

Training-cum-Awareness Programme on Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers' Right

One day Training-cum-Awareness Programme was organized jointly by Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers' Right Authority under Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India and Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi on 31st July 2023 in BAU. BAU has been made the nodal centre for Jharkhand state under PPV & FR Act 2001. The PPVFR Act, 2001 provides rights under Section 39(1)(iv) to the farmer who has bred or developed a new variety. Farmers are entitled to save, use, sow, re-sow, exchange, share or sell their farm produce, including seed of protected varieties, in the same manner as they were entitled to before the coming into force to the PPV&FR Act. Accordingly, she/he shall be entitled for registration and other protection as a breeder of the variety under this Act. But there is lack of awareness among farmers regarding the Act. This Training-cum-Awareness Programme was organized to overcome this issue. Speaking in the inaugural session of the Training-cum-Awareness Programme, Dr. Mary Neelima Kerketta, Chairman, Jarkhand Public Service Commission, Ranchi, and Chief Guest of the programme said that the PPV&FR Act, 2001 has given the farmers right to preserve and patent their intellectual properties in the form of traditional and technical knowledge about seeds and varieties and there is need to make farmers aware towards their rights under the act, especially in the changing climate scenario and the era of commercialization of agriculture. Welcome address was given by Dr. O.N. Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi. Dr. D.K. Saxena, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Govt. of Jharkhand was Special Guest in the programme. Presidential remarks were given by Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, Govt. of India. Vote of thanks in the inaugural session was given by Dr. S. Karmakar, Director Seed & Farm, Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi. The eminent guests also visited Centre of Research and Processing of Giloy in Faculty of Forestry before the programme. Thereafter, two technical sessions were also held, chaired by Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, Govt. of India. The programme was attended by farmers, faculty members and students of Birsa Agricultural University in large number.

