

XXIInd Annual Group Meeting of All India Coordinated Research Project on Tuber Crops held at ICAR-RC for NEH, Barapani, Meghalaya

Annual Group Meeting of All India Coordinated Research Project on Tuber Crops held at ICAR-RC for NEH region, during 11-13 May, 2022. The meeting was inaugurated by Dr. M.N. Sheela, Director, ICAR-CTCRI and Project Coordinator of AICRPTC. Dr. Arnab Sen, Principal Scientist and Director i/c, ICAR-RC for NEH presided over the inaugural function. Fifty scientists from 21 AICRP TC centres across the country attended the meeting. The three days programme reviewed and discussed the different research programmes of the project for evolving new varieties and location specific technologies for the development of tropical tuber crops under different agro-climatic zones of the country. Two varieties in tannia, one at national level and one for the state of Kerala, and three varieties in swamp taro one at national level, one each for the states of Assam and Manipur were recommended for release. Also four improved technologies viz., weed management practices in taro, fertilizer best management in sweet potato, fertilizer recommendation for swamp taro and management strategy of taro leaf blight disease were recommended for adoption by farmers in various agro ecological regions of the country which can improve the tuber crops productivity by 20-30% and reduce the input cost and increase farmers income.

In the plenary session held on 13th May, 2022, Hon'ble DDG (Horticulture) Dr. A.K. Singh and Assistant Director General Dr. V. Pandey from Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi joined the meeting online and interacted with the scientists. The deliberations emphasized the need for quality planting material production, value addition, women empowerment in tuber crops by the formation of farmer producer organizations. Among the 21 centres of AICRP on Tuber Crops, the centre at Indira Gandhi Krishi Viswavidhyala, Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh state bagged the best centre award during 2021 for their outstanding performance. Thirty two publications in different vernacular languages prepared by different centres were also released during the occasion. On 13th AN, Farmers and scientists interface was held in which 25 farmers from different villages of Meghalaya attended and shared their experiences and clarified some of their field problems, requested for hands on training on value addition and financial assistance for creating the facilities either through NABARD or through NHB. It was suggested to take women self-help groups either at ICAR-CTCRI, Kerala or its regional centre in Odisha for imparting proper training by utilizing the funds available under NEH programme.