

National Symposium on Hybrid Technology for Enhanced Crop Productivity

To expand the adoption of hybrid cultivars in crops, a 3-day “**National Symposium on Hybrid Technology for Enhanced Crop Productivity**” was organized by the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and CGIAR Institutes namely, International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), International Maize, Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR), with the support of Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII), Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company (MAHYCO), Rasi Seeds (P) Ltd., Bayer Crop Science Limited, National Seed Association of India (NSAI), ACSEN Agriscience (P) Ltd. and SeedWorks International, in AP Shinde Symposium Hall at National Agriculture Science Complex (NASC), Pusa Campus, New Delhi, from 8-10 January 2025 at the National Agriculture Science Complex (NASC), Pusa Campus, New Delhi. The aim of the Symposium is to discuss and suggest a way forward for scaling hybrid technology in various crops.

Dr PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, was the Chief Guest. Dr Mishra mentioned that the agricultural transformation must balance the twin goals of ensuring food security and improving farmer profitability with hybrid technology serving as a key enabler for both objectives. He stressed that multi-pronged approaches to be adopted focusing on increased adoption of hybrid technology in profitable crops, diversification into horticulture, livestock, and fisheries, enhanced technology adoption for small-holding farmers. To increase farmers’ income, research to be directed so that hybrids are affordable to small-holder farmers by saving hybrid seeds from one season to another season without losing heterosis, as with OP crops. Dr Mishra emphasized that since public-private partnership is very important, consortium approach need to be adopted to bring public and private together at one platform for a common cause to benefit the farmers and the enforcement of IP is equally important to increase the investments and impact of agricultural research including hybrid variety development.



Dr Mishra’s complete address can be accessed through following link:

<https://youtu.be/sViFLvFDgNY>

Padma Bhushan Awardee, Dr RS Paroda, Chairman, TAAS, chaired the Inaugural Session. He welcomed and felicitated the Chief Guest and thanked for accepting his invitation for gracing the occasion. Dr Paroda underlined the importance and potential of hybrid technology to increase the production and productivity in the crops. He mentioned that how the hybrid development program was initiated in India and referred to some success stories for increasing the production and productivity by using hybrid varieties of maize and cotton in India, however, we need to go a long to match the rice production and acreage realized in China using hybrid



rice. Dr Paroda mentioned that there is a need to have clarity about the adoption of GM technology as it has a great potential to enhance the productivity and income of the small-holder farmers. Government needs to consider reducing the taxes on seed and encourage the adoption of hybrid seed varieties for enhancing farmers' income. The potential for India to become a major player in the global seed industry was also highlighted.



Dr Paroda's complete address can be accessed through following link:

<https://youtu.be/wDBW3I80aus>

At the beginning of inaugural session, Dr T Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPV&FRA and Vice Chairman of TAAS, welcomed and thanked the Chief Guest and other dignitaries. Also, Dr Mohapatra set the context of the symposium and mentioned about the potential of hybrid technologies to increase the production and productivity.

Mr Ajai Rana, Chairman, FSII; Dr Bram Govaerts, DG, CIMMYT; Dr Stanford Blade, Interim-DG, ICRISAT were also graced the occasion as Guests of Honour.



Mr Ajay Rana, Chairman, FSII, emphasized the importance of hybrid technology in increasing productivity and income for farmers. He also highlighted the need for more investment in agriculture research and seed development, as well as the need for a policy framework for intellectual property protection and science-based decision-making.



Dr Stanford Blade, Interim-Director General, ICRISAT, discussed the organization's work in developing resilient and robust systems,



including the use of germplasm and developing material. He also emphasized the need for South-South collaboration in agriculture, particularly with African countries.

Dr Bram Govaerts, Director General, CIMMYT, shared his thoughts virtually on hybrid technology and its potential for transforming agriculture. He also mentioned the importance of public-private partnerships in promoting hybrid technology.

Abstract Book – a compilation of Extended Summaries of Keynote and Invited Lectures and Abstracts of posters – was also released by the Chief Guest.



More than 200 stakeholders including researchers, policymakers, representative of CG centres and private sector participated in the symposium.

