



Participation of PPVFR Authority in NICRA annual review meeting, Field visit to the Rice growing area of Kuttanad region and meeting at Rubber Research Institute Kottayam on 13.10.2023.



Annual review meeting of the NICRA project

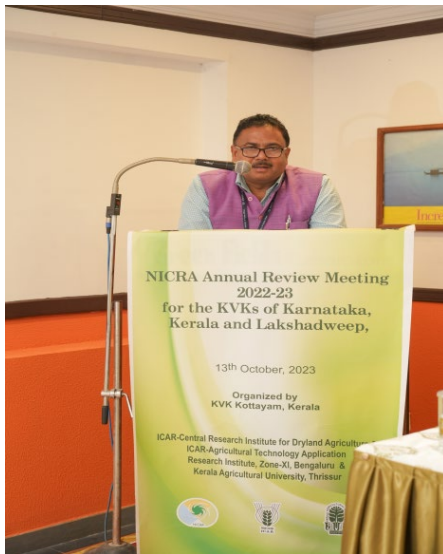
The Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ICAR-ATARI), Bangalore Organized annual review meeting of NICRA-TDS project for the KVKs of the states of Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep on 13.10.23 at Kottayam, Kerala. The program was inaugurated by Dr. T. Mohapatra, Former Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Chairperson, PPVFR Authority New Delhi. Dr. JVNS Prasad, Project Coordinator, AICRPDA



made a presentation about the progress made by KVKs participating in National Innovation on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) programme of ICAR during past one year. He highlighted

that the Concerned KVKs in the states of Kerala, Karnataka and Lakshadweep have demonstrated climate resilient technologies and promoted them among farmers, besides building their capacity. Dr V.K. Singh Director, CRIDA, Hyderabad briefed about the NICRA project, and highlighted about the role and responsibilities of KVKs implementing the project. Dr. D.K. Agarwal, Registrar General, PPVFR Authority, in his address highlighted the importance of the KVKs to make aware the farmers about various provisions under the PPVFR Act 2001. Dr. Mohapatra in his address complimented the Director, CRIDA and Director of ATARI, Bangalore as well as their colleagues for supporting KVKs in implementation of climate

resilient technologies and their popularization. He appreciated the efforts of KVKs for their excellent efforts, which is evident from the best KVK awards received by several of them. He suggested certain measures for proper documentation of successful cases, their dissemination and scaling up with involvement of state governments. He also spoke about the role of KVKs in promoting local farmers' varieties in view of their greater adaptiveness and better nutritional quality.



Dr. DV Srinivasa Reddy, PS, ATARI, Bangalore thanked one and all present in the inaugural programme, which was followed by technical session.

Field Visit to Rice growing area of Kuttanad Region of Kerala

A visit to farmer's field was conducted to see rice cultivation below the sea level in the Kuttanad region of Kerala, called the rice bowl of the state. Dr. T. Mohapatra, Chairperson, Dr. D.K. Agarwal, Registrar General, Dr Ravi Prakash, Technical Consultant, Mr R. S. Sengar, Dy Registrar, and Dr D. S. Pilia, Tech. Asst. of PPVFR Authority, New Delhi along with the Scientists of KVKs Kottayam and Rice Research Station, Moncompu, Kerala Agricultural University were part of the team. Dr. Nimmy Jose, Scientist, RRI, explained how rice is being grown. She described in detail the water and fertilizer management in order to get higher rice yield. She mentioned that a variety named Jyothi is quite popular that tolerates high level of salinity, and a new variety named Pournami developed



by the Centre is now being popularized. The rice crop was at the stage of maturity and harvesting in some of the plots using combine harvester was already going on. During the visit, it was found that farmers have almost stopped growing the traditional local varieties and cultivating improved varieties of rice for higher yield. A visit was also made to the Rice Research Station, KAU, Moncompu, Alappuzha.



While returning from the field, a visit was also made to the ancestral house of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, the father of Green revolution in India.

Meeting with the scientists of RRII in Council Hall of RRII, Kottayam

A Meeting was held at Rubber Research Institute of India in the afternoon (at 4 pm) of 13th October, 2023. Dr. Jessy M.D, Director of Research (I/c), RRII, Kottayam welcomed and presented an overview highlighting the activities of the Institute in detail. All the scientists of the institute were present in the meeting along with the PPVFRA team led by Dr. T. Mohapatra.

Dr. D. K. Agarwal, Registrar General explained the importance of PPVFRA for registering varieties and protection of farmers' rights to the gathering. He explained that it is mandatory to notify DUS guidelines for every plant before any of the variety is registered.

Dr. T. Mohapatra , in his address, shared his research experience in various crops for improving the productivity. He suggested that the Scientists of RRII should look into the adaptive mechanisms using different rubber clones being grown at different locations of the country through landscape genomics. The signature regions, identified through genomic analysis, can be used for targeted transfer / targeted genetic modifications. He gave the example of seed size variation in rice attributed to mutations at different locations in a single gene, thereby highlighting the complexity of trait variation, and how genomics can effectively be used to understand that. Dr. Mohapatra highlighted the significance of root endophytes in influencing the root stock performance thereby affecting the scion, which can be explored in rubber. Besides, he suggested greater focus on gene editing in rubber to manipulate specific pathways to have higher



level of yield and tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses. He also emphasized that the transgenic work being carried out at RRII should be taken to their logical end. With regard to development of DUS guideline for rubber, Dr. Mohapatra appreciated the past efforts of the institute and urged that the unfinished part of the work should be taken up on priority and the study be concluded as early as possible. In case support of PPVFRA is required, it should be appropriately communicated. Dr. Mohapatra emphasized that

the elite clones of rubber developed by the institute should be registered with the PPVFRA in order to obtain IP protection.

Director Research informed that the existing draft DUS guideline will be communicated to PPVFRA for perusal and guidance to move forward. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to one and all.
