

Press Note

Pusa Institute organized training for accelerating farm women empowerment on International Women's Day

March 8, 2025

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-IARI), New Delhi, organized training-cum-field visits to experimental farm for farm women to celebrate *International Women's Day* on 8th March, 2025 and accelerate farm women empowerment under the project Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and New Extension Methodologies and Approaches. The event brought together distinguished scientists, experts, and stakeholders to discuss women's contributions to agriculture and ways to enhance their participation in sustainable farming practices. The event was attended by over 75 participants including women farmers of Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh and Rudrapur district of Uttarakhand as well as the scientists and students of IARI. Besides the significance of International Women's Day, and IARI's endeavours towards women empowerment through various projects like NEMA, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Farmers FIRST, model village and IARI-Voluntary Organization based partnership programme; salient issues for income and employment generation through crop diversification with floriculture-based farming, commercial flower cultivation, integrated farming system, protected cultivation, nutrition and women's empowerment, gender-inclusive nutritional interventions were discussed. Women farmers and representatives shared their experiences and contributions to the agricultural sector, emphasizing the need for greater gender inclusivity. Dr R N Padaria, Joint Director (Extension) deliberated upon *Women's Empowerment through Technology and Institutional Innovations* and stressed upon capacity building, networking, application of innovations, and girl child education for fostering gender equity in agriculture. Dr. Manjeet Singh Nain, Dr. Markandey Singh, Dr. Sukanya Barua, Dr. Nafees Ahmad, Dr. Hemlata, Dr. Alka Joshi. Dr N V Kumbhare, Dr. Subhashree Sahu, Dr. Punitha, Dr Misha Madhavan educated the participants through success stories of women entrepreneurs. Later the Pusa vegetable seed kits were provided to women for kitchen gardening and nutritional security. Quality seeds of paddy seeds were also given to women farmers of project villages of Mathura for promotion of direct seeded rice and system of rice intensification practices.

