

ICAR- Indian Institute of Rice Research organises 57th Annual Rice Group Meeting (57th ARGM) on Hybrid mode during April 25-27, 2022

Every year, the All India Coordinated Research Project on Rice (AICRPR) conducts ARGM in the month of April to review the trials and experiments conducted last year and plan for the trails and experiments to be conducted in the forthcoming season. The ARGM also serves as a platform for rice researchers to deliberate on the latest development in various areas of rice research and share their ideas. The ARGM has two components, the pre-group meeting and the main group meeting. This is the 57th year of existence of AICRPR, and in this year, the pre-group meetings of 57th ARGM were held on April 18-19, 2022 in which results of the trials and experiments conducted during 2021 and technical program for 2022 cropping seasons were discussed in detail in online mode.

The main group meeting of the 57th ARGM was conducted from 25-27, April 2022 and its inaugural Session was held on Apr 25, 2022 in the Dr. SVS Shastri Auditorium. Dr. R.M. Sundaram, Director, ICAR-IIRR delivered the welcome address and presented briefly the research highlights of AICRPR. Dr. Sundaram informed that ICAR-IIRR released six varieties viz., DRR Dhan 57, 58, 59, 60, 62 and 63 through the AICRPR system in 2021. Dr. Padmini Swain, Director (A), NRRI, underscored the importance of AICRPR testing system and conduct of trials in two zones (III and IV). Dr. Padmini mentioned that ICAR-NRRI has released three varieties (CR Dhan 318, CR Dhan 319 and CR Dhan 320) during 2021.



Dr. T. Mohapatra, Secretary, Department of Agriculture Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, ICAR and, at the outset congratulated the entire team of AICRP on rice and stressed the importance of development of multi-stress tolerant varieties. Dr. Mohapatra also emphasized the importance of popularization and adoption of varieties that have been released over the years and to develop and release varieties only after thorough evaluation of the market and consumer's preference. He further suggested that the extent of varietal spread on actual basis should be documented and calculations of varietal spread based on breeder's seed indent should be discouraged.

Dr. T. R. Sharma, DDG (CS), ICAR lauded the efforts of ICAR-IIRR and congratulated the Director, IIRR and his team on the progress and quality of research. Dr. Sharma emphasized the importance of the use of modern, cutting edge technologies, including IoT, Genomics and Precision agriculture, in the development of varieties with high productivity and suitable for different ecosystems and suited to a rapidly changing climate.

Dr. R.K. Singh, ADG (FFC), ICAR in his inaugural address, highlighted the importance of the rice as one of the most important crops of India with largest area and production and stressed the importance of improving production and productivity of rice in addressing the issue of malnutrition and food security of the nation. Ten publications and two software packages were released during this occasion.



There was a technical session on “Review of Results and Progress Report 2022” on Apr 26th followed by the session on “Identification of Crop Production and Protection Technologies(CPPT)” to formulate the guidelines for identification and release of Crop production and protection technologies. Dr. T. R. Sharma, DDG (CS) appreciated the team of IIRR for formulating the guidelines first time in ICAR.

Technical Session on IRRI - ICAR Collaborative Programmes was held on third day of the workshop i.e. on Apr 27th followed by the Varietal Identification Committee (VIC) and Plenary Sessions. About 500 delegates from India and other countries actively participated in the program. Drs. Mahender Kumar and L.V. Subba Rao acted as conveners for the workshop. The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Mahender Kumar.