

Zero tillage-Happy Seeder Summit Workshop

One day Zero tillage-Happy Seeder Summit Workshop on “Value chain and policy interventions to accelerate adoption of zero tillage in the rice-wheat Farming systems across the Indo-Gangetic Plains” was organised in collaboration with the University of Adelaide, Australia, ACIAR (Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research), TAAS (Trust for



Advancement of Agricultural Sciences), CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre) and ICAR-RCER, Patna on 27th June 2018 at ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna. Around 50 participants from ICAR RCER Patna, BAU Sabour, Dr. RPCAU, Pusa, KVKS of Bihar and West Bengal, CGIAR (CIMMYT-CSISA), State Government Officials of Bihar, representatives from NGOs, FPOs, Machinery manufacturers and progressive farmers participated in this Workshop. Dr. B. P. Bhatt, Director ICAR-RCER, Patna welcomed the Chief Guest Padma Bhushan Dr. R.S. Paroda, Chairman TAAS and the former Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR, and other participants. He also gave the brief presentation on prospects and key issues related to the conservation agriculture (CA) in Eastern India. In this workshop policy makers and stakeholders associated with the Happy Seeder and Zero-Till Seed drill value chains were invited to participate. The main focus of this workshop was on discussions related to a draft Policy Position Paper featuring key recommendations merging out of the ACIAR project that has been executed by the University of Adelaide, aimed at convincing Government to create an enabling environment for faster adoption of HS/ZT seed drills. Dr. Adom Loch and Jay Cummins from University of Adelaide, Australia briefed about very purpose of the workshop and a detailed group discussion was held under six different themes, namely; achieving common awareness as the first step to adoption, achieving a vibrant and productive manufacturing/retail sector, addressing subsidies as incentives for long term tactical behaviour change, pricing strategies to achieve market demand driven approaches for long-term sustained adoption, sustainable business models for entrepreneurial custom hire centre businesses and creating an enabling environment for on farm innovation. There was a very fruitful discussion among the diverse group of participants. In his closing remarks, the Chief Guest Dr. R.S. Paroda stressed up on the following points.

- The second generation problems have emerged in agriculture due to over exploitation of natural resources after Green Revolution. Hence, the major focus in CA should be

on the retention of crop residues on soil surface to increase the organic matter content and to improve the soil health.

- Twin pillar approach is required by good agricultural practices and farm mechanization by conserving natural resources so that we can pass on what we inherited.
- IGP is the food bowl of India but organic carbon content is below threshold level.
- Actual coverage area under CA technologies in different crops needs to be documented.
- Custom hiring centres (CHCs) should be opened at village /Panchayat level to manage the CA machinery effectively.
- Globally 150 mha areas come under CA like in Brazil, Argentina, USA, and Canada all in rainfed condition but in India CA is confined to irrigated eco-system. Hence, there is an ample scope to popularize this technology in rainfed areas too.
- Scientists and policy makers should work together for the prosperity of Indian farmers
- Emphasis need to be given on scaling up CA innovations at Global forum for impact on small holder farmers.
- Full package of CA along with correct knowledge should be provided to the farmers
- Incentives should be given to the farming communities to adopt and promote the CA
- Capacity building program should be oriented at the farmers participatory mode to promote the advance practices of CA
- Opening of the agri-clinic at village level to speed up CA programmes at the framers field
- Trained youth should be appointed as extension agent to disseminate the knowledge of CA packages among the farmers
- Advocate the policy to immediate stop the residues burning.

The Workshop ended with vote of thanks to Chair.



