

Use of Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture – RAISE Project Stakeholders Workshop Conducted by ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in modern agriculture is expanding rapidly day by day. In particular, AI-based models are playing a crucial role in identifying crop-related problems through image analysis and providing immediate management recommendations. In this context, the “Rice AI Stress Evaluator (RAISE)” project, designed to deliver technical advisory services effectively to farmers, is gaining increasing importance.

In this regard, the RAISE Project Stakeholders Workshop was successfully organized on 19 May 2026 at the ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad. The programme was chaired by the Director of the institute, Dr. R.M. Sundaram. Dr. Sudharani, Former Director of Extension Education, Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, attended the workshop as the Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. R.M. Sundaram emphasized that the use of digital technologies is highly essential for providing timely and accurate advisories to farmers. He explained that the RAISE mobile application can help in easily identifying problems occurring in rice crops and provide suitable management recommendations. He further highlighted the importance of incorporating Geo-tagging facilities for the images uploaded by farmers in the app. Through this feature, it would be possible to identify regions where particular pest or disease outbreaks are more prevalent.

He also stated that such information would help provide forewarning alerts and appropriate management advisories to farmers in affected regions during the upcoming crop seasons.

Chief Guest Dr. Sudharani observed that the role of smart tools in agricultural extension is increasing significantly and that such applications would become highly beneficial to farmers. She also offered several valuable suggestions to improve the effectiveness of the RAISE application.

She specifically suggested that the final advisories provided to farmers should be available in the local language of the farmers. She also recommended simplifying the photo-uploading process in the app. In addition, she stressed the need to validate the app performance across different agro-climatic zones, ensure compatibility with all types of mobile phones, and develop a user-friendly interface suitable for farmers.

Furthermore, she suggested developing a validation mechanism through an anchor-based chatbot system within the app to provide more accurate responses to farmers' queries.

As part of the programme, the dignitaries released the RAISE project brochure. The brochure explained the project objectives, major features of the app, and the services offered to farmers.

Dr. Sailaja and the team of scientists associated with the RAISE project explained the key features, functioning, and usage methodology of the application. The programme also included demonstrations of the RAISE app, collection of user feedback, and interactive sessions.

A total of 60 participants (20 female and 40 male), including FPOs and farmers from Bhuvanagiri and Kothakota (Telangana), Agricultural Officers (AOs) and Assistant Agricultural Officers (AAOs) from FTO, scientists and professors from PJTSAU, EEI, ICAR-CRIDA, ICAR-IIOR, and CDAC, Bengaluru, along with agri-startups (Agrythm & CropIn) and students, actively participated in the workshop.

