

Farmer's Training-cum Scientist Interaction on Climate Resilient Jute based Cropping System Organised

Raw jute crop is an important cash crop to the farmers of West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Odhisa and Tripura. During the recent years, climatic change posing biotic and abiotic stresses causing losses of jute yield due to pre-flowering, outbreaks of new pests & diseases, shortage of soil moisture leading to nutrient deficiency. A farmer's training-cum-Scientist interaction was organised on 12th March 2020 at ICAR-CRIJAF, Barrackpore to disseminate the problem solving knowledge and farm input products as developed and standardized in farmer's field by the scientists of ICAR-CRIJAF. These technologies are to reduce vulnerability of weather aberrations and climate change shocks and to provide services for input supply and marketing of their produce.

The programme was organised through interaction based training session covering climate resilient agriculture technology topics like- Climate smart water, soil and nutrient management in jute farming; Impact of climate change on weeds and cropping system & its management; Impact of climate change on pests and disease & its management; and Impact of high temperature and early rain on different varieties of jute crop. Altogether 57 Scheduled Caste farmers of West Bengal interacted with 10 Principal Scientists of ICAR-CRIJAF on soil test based fertilizer application, weeding and moisture conservation, line sowing and controlling composite weed flora, profitable intercropping system, integrated pests and disease management, pre-flowering resistant seeds, impact of ozone on different varieties of jute and rice, etc. The programme was conducted under SCSP component of NICRA project (*Impact of Tropospheric Ozone on Crop Production under Jute-Rice Cropping System*) in which MTU1010 of rice cultivar and JRO204 cultivar of jute were considered as well adapted to ozone exposure.



In valedictory session, Dr. Gauranga Kar, Director stressed up on adoption of climate resilient technology of ICAR-CRIJAF and emphasised up on production of diversified jute products in their villages. Director and Heads of Crop Production & Crop Improvement also distributed farm inputs like seeds and pesticides to all farmers (20 hectare area in 2 villages) for line sowing of jute seeds and intercropping with green gram to overcome climate change problem due to weeds, moisture stress, pests and diseases. Dr. A.K. Singh, PI of NICRA project proposed vote of thanks along with Dr. M.L. Roy, Scientist (Extension).



-PI, NICRA Project, ICAR-CRIJAF