

ICAR-CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING : BHOPAL

Launching Workshop of the Project ‘Assessment of Farm Mechanization Status and Prospects of Custom Hiring in India’

The Launching Workshop cum Training of State Coordinators of the project on “Assessment of Farm Mechanization Status and Prospects of Custom Hiring in India” was held at NAAS Complex, New Delhi on August 20, 2024. Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR) Chaired the session alongside Smt. S. Rukmani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare as a guest of honor, Dr. SN Jha, DDG (Agril. Engg), ICAR, co-chaired the session. Dr. KP Singh, ADG (FE), ICAR; Dr. CR Mehta, Director, ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal; Dr. K. Narsaiah, ADG (Process Engg), ICAR, and Dr. KN Agrawal, Project Coordinator, AICRP on FIM, Project Coordinators of AICRP on MAH and AICRP on ESAAS, Research Engineers of different centres of AICRP on FIM/MAH and ESSAS along with SMD officials and Officials of M&T, Department of Agriculture and Farmer’s Welfare were also present. Dr. KP Singh, ADG (FE) welcomed all the dignitaries and the participants of the workshop.

Dr. Himanshu Pathak, DG (ICAR) highlighted the need to conduct such study in systematic manner and leverage digital technologies for efficient data collection and analysis. He suggested that this project could set a precedent for future initiatives. Dr. Jha underscored the importance of proper statistical considerations in the data collection process and recommended that State Coordinators directly gather 20% of the data to ensure accuracy. Smt. Rukmani, Joint Secretary (MA&FW) emphasized the significance of the study in shaping farm machinery schemes to enhance mechanization and improve farm power availability in under-mechanized regions. She also stressed the importance of assessing the impact of custom hiring centers, which could lead to the restructuring of these centers to better facilitate the adoption of farm machinery. Dr. Mehta provided an overview of the project, detailing its historical background and strategic goals.

Technical session was held, wherein the developed application for data collection was reviewed, and the future course of action was discussed with state coordinators. The event ended with a vote of thanks to the chair and dignitaries.

