

ICAR-CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING : BHOPAL

Sixteenth Workshop of AICRP on Ergonomics and Safety in Agriculture and Allied Sector (AICRP on ESAAS) Organized at NERIST, Nirjuli, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh

The XVI Annual Workshop of the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Ergonomics and Safety in Agriculture and Allied Sector (ESAAS) was successfully organized at NERIST, Nirjuli, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, during March 04-05, 2025.

The Inaugural Session on March 04, 2025, was chaired by Dr. S. N. Jha, Hon'ble Deputy Director General (Agril. Engineering), ICAR, and Co-Chaired by Dr. K. P. Singh, Assistant Director General (Farm Engineering), and Dr. C. R. Mehta, Director, ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal. Dr. K.K. Singh, Former Asst. Director General (FE), ICAR, New Delhi and Dr. P. K. Nag, Former Director, National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad were the distinguished expert to review the progress of the cooperating centers. Senior officials, Research Engineers/PIs and associated scientists from cooperating centers of AICRP on ESAAS and officials of NERIST, Nirjuli, participated in this workshop. Prof. Aditi Bhadra, Head of the Department, Agricultural Engineering, NERIST, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the department's contributions to research, innovation, and sustainable agricultural practices.

Shri Gabriel D. Wangsu, Minister for Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Dairy Development, and Fisheries, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, graced the event as the Chief Guest, commended AICRP on ESAAS and NERIST for innovations like safety gadgets and ergonomic tools, emphasizing their role in reducing occupational hazards and promoting farmer safety. He urged continued research-driven advancements to enhance agricultural productivity in Arunachal Pradesh.

Prof. Narendranath S, Director, NERIST, Nirjuli, Guest of Honour, emphasized on the Institute's dedication to advancing productive, safe, and inclusive agricultural practices. He highlighted role of agriculture in livelihoods and its occupational hazards, stressing the importance of ergonomic interventions and gender-inclusive tools developed by AICRP on ESAAS to empower farmers. He urged collaboration with premier Institutes to ensure safer farming practices.

During inaugural session Dr. Sukhbir Singh, Project Coordinator, AICRP on ESAAS, ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal, presented the PC's Report, highlighting advancements in agricultural ergonomics, safety, and efficiency. He showcased key achievements, publications, and extension activities, emphasizing the project's objectives and its impact on farm workers' productivity and well-being.

Dr. S. N. Jha, underlined ICAR's focus on safety and ergonomics in agricultural mechanization. He advocated for better absorption of agricultural engineering graduates in various state government departments like soil conservation, mechanization, and crop processing, particularly in the NEH region, and urged to improve infrastructure at NERIST for agricultural engineering research and education. Dr. K. P. Singh, highlighted the importance of technology and ergonomic research for sustainable and safe agricultural practices. He emphasized labor challenges, the growing role of women in agriculture, and the need for safety standards and ergonomic interventions. Dr. Mehta discussed AI, robotics, sensors, and data-driven analytics as transformative tools for modernizing agriculture and enhancing farmer well-being. He also congratulated NERIST on its 42nd Foundation Day, acknowledging its contributions to agricultural research and education. Distinguished experts, Dr. K.K. Singh addressed challenges in farm mechanization, emphasizing the need to enhance human comfort and reduce drudgery in agriculture, and Dr. P.K. Nag traced the adaption of advanced methodologies in ergonomics, highlighting India's progress and future opportunities. Coordinating and cooperating centres' publications viz. Research Highlights 2024-25, leaflets and success stories were released in the Inaugural session.

During the two-day deliberations, technical sessions, business session, and plenary session were held. The achievements and progress of cooperating centres for 2024-25 were reviewed following the XV workshop held on March 20-21, 2024. During this period, two technologies were commercialized; four patents and four design registrations were granted by cooperating centres of AICRP on ESAAS. The research engineers of different centres presented the future programmes for the years 2025-26. The workshop ended with the formal vote of thanks by Dr. Sukhbir Singh, PC, AICRP on ESAAS.

