

(22 March, 2024)

## Dialogue on India to Emerge as a Global Wheat Player

The Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR), Karnal, organized a thought-provoking dialogue on "Dialogue on India to Emerge a Global Wheat Player" on March 22, 2024, at the National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC) in New Delhi.



The inaugural session was Chaired by Dr. R S Paroda,



Chairman, TAAS and Former Secretary, DARE & DG of ICAR, New Delhi. Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary, DARE & DG of ICAR, was the Chief Guest, who underscored the significance of the dialogue. He emphasized the need for actionable recommendations, suggesting they be submitted to the Council for implementation under the five-year "Viksit Bharat" scheme, aimed at India's holistic development.

The day's deliberations focused on crucial strategies to promote wheat exports and enhance India's global competitiveness in wheat production. Experts delved into eco-regional production options, export options and way forward, and quarantine and SPS considerations.

A distinguished panel of experts, including Dr. R B Singh, Dr. S K Vasal, and Dr. P L Gautam, Dr. J P Tandon, Dr.



Arun Joshi, actively participated in shaping India's export policy. Experts from diverse fields presented their insights on eco-regional production possibilities, export strategies, and navigating quarantine and SPS regulations. Dr. Gyanendra Singh (Director, ICAR-IIWBR, Karnal), Mr. Raju Kapoor (Director, Public & Industry Affairs, FMC), and Dr. J P Singh (Plant Protection Advisor, DPPQS) moderated various sessions. Additionally, wheat scientists from prestigious institutions like ICAR-IARI New Delhi, ICAR-NIAP, New Delhi, and NABI, Mohali, along with representatives from private companies and progressive farmers, enriched the discussions. About 40 experts attended the meeting.



Dr. Ramesh Chand, Member of NITI Aayog, Government of India, delivered address as the chief guest in the Plenary Session. He expressed his strong appreciation for the dialogue and underscored the need for strategies to enhance wheat production, making India a dependable and competitive exporter. He further emphasized the importance of scaling up research efforts and infrastructure development to solidify India's position as a global wheat leader.

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