

## **“Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Award” for Outstanding Research in Tribal Farming Systems, 2021**

Dr. M. S. Malik, Principal Investigator, NAHEP-CAAST Project on Integrated Farming System with his Team got National Award “Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Award” for Outstanding Research in Tribal Farming Systems, 2021 on 94<sup>th</sup> ICAR Foundation Day & Award Ceremony, 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 at New Delhi

Dr. M.S. Malik (Team Leader), Dean, Faculty of Forestry and Principal Investigator, NAHEP-CAAST Project on Integrated Farming System together with his team which includes Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Former National Coordinator, NAHEP-CAAST, ICAR, New Delhi and Dr. Adyant Kumar, Research Associate, NAHEP-CAAST Project on Integrated Farming System, Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi has been awarded Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Award for Outstanding Research in Tribal Farming Systems, 2021. The team has been responsible for the overall facilitation of the project entitled NAHEP-CAAST Project on Integrated Farming System, Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi among the tribal farmers of Ulihatu village, Khunti district, Jharkhand and transfer of technologies and their extension to the tribal farmers of Ulihatu village, Khunti.

The number of enterprises included in farming system depends upon the basic needs of a farm family and maximizing the profit by optimal use of available resources of a farm. The major intervention in crop production have been made through introduction of high yielding varieties in paddy, maize, wheat, mustard, pigeon pea, urad and niger. The quality planting materials of high yielding varieties of vegetables (tomato, potato, brinjal, okra, bitter gourd, ridge gourd, spine gourd, pumpkin, smooth gourd, and beans) and fruits (mango, guava, papaya, banana, litchi, ber, aonla, wood apple, custard apple, and jackfruit) were the major intervention for horticultural component and training on scientific management of these crops were conferred. The training on scientific cultivation of mushroom, bee-keeping and lac culture were provided as per interest of the farmers. The pulse crops were introduced in upland conditions during *Kharif* season for gaining better yield, and in medium and low land situation during *Rabi* season for taking the advantage of residual soil moisture. New breeds of livestock have been introduced as well as non-descript zebu cattle were upgraded through artificial insemination.

The emphasis was also given on the value addition and processing of agricultural and non-timber forest produce was imparted to the women farmers of preparation of pickles, jam, and jelly of mango, ber, aonla, tamarind, mushroom; papad, bamboo produce, dry powder of different medicinal plants; syrup extract of jamun, chiraita, kalmegh, fish products etc. The low-cost vermicompost pits were distributed to the interested farmers for producing vermicompost and its utilization of their farm. Watershed management was done through rain water harvesting by recycling of farm ponds and ground water recharge. These interventions help the tribal farmers of Ulihatu village, Khunti Dist., Jharkhand in achieving better livelihood security as well as their socio-economic upliftment.

