

59th Annual Rice Group Meetings (ARGM) Commences in New Delhi

The All India Coordinated Research Project on Rice (AICRPR), in collaboration with ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-IARI), has inaugurated the 59th Annual Rice Group Meetings (ARGM) at the Dr. C Subrahmanyam Auditorium, NASC Complex, New Delhi. This three-day event, running from April 24th to April 26th, 2024, brings together over 350 delegates from national, international, government, and private sectors to deliberate on advancements in rice research and development.

Established in 1965, AICRPR has played a pivotal role in transforming India from a rice importer to the largest exporter globally. With a network encompassing 45 funded centers and approximately 100 voluntary centers, supported by over 400 scientists, AICRPR stands as a cornerstone of collaborative research initiatives aimed at enhancing rice productivity and ensuring food security.

The ARGM serves as a platform for reviewing the outcomes of previous experiments, identifying promising rice varieties and hybrids, and devising strategies to address the challenges in rice cultivation. Discussions will also focus on fostering new initiatives and collaborations to sustain food and nutritional security in the country.

Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Govt. of India, and Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), inaugurated the conference alongside other esteemed national and international dignitaries. Dr Ajay Kohli, Interim Director General, International Rice Research Institute, Philippines; Dr A.K. Singh, Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi; Dr T.R. Sharma, Deputy Director General, ICAR New Delhi; Dr D.K. Yadava, Assistant Director General (Seed), ICAR New Delhi; Dr A.K. Nayak, Director National Rice Research Institute Cuttack and several other notable Scientists of international stature attended the event. Their presence underscores the importance of rice research in bolstering India's agricultural landscape and ensuring food sovereignty.

Dr Pathak stresses the focus of innovation, research and development towards realizing the vision of a resilient and sustainable rice production system in India. Dr Singh underlined that as the nation continues to navigate the complexities of agriculture, forums like ARGM play a crucial role in driving progress and prosperity.