61 Annual Rice Group Meeting (ARGM) was inaugurated on 18 Apr 2024 at ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack

The event convened eminent scientists, policymakers, and institutional leaders to deliberate on strategic advancements in rice research, varietal development, crop production, protection technologies, and sustainable intensification. The inaugural session was graced by distinguished dignitaries, with the Chief Guest, Dr. M. L. Jat (Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR), highlighting the need to enhance genetic gains in rice across both rainfed and irrigated ecosystems. He emphasized strengthening pre-breeding efforts targeting specific traits, harnessing the potential of genome editing technologies, expanding hybrid rice cultivation, improving database-driven product profiling, and prioritizing the doubling of nutrient and water use efficiency.

Dr. D. K. Yadava (DDG, Crop Sciences) underscored the importance of next-generation breeding and called for performance-based evaluation of centres, considering the quality of trial conduct for continuation in AICRPR. Dr. R. M. Sundaram presented key highlights of the progress of AICRPR trials during 2025. Dr. G. A. K. Kumar, Director, ICAR-NRRI, presented the progress and key achievements of NRRI during 2025.

Dr. S. K. Pradhan (ADG, FFC) emphasised the importance of coordinated research efforts. Dr. A. K. Singh (Emeritus Scientist, ICAR-IARI) underscored the importance of multi-institutional collaboration and translational research.

The scientific sessions covered critical themes such as varietal improvement and evaluation, grain quality enhancement, resilience to biotic and abiotic stresses, resource-use efficiency, and digital integration for precision agriculture. Detailed technical discussions focused on breeding for yield stability, climate-resilient traits, biofortification, salinity tolerance, integrated crop management, and pest and disease management.

Key outcomes of the meeting included the finalisation of multi-location testing protocols, identification of promising genotypes for pre-release trials, and strategic recommendations to strengthen varietal dissemination and adoption across diverse agro-ecological regions.

Co-organised by:
ICAR-CIRRI, Cuttack
ICAR - IIRR, Hyderabad
ICAR - IARI, New Delhi
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SARIC, Hyderabad
Sponsored By:
Dr. G.A.K.Kumar
Dr. S K Pradhan
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