

## **Policy-level discussion with ICAR Institutes, OUAT, Bhubaneswar and State Government Officials of Odisha for Crop Diversification through Pulses**

A policy-level interaction meeting has been organized under the chairmanship of Dr. T. Mohapatra, Hon'ble Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR at ICAR-Indian Institute of Water Management, Bhubaneswar on July 09, 2022. In this meeting, Government Officials of Odisha, Dean (Extension) of OUAT, Directors of local ICAR-Institutes, Heads of local ICAR-Regional Stations, and Scientists of ICAR-IIWM discussed various aspects of agriculture in Odisha. Dr. R.K. Panda, Director of the Institute welcome all the guests. The State Government Officials highlighted the major constraints for higher pulse productivity in the state, seeking solutions from ICAR. Dr. Mohapatra emphasized the seed production plan, which can be prepared after estimating the seed requirement of the state. He urged for a greater variety and seed replacement percentage for pulse crops in the state for higher crop productivity. Dr. Mohapatra directed the ICAR institutes to evaluate recently released varieties under Odisha-specific conditions with the help of the state government organizations and KVKs. He also advised the state government to provide indent for seed production materials to ICAR institutes. The state needs to produce quality seeds of HYVs in sufficient quantity to meet farmers' demands. He suggested involving private players and FPOs in quality seed production after ensuring proper certification. In addition, other issues like the development of non-basmati aromatic and saline-tolerant rice varieties, screening of foxtail and little millet varieties, planting materials of jackfruit and guava, capacity building of women self-help groups, and better utilization of KVKs have also been discussed. At last, Dr. Mohapatra urged all ICAR Institutes to develop technologies according to farmers' needs on a bottom-up approach.

