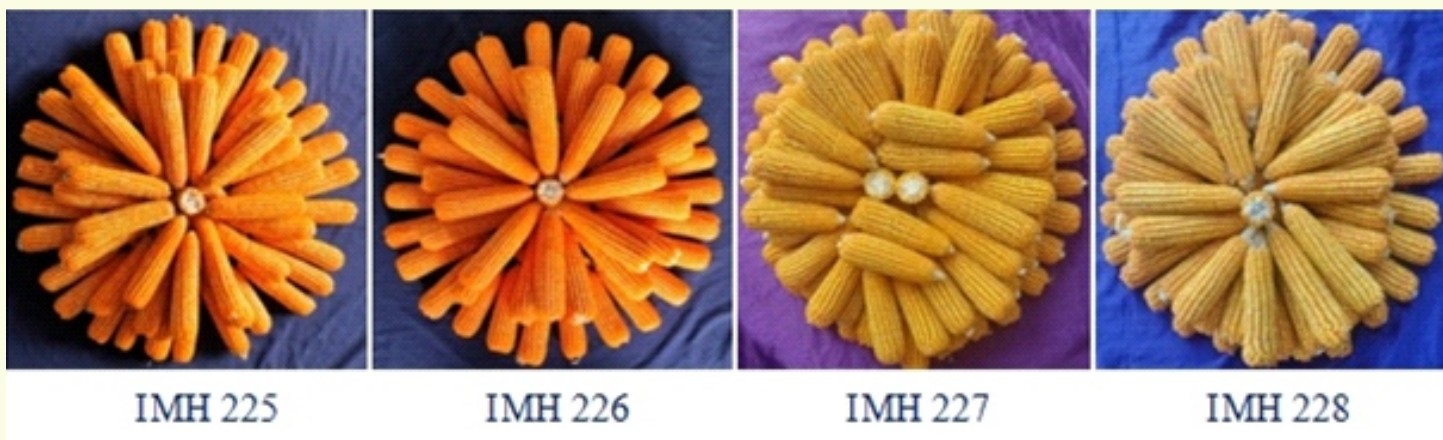


**Dynamic volatile collection system
(Photo courtesy: ICAR-NIBSM)**

many specimen chambers at a time using a single flow meter and single pump in 'pull' mode and two flow meters and two pumps in 'push- pull' mode. The simultaneous multiple sampling is enabled by a multi-port aeration and a multi-port vacuum unit.

Hybrid Development

A total of eight maize hybrids viz., IMH 225, IMH 226, IMH 227, IMH 228, QPMH 6, IPCH 501, ISCH 601 and IBCH 401 developed by ICAR-IIMR were identified for release by the Varietal Identification Committee during the 66th Annual Maize Workshop, held at GBPUAT, Pantnagar, from April 12–14, 2023. Four of these are field corn hybrids with medium maturity (IMH 225, IMH 226, IMH 227, and IMH 228), and the remaining ones are popcorn (IPCH 501), sweet corn (ISCH 601), baby corn (IBCH 401), and an EDV (QPMH 6). The hybrid IMH 225 and IMH 226 having



average yields of 10.25 t/ha and 9.89 t/ha, respectively, were identified for the North West Plains Zone for cultivation in the Rabi/Spring season. The hybrid IMH 227 and IMH 228 have an average yield of 10.91t/ha and 10.57t/ha, respectively, and were identified for the North Eastern Plains Zone comprising the states of Bihar, Jharkhand Orissa, West Bengal and Eastern UP for cultivation during Rabi Season. The baby corn hybrid IBCH 401 is a medium maturity hybrid for the kharif season and identified for the Peninsular Zone and Central Western Zone. This hybrid has an average baby corn yield without husk of 1.583 t/ha in the Peninsular Zone and 1.627 t/ha in the Central West Zone. QPMH 6 (an improved version of PMH 6) hybrid with enhanced levels of lysine (3.09% of protein) and tryptophan (0.85% of protein) was developed through the introgression of the o2 allele using marker-assisted backcross breeding. It has an average yield of 6417 kg/ha and is recommended for the Northeastern Plains Zone (NEPZ) comprising states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, and eastern Uttar Pradesh. In addition, one each of popcorn (IPCH 501 with an average yield of 4771 kg/ha) and sweet corn (ISCH 601 with an average yield of the green ear without husk is 12917 kg/ha) were released for the Peninsular Zone (comprising states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra) and NEPZ, respectively.

Important research accomplishments

- ❖ The genotype CML 60 (3.57) was found promising against fall armyworm (FAW) based on leaf damage rating (1-9 scale) under artificial infestation.
- ❖ The ae1 allele conferring higher amylose content

in maize kernel was successfully introgressed from the donor parents to the parents of released hybrids, viz., HM 5 (HKI 1344 × HKI 1348-6-2) and HM 12 (HKI 1344 × HKI 1378). The original RPs, viz., HKI 1344, HKI 1348-6-2, and HKI 1378 had amylose content of 26.39%, 23.29%, and 22.25%, respectively. The amylose content in the introgressed families of HKI 1344, HKI 1348-6-2 and HKI 1378 varied from 43.23 to 58.06%, 40.4 to 56.6%, and 40.37 to 56.33%, respectively. The maximum increase in the amylose content was as high as 120% (2.2-fold), 143% (2.43-fold), and 153% (2.5-fold) in HKI 1344, HKI 1348-6-2, and HKI 1378, respectively. This is the first-ever report of developing high amylose maize in India through MAS.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

ICAR- IIMR, acknowledged for outstanding work in Hindi by Narakas, Ludhiana

The National Official Language Implementation Committee, Ludhiana, honored the ICAR - IIMR for its efforts to publish the institute's Hindi-language magazine, "Krishi Chetna," 2022 edition (Issue 5).



A glimpse of the award ceremony

This recognition was presented during a ceremony held on January 9, 2023, and signifies the remarkable efforts of the Institute. "Krishi Chetna" is a vital platform for disseminating agricultural knowledge and research findings in the Hindi language. The institute's dedication to promoting the Hindi language through this magazine was celebrated by the National Official Language Implementation Committee, Ludhiana. The award reflects the Institute's commitment to advance Hindi as a language for agricultural discourse and information dissemination.

Republic Day Celebration

The entire institute staff joined together to commemorate the 74th Republic Day, which was marked with an extraordinary display of zeal, enthusiasm, and unyielding patriotic devotion. The National Flag, graciously raised by our respected Director and set against the backdrop of our soon-to-be-established campus in Ladhowal, Ludhiana, added to the solemn moment of pride. Simultaneously, at various centers, the respective Incharges carried out this honorable duty with utmost dedication. In his address, the Director underscored the importance of upholding our constitutional duties and responsibilities. He passionately urged every member of our institute to wholeheartedly dedicate themselves to the well-being and advancement of our cherished farming community.



Flag hosting ceremony on the Republic Day

Institute Foundation Day

The 9th Foundation Day of ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana was joyously celebrated on February 9, 2023. Dr. J C Shekher, acting Director, ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, took the opportunity to illuminate the institute's



Glimpses of 9th Foundation Day

accomplishments and underscored the increasing significance of maize in the realms of crop diversification and industrial demand. Dr. B.M. Prasanna, Director, CGIAR Research and Programme, Maize & Global Maize Programme, Kenya, who graced the event as the Guest of Honour, emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts. Dr. S.K. Pradhan, ADG(FFC), ICAR, and the Chief Guest of the program, who addressed via online mode, discussed the existing challenges and advocated for enhanced research, while urging maize scientists to diligently work towards achieving the 20% ethanol blending target. Notably, the event recognized and honored maize farmers, scientists, administrative personnel, and supporting staff for their invaluable contributions to both the institute and the broader maize ecosystem.

International Women's Day

In commemoration of International Women's Day on March 8, 2023, ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, and its Regional Stations have orchestrated a dynamic series of online events, spanning from March 1st to March 7th, 2023, in alignment with the council's directives. On

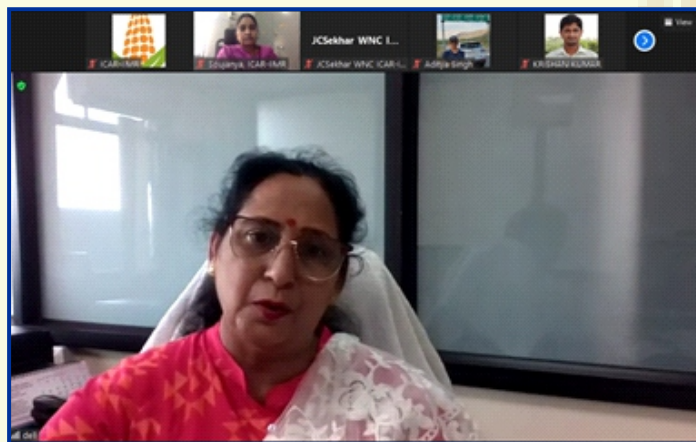
March 2nd, 2023, a thought-provoking quiz competition was held across all centers of the institute. It featured a diverse array of questions focusing on influential women worldwide. Subsequently, on March 3rd, 2023, a poetry competition was conducted, with participants channeling their creativity and expressing their reflections on the theme "NAARI" through self-composed poems. Continuing the celebration, March 6th, 2023, witnessed an engaging extempore competition where participants shared their perspectives on various topics related to women's roles in society, their significance, and the promotion of women's empowerment.



target audience for these informative sessions was the farming women of the Winter Nursery Centre, located in Hyderabad. Notably, the event also saw the active participation of Drs. N. Sunil and K. R. Yathish, along with Ph.D. students and other dedicated supporting staff. A total of 20 rural women enthusiastically engaged in the program to gain valuable insights into enhancing the value of their agricultural products.

Lecture on Women-led Development in Agriculture

On March 24, 2023, the ICAR- IIMR conducted an enlightening webinar centered around the theme "Empowering Women in Agriculture." The distinguished speaker, Dr. Kiran Bains, Professor, Department of Food and Nutrition, College of Community Science, PAU, Ludhiana, delivered an insightful lecture. During her address, Dr. Bains shed light on the myriad challenges that women encounter within the agricultural sector. She fervently stressed the importance of recognizing these challenges and integrating women into the agricultural fold by ensuring equitable access to vital resources, cutting-

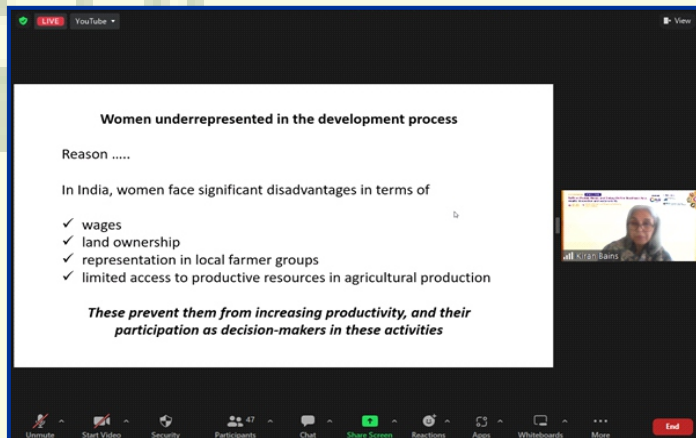


Mrs. Kiran Sahani delivering special lecture on the occasion of Women Day

As part of this empowering series of events, we were honored to have Mrs. Kiran Sahani, Assistant Director (Rajbhasha), NARAKAS, Ludhiana, who delivered an insightful guest lecture on "Women Empowerment and Challenges Faced by Women in Society." Mrs. Sahani shed light on the pivotal role of women in both family and society, addressing issues such as gender inequality in the workplace, women's untapped potential, and strategies to create a positive and inclusive environment that fosters women's well-being and upliftment.

Lecture on Value Addition in Maize

In light of India's G20 Presidency, Dr. P. Lakshmi Soujanya, Sr. Scientist, Winter Nursery Centre (WNC), ICAR-IIMR, and Dr. A. Srinivas, Millets specialist at ICAR-IIMR Hyderabad, delivered an insightful series of lectures on March 17, 2023. The focus of these lectures was to underscore the importance of value addition in maize and millet. The



Dr. Kiran Bains delivering special lecture on women-led development in agriculture



Glimpse of National Seminar on Maize to Ethanol

Best Centre Award for significant achievements in quality seed production

During the 38th Annual General Meeting of the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Seed held on May 9, 2023, at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, was honored with the prestigious Best Centre Award. This recognition celebrates ICAR-IIMR's outstanding accomplishments in the category of ICAR institutes, particularly in the realm of quality seed production. ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana's remarkable achievements are highlighted by its unwavering commitment to maximize the commercialization of institute maize hybrids. Furthermore, the institute has been instrumental in fulfilling the breeder seed demand for institute-bred maize hybrids, a demand that has consistently been the highest among all DAC maize seed requirements in the country for the past two years (ranging from 33.5% to 61.2%). Notably, ICAR-IIMR has made extensive efforts to produce hybrid seed in a



Dr. T. R. Shurma, DDG (CS) presenting the Best Centre Award to IIMR for significant achievements in quality seed production

participatory manner in farmers' fields. The award was presented to Dr. Bhupender Kumar, a Senior Scientist and the Principal Investigator of AICRP Seed Project on Maize at ICAR-IIMR.

Interactive Meet on 'Increasing Maize Production in India' in collaboration with CIMMYT-BISA

ICAR-IIMR Ludhiana, in partnership with CIMMYT-BISA, orchestrated a dynamic event on May 16, 2023, at ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana, titled "Interactive Meet on Augmenting Maize Production in India". Dr. Arun Kumar Joshi, the distinguished CIMMYT Country Representative for India, CIMMYT Regional Representative for South Asia, and the esteemed Managing Director of BISA, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Dr. H. S. Jat, Director of ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, extended a warm welcome to the assembled experts and emphasized the significance of augmenting corn cultivation in India, especially in light of the government's intensified emphasis on ethanol production from maize. The representatives from ICAR-IIMR and CIMMYT-BISA engaged in fruitful discussions regarding their ongoing collaborative projects and explored fresh proposals aimed at enhancing maize



Scientific discussion during Interactive Meet

production in the country.

Climate Resilient and Smart Agriculture Campaign

ICAR- Indian Institute of Maize Research organized a lecture on "Conservation Agriculture for Maize-wheat diversification in Indo-Gangetic Plains" on 22nd May 2023 under the Climate Resilient and Smart Agriculture Campaign. The lecture was delivered by



Glimpses of Climate Resilient and Smart Agriculture Campaign

Dr A.K. Singh, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIMR. About 35 scientists participated in the program.

Subsequently, under this campaign, a program was organized to create awareness among the farmers of Burjugadda Thanda and Shapur villages, Shamshabad Mandal, RangaReddy district, Telangana on 25.05.2023. Dr. N. Sunil, Principal Scientist, WNC, ICAR-IIMR expressed his views on sustainable agriculture practices in maize and also emphasized the promotion of value addition in maize and millets. Dr. P. Lakshmi Soujanya, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIMR talked about climate-resilient agricultural practices including soil health improvement, women-friendly maize production practices, and integrated pest management in maize. Women farmers shared their experiences on sustainable farming in maize in their fields.

World Environment Day

The staff of Winter Nursery ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June 2023. Two types of plants, *Nerium* species and *Pongamia* species were planted in the office premises and also distributed *Nerium* plants to the office staff and field workers.



Plantation during the World Environment Day celebration



Observance of International Yoga Day

On June 21, 2023, International Yoga Day was celebrated at ICAR-IIMR Ludhiana, as well as its Regional Centers. The chosen theme for the event was 'Yoga For Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.' Sh. Anil Arora, Yoga Expert, taught various techniques of yoga to the staff. Dr. H.S. Jat, Director of the institute, emphasized the manifold advantages it offers for physical, mental, and emotional well-being.



A glimpse of International Yoga Day

IMPORTANT MEETINGS

66th Annual Maize Workshop

The 66th Annual Workshop of All India Research Project (AICRP) on Maize was held from April 12-13, 2023 at GBPUAT, Pantnagar. On April 12, 2023, a one-day pre-workshop was held to ensure that AICRP centers were appropriately appraised. The Project Advisory and monitoring committee constituted by DDG (CS) under the chairmanship of Dr. Sain Dass former Director, ICAR-IIMR, Dr. R.K Pannu, former Dean, College of Agriculture, CCSHAU, Hisar, Dr. P. Kumar, former Director (Acting), ICAR-IIMR, Dr. S.K. Guleria, former Director, HAREC, Bajaura and Pr. Maize Breeder (Retired) as a member also attended the workshop and reviewed the performance of AICRP



66th Annual maize workshop

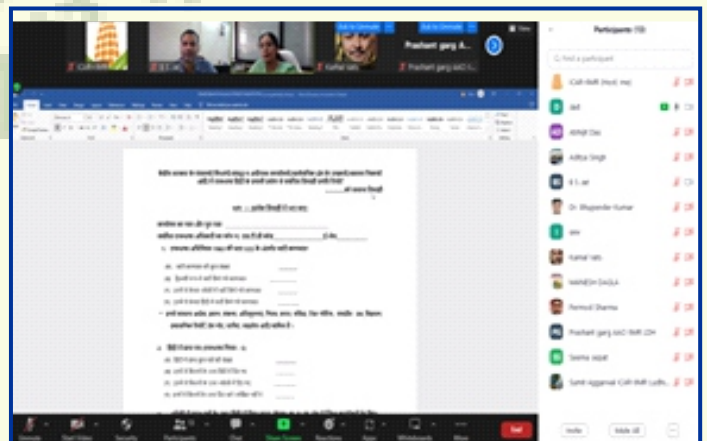
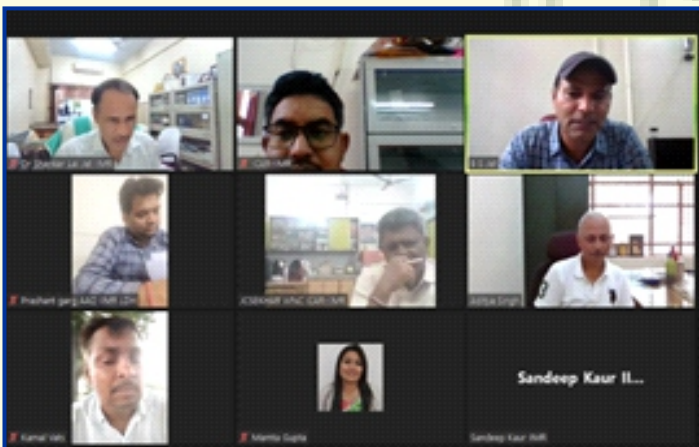
centers. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. M.S. Chauhan, VC, GBPUAT in the presence of Dr. M.P. Pandey, Ex-vice chancellor of IGKV and Birsa Agri. University, Dr. S. K. Pradhan, ADG (FFC), Dr. Sain Dass, former Director and Chairman, PAMC, and other members of PAMC. Dr. H.S. Jat, Director, ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana presented achievements of AICRP on Maize during 2022-23. He gave a briefing on the state of maize in India and the noteworthy advancements in the field made by AICRP last year. Dr. Sain Dass emphasized the advantages of single-cross maize over less profitable crops. He stressed that by inking more MoUs for seed production and distribution, we can aid in the establishment of MSME businesses, which will facilitate low-cost and high-quality hybrid seeds for our farmers. Dr. M.P. Pandey also emphasized the increasing significance of maize. Dr. S.K. Pradhan emphasized the difficulties that still face society today and recommended using cutting-edge tools like genomic-assisted breeding. He also exhorted experts studying maize to put forth a lot of effort to attain the

20% ethanol blending goal. The chief guest of the ceremony, Dr. M.S. Chauhan, emphasized the need for diverse research to address the food and nutritional concerns posed by the rising population. He vehemently demands that the entire community make a concentrated effort to counteract the negative impacts of global warming, which we are all experiencing at every turn of the year. Plans for the next year were discussed and the actions of the AICRP centers were evaluated at the workshop. The VIC meeting presided over by the DDG (Crop Science), recommended the release of 30 improved varieties out of the 31 proposals.

राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति (ओएलआईसी) बैठकें:

संस्थान में राजभाषा हिंदी का सुचारू रूप से कार्यान्वयन के लिए संस्थान राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति की जनवरी से जून, 2023 छःमाही के दौरान 26 मार्च, 2023 एवं 27 जून, 2023 को दो बैठकें आयोजित की गयी।

हिंदी कार्यशालाएं: राजभाषा हिन्दी के प्रगतिशील प्रयोग एवं कार्यान्वयन को गति देने के उद्देश्य से संस्थान में समय-समय पर कार्मिकों को प्रशिक्षित करने के लिए हिन्दी कार्यशालाओं का आयोजन किया जाता है। इस क्रम में जनवरी से जून, 2023 छःमाही के दौरान भा.कृ.अनु.प.-भारतीय मक्का अनुसंधान संस्थान, लुधियाना ने ऑनलाइन माध्यम से दो हिंदी कार्यशालाओं राजभाषा तिमाही, छमाही /वार्षिक रिपोर्टों का भरा जाना” (15 मार्च, 2023) एवं राजभाषा हिंदी की संवैधानिक स्थिति एवं महत्व (30 जून, 2023) आयोजन किया गया। इन कार्यशालाओं में मुख्य वक्ता के रूप में श्रीमती किरण साहनी, सहायक निदेशक एवं सदस्य सचिव, नगर राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति, लुधियाना एवं डॉ. सौरभ



जनवरी से जून, 2023 छःमाही के दौरान संस्थान में ऑनलाइन माध्यम से आयोजित कार्यशालाओं की झलकियाँ

कुमार, सह-प्राध्यापक, राजकीय एस.सी.डी. महाविद्यालय, लुधियाना को आमंत्रित किया गया। हिंदी कार्यशालाएं बहुत उपयोगी एवं सार्थक रही जिनके तहत में कुल 60 अधिकारीयों/कर्मचारियों ने उत्साहपूर्वक भाग लिया।

EXTENSION AND OUTREACH

Training on Seed Production in Maize

ICAR-IIMR successfully organized a 5-day training program on “मक्का बीज उत्पादन एवं वैज्ञानिक खेती” in collaboration with ATMA, Purnea from January 27-31, 2023 at RMR&SPC, Begusarai, ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research. The training focuses on seed



Glimpses of the training programme

production and scientific cultivation for seed security in maize and improving the livelihood of maize farmers by enhancing productivity and profitability. The training also focuses on specialty corn for doubling farmers' income. 35 farmers attended the training program. Agri-drone was also demonstrated during the training program.

Farmer-Scientist Interaction cum Input Distribution Programme

On February 23, 2023, a Farmer-Scientist Interaction cum input distribution program was organized under the Schedule Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) to uplift the livelihood of Schedule Caste farmers in Naugajja Village, Jalandhar, Punjab. Dr. Pardeep Kumar highlighted the achievements and activities of the SCSP program, while Drs. Bharat Bhushan, Romen Sharma, and Priyajoy Kar emphasized the importance of adopting improved technologies on maize. The experts address queries raised by the farmers. Improved hybrid seed (40 acres), Chlorantraniliprole (66 acres), and sprayer pump (40 nos.) were distributed.



Participants of the Farmer-Scientist Interaction cum input distribution programme



Glimpses of Farmer-Scientist Interaction cum input distribution under the SCSP programme

Another farmer-Scientist Interaction cum input distribution programme was held at Garhshankar, Hoshiarpur and Saroya, SBS Nagar under SCSP programme on March 3, 2023, to improve Schedule Caste Farmers' livelihood in Punjab. Dr. Pardeep Kumar highlighted the importance of the adoption of best management practices for improving maize Production. Dr. Dharam Paul, Principal Scientist highlighted the activities of the institute and its achievement. Improved hybrid seed (44.5 acres), Chlorantraniliprole (96 acres), and sprayer pump (61 nos.) were distributed. In addition, the input was also distributed to the 65 farmers at WNC, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad on the same day. In addition to this, the inputs were also distributed to 35 farmers under SCSP on March 10, 2023. RMRSPC Begusarai also conducted a training and input distribution program under SCSP at RMRSPC Begusarai district, Bihar on March 8, 2023. Sprayers were distributed to 100 women farmers who participated the programme.

Exhibition of ICAR-IIMR technologies during Pusa Kisan Mela 2023

ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana exhibited improved maize

technologies during the Pusa Kisan Mela 2023 from March 2-4, 2023. Drs. Romen Sharma and Priyajoy Kar addressed the queries raised by the farmers.



Visitors/farmers at ICAR-IIMR stall during Pusa Kisan Mela 2023

Empowering Women Farmers: Training and Knapsack Sprayer Distribution

In a remarkable initiative aimed at empowering women in agriculture, the Regional Maize Research and Seed Production Centre in Kushmahaut, Begusarai, celebrated International Women's Day by



Glimpses of the Women's Day Celebration

organizing a one-day women farmer's training and knapsack sprayer distribution program. This event, funded under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP), recognized the pivotal role of women in the agriculture sector and provided them with valuable skills and tools to enhance maize productivity. The event, held on the 7th of March 2023, not only marked International Women's Day but also demonstrated the commitment of the center to promote gender equality and inclusivity in agriculture. The one-day training program covered various aspects of modern farming techniques, pest control, and crop management. The women participants received practical knowledge of crop cultivation, soil health, and water management. As a practical extension of the training, the event also included the distribution of knapsack sprayers to the women farmers. These sprayers are essential for efficient pest and weed management, saving time and labor. With these knapsack sprayers, women farmers can now adopt more advanced and sustainable farming practices, contributing to the overall growth of the agriculture sector in the region.

Empowering Women Farmers: One-day training of women farmers

A one-day training programme on "Entrepreneurship Development for Women Farmers through Promotion of Value Addition in Maize" was organized at Birmi village, Ludhiana on March 22, 2023. This initiative was a vital component of India's G20 presidency, prioritizing women's leadership in rural development. Dr. Mamta Gupta and Romen Sharma passionately

emphasized the pivotal role of entrepreneurship in women's empowerment, encouraging all participants to establish self-help groups (SHGs) dedicated to value addition. Dr. Navjot, Senior Research Fellow, ABI unit of ICAR-IIMR's, trained the participants to make different value-added products from maize. Altogether 34 participants took part in the training programme.

Women Farmer-Scientist Interaction cum Input



Participants of training programme

Distribution Programme

On March 20, 2023, a one-day Women Farmer-Scientist Interaction and Input Distribution Program took place at WNC, ICAR-IIMR Hyderabad. The event featured distinguished speakers, including Dr. J.C. Sekhar from WNC, ICAR-IIMR, and Drs. Y. Siva Lakshmi and K. Vanisree from the Maize Research Centre, PJTSAU. The speakers shared valuable insights on the promotion of women-friendly maize production practices and attentively answered the farmers' questions. As part of the program, 30 tarpaulin

sheets were generously distributed to tribal women from Ranga Reddy district in Telangana, offering support and resources to empower their agricultural endeavors.

Subsequently, the institute organized women farmer-scientist interaction programme cum input distribution programme on 28 March 2023 at Ludhiana. Dr. Seema Sepat delivered a lecture on "Self-employment opportunities for farm women". Dr. S.B. Singh, in his address, passionately encouraged farmers to embrace improved maize varieties and cutting-edge agricultural technologies. Dr. Pardeep Kumar, during his presentation, spotlighted the remarkable achievements of the SCSP program within the Institute. Dr. H.S. Jat, Director ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, emphasized the importance of women-friendly maize technologies and reaffirmed the Institute's unwavering commitment to women-led agricultural development. Dr. Mamta Gupta eloquently underscored the significance of gender empowerment as a catalyst for inclusive growth, equality, and overall development. The program further benefited from the insights and encouragement provided by distinguished experts, Drs. M.C. Dagla, Abhijit Das, and Romen Sharma, offered valuable perspectives on various facets of farming. In alignment with the G20 Presidency of India, this event was organized under the purview of the SCSP and "Women Led Development." Notably, the Director of ICAR-IIMR distributed essential farm inputs to 68 farm women who attended the program, making a tangible impact.

ICAR-IIMR exhibited improved technologies during the PAU Kisan Mela

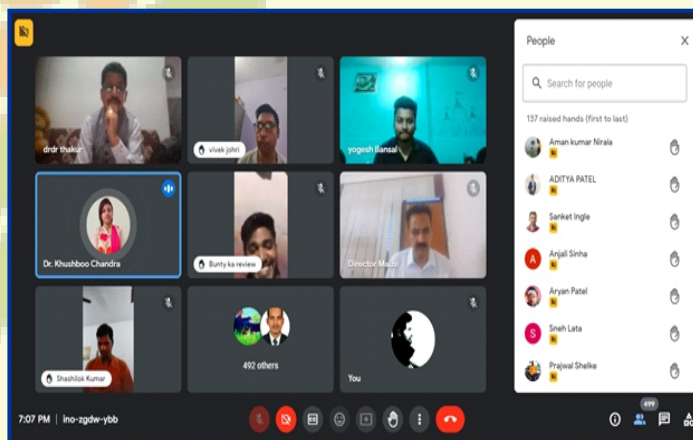
ICAR- Indian Institute of Maize Research, Ludhiana participated in the PAU Kisan Mela, held on March 24-25, 2023. Improved technologies of the institute were exhibited during this event.



A glimpse of the Kisan mela at PAU Ludhiana

Hybrid course on Agri Skill India

ICAR-IIMR organized a hybrid course on "Agri Skill



Participants of the Agri Skill India course



Glimpses of women farmer-scientist interaction cum input distribution programme



India” from April 9 to 30, 2023 in collaboration with the Hindustan Agricultural Research Welfare Society. On the inaugural day of the programme. Dr. H S Jat, Director, ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana emphasized the importance of crop diversification with a maize-based cropping system for agricultural sustainability particularly in the western IGP.

Exposure Visits

A team of Scientists and extension workers from Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat visited ICAR-IIMR for exposure and interaction with the scientists of the institute on April 10, 2023. Similarly, another team of Scientists and extension workers from the Dept. of Agriculture, Assam visited the institute for exposure and interaction with the institute's scientists on April 27, 2023.



Glimpses of the Scientists and extension workers from Assam who visited ICAR-IIMR

Awareness cum Field Day programme on Climate Resilient Maize cultivation

ICAR-IIMR organized an Awareness Cum Field day programme on Climate Resilient Maize cultivation at Ladhawal Farm, Ludhiana on May 26, 2023. The

programme was organized under the National Campaign on Mission LiFE.



A glimpse of the Field Day

Field Day Programme

ICAR-IIMR organized a Field Day programme on June 14, 2023, at Lallian Kallan in Jalandhar district. The purpose of the event was to introduce and demonstrate the high-yielding maize varieties developed by the institute, namely IMH 222 and IMH-223. Drs. S. B. Singh, and Romen Sharma, actively interacted with the farmers and provided them with valuable insights into the key features and benefits of IMH 222 and IMH-223.



A glimpse of the Field Day

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Awards/Honours/Recognition

- Dr. Pravin Kumar Bagaria was awarded with MJ Narasimhan Medal for Best Research Paper entitled "Leaf stripping: an alternative strategy to manage banded leaf and sheath blight of maize" authored by Harleen Kaur, Sanjay Kumar, K.S. Hooda, Robin Gogoi, Pravin Bagaria, R.P. Singh, Rakesh Mehra and

Ashwani Kumar published in the journal Indian Phytopathology 73(2) 203-211 (2020), during the 75th Annual Meeting of the Society and Platinum Jubilee Conference on "Plant and Soil Health Management: Issues and Innovations" on February 2-4, 2023 at University of Mysore, Mysuru, Karnataka.

- Dr. Pravin Kumar Bagaria was awarded with Best Ph.D. Thesis in 6th International Conference on "Strategies and Challenges in Agricultural

and Life Science for Food Security and Sustainable Environment (SCALFE-2023)" on April 28-30, 2023 at Himachal Pradesh University, Summer Hill, Shimla, HP, India.

- Dr. Sumit Kumar Aggarwal was awarded Best Scientist by ICAR-IIMR Ludhiana on foundation day held on February 9, 2023.
- Dr. Sumit Kumar Aggarwal was awarded the Award for Excellence in reviewing by IJECC on February 23, 2023.

Participation in training programs

| Sl. No. | Name of scientist | Training programme attended | Venue/Organized by | Date |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Pardeep Kumar | Data Visualization using R | ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad | March 1-2, & 6-8, 2023 |

Participation in Conferences/Workshops/Symposium/Meetings

| Sl. No. | Name of scientist | Foreign visits/Conferences/Workshops/Symposium/Seminar/Meeting attended | Venue/Organized by | Date |
|---------|----------------------|---|--|----------------------|
| 1 | JC Sekhar | Strengthening Plant Health Management Capacity in the Global South Confirmation | PHI-CIMMYT | May 12, 2023 |
| | | PHI Subgrant to ICAR-IIMR on FAW IPM | PHI CIMMYT | June 6, 2023 |
| | | CIMMYT-ICAR work plan for Maize | ICAR-IIMR | May 16, 2023 |
| | | Meeting with the ORMAS Team of Odisha Hyderabad | WNC, ICAR-IIMR | May 11, 2023 |
| | | NASF FAW project Presentation of achievements/progress of ongoing Projects on strategic area "Abiotic and Biotic Stresses, and Quality Traits in Plants, Animals and Fisheries" before Expert Committee | NASF 2023 | January 5, |
| 2 | Seema Sepat | International conference on "Development and promotion of millets and seed spices for livelihood security" | Agric. University Jodhpur, Rajasthan | February 24-26, 2023 |
| 3 | Pravin Kumar Bagaria | Oral presentation in "International Conference on Climate Resilient Agriculture for Food Security and Sustainability" | CCS Haryana Agric. University, Hisar (Haryana) | February 17-19, 2023 |
| | | Oral presentation in 6th International Conference on "Strategies and Challenges in Agricultural and Life Science for Food Security and Sustainable Environment (SCALFE-2023) | Himachal Pradesh University, Summer Hill, Shimla, HP | April 28-30, 2023 |
| | | CIMMYT-ICAR work plan for Maize | ICAR-IIMR | May 16, 2023 |

| Sl. No. | Name of scientist | Foreign visits/Conferences/Workshops/Symposium/Seminar/Meeting attended | Venue/Organized by | Date |
|---------|----------------------|---|--------------------|------------------|
| 4 | Sumit Kumar Aggarwal | Attended National Group Meeting on forage crops of Kharif 2023 | CSKHPKV, Palampur | June 15-16, 2023 |
| | | Annual review meeting with CG centres CIMMYT and BISA | Online | March 14, 2023 |
| | | Work plan for Maize | CIMMYT-ICAR | May 16, 2023 |
| 5 | Pardeep Kumar | Attended National Group Meeting on forage crops of Kharif 2023 | CSKHPKV, Palampur | June 15-16, 2023 |

Lecture /TV/ radio talks

| Sl. No. | Name of scientist | Lecture Delivered | Organized by | Date |
|---------|----------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Seema Sepat | मक्का फसल की देखभाल on Hello Kisan Lecture delivered (online) in 'मक्का बीज उत्पादन एवं वैज्ञानिक खेती' आत्मा, बजला-पुरबनया के कृषकों के पांच दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम | DD Kisan ICAR-IIMR 2023 | June 06, 2023 January 27-31, |
| 2 | P.Lakshmi Soujanya | Delivered talk on Sangrahit Makka ke keet patang tatha unka paryavaran hiteishi (Hindi) under five days training programme on "maize seed production and scientific cultivation" for the farmers of ATMA, Purniya at Begusarai, Bihar | ICAR-IIMR (January 27-31, 2023) | January 27, 2023 |
| | | A lecture was given on the promotion of value addition in maize in order to create awareness to the farm women of WNC, Hyderabad | Women-led development programme was organized at WNC, Hyderabad. | March 17, 2023 |
| 3 | Sumit Kumar Aggarwal | Lecture delivered (Online) on 'मक्का फसल के मुख्य रोग एवं उनका एकीकृत प्रबंधन' under five days training programme on "maize seed production and scientific cultivation" for the farmers of ATMA, Purniya at Begusarai, Bihar | ICAR-IIMR (January 27-31, 2023) | January 29, 2023 |
| 4 | Pardeep Kumar | Lecture delivered (Online) on 'कृषि में लाभप्रदता हेतु शिशु मक्का के खेती' under five days training programme on "maize seed production and scientific cultivation" for the farmers of ATMA, Purniya at Begusarai, Bihar | ICAR-IIMR (January 27-31, 2023) | January 27, 2023 |

Organization/ Participation of Kisan Mela/Kisan Goshti/ Exhibition/ Field Day/ Lectures

| Sl. No. | Name of scientist | Name of the program | Venue/Organized by | Date |
|---------|----------------------|--|---|--------------------|
| 1 | P.Lakshmi Soujanya | Distributed 100 sprayers and 100 tarpaulin sheets to maize farmers of Peddashapur, Konda Reddypalli, Bacharam, Tekulapally, Gowrelly, Zikal, Ranga Reddy district. | Various districts of Telangana under SCSP programme | March 3 & 10, 2023 |
| 2 | Sumit Kumar Aggarwal | Participated and Coordinated in Exhibition of ICAR-IIMR stall in Kisan Mela | PAU, Ludhiana | March 24, 2023 |
| | | Exposure visit of delegates from Assam Agricultural University Ladhawal Farm | ICAR-IIMR Ludhiana | April 10, 2023 |
| | | Exposure visit of officers from the Department of Agriculture Assam | Ladhawal Farm ICAR-IIMR Ludhiana | April 27, 2023 |
| 3 | Pravin Kumar Bagaria | Exposure visit of delegates from Assam Agricultural University | Ladhawal Farm ICAR-IIMR Ludhiana | April 10, 2023 |
| 4 | Seema Sepat | Exposure visit of officers from the Department of Agriculture Assam | Ladhawal Farm ICAR-IIMR Ludhiana | April 27, 2023 |

भामअनुसं
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Nurturing diversity, Resilience, Livelihood and Industrial inputs

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