

### **ICAR-RCER Celebrated Silver Jubilee Foundation Day**

The ICAR-Research Complex for Eastern Region (ICAR-RCER) in Patna hosted a National Seminar as part of its Silver Jubilee Foundation Day celebrations from February 20–22, 2025. The seminar was titled "Progressive Agriculture—Viksit Bharat: Preparedness for Eastern India (PAVER 2025)". Padma Bhushan Dr RS Paroda, Chairman, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), Former Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Government of India, was the Chief Guest of the function. Dr Paroda applauded the achievements of the institute and congratulated the staff on this occasion. He emphasized the need to work in eco-specific regions using an interdisciplinary approach to drive the Second Green Revolution in India. He urged a paradigm shift from a crop/commodity-based research system to a holistic farming system approach, ensuring sustainability and resilience in agriculture. He commended the efforts of the institute in this direction. Highlighting a critical challenge, keeping young people engaged in agriculture, Dr Paroda stressed the importance of vocational training and skill development to attract and retain young people in the sector. He also inaugurated women-centric micro- and nano-homestead-farming models established by the Institute.



Other key speakers on this occasion were – Dr Dr Himanshu Pathak, Secretary (DARE) and Director General (ICAR); Dr B. Rajender, IAS, ACS, Govt of Bihar; Dr Sanjay Kumar, Chairman, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board who highlighted the agricultural potential of Eastern India and the need for climate-resilient practices, bio-fortified crops, and strong farmer-scientist connections. Focus was placed on technology adoption, mechanization, value addition, and innovative solutions like Kisan Malls and blockchain technology. Collaboration between policymakers, scientists, and farmers was stressed to address challenges like climate change and ensure food security.



Chief Guest of Kisan Mela, Dr Sanjeev Chourasia, MLA, Digha, congratulated the staff and employees of ICAR-RCER on completing 25 years of excellence. He emphasized that farmers are also scientists in their own right, capable of innovating technologies based on their experiences. Stressing the importance of organic farming, nutrient management, and soil health, he urged farmers to adopt sustainable practices. He highlighted concerns arising from climate change and lauded the institute's efforts in modern digital tools and practices like artificial intelligence & machine learning, drone technologies, and farmer-centric schemes such as PRAYAS and the Greening Rice fallow area initiatives.

The event showcased ICAR-RCER's contributions, including new crop varieties, farming models, and advancements in various agricultural sectors, and recognized the achievements of farmers, media, and institute employees. Over 2000 farmers and other stakeholders attended, with 50 stalls exhibiting farming and entrepreneurship opportunities.

The full lecture of Dr Paroda can be accessed through following link:

<https://youtu.be/TAiOcOXV7CQ?si=l4v0FVLz9epCpL7F>