

**ICAR-CRIJAF organised 'Krishak Sabha & Farmers-Scientists-Industry-Stakeholders' Meet'
and Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Ji, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers'
Welfare & Rural Development, Govt. of India graced the occasion as Chief Guest.**

ICAR-Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibre (ICAR-CRIJAF), Barrackpore organized 'Krishak Sabha & Farmers-Scientists-Industry-Stakeholders' Meet' on 14th July, 2026. Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Ji, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare & Rural Development graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Before addressing the gathering, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Ji also visited ICAR-CRIJAF technology and product museum, Self Help Group (SHGs) stalls, research experiment plots in the farm. The Hon'ble Union Minister inaugurated improved electrical run multifibre bast fibre decorticator, flax line fibre extractor and emphasized this attempt of farm mechanization will reduce the expenditure of farming and will reduce retting duration, also requires less water. He also laid the foundation of 'Biotechnology Complex' which will be for undertaking advance research in jute and new age fibres breeding.

In his address Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Ji, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare & Rural Development expressed satisfaction with the research and development work of ICAR-CRIJAF. He also urged the representatives of the jute farmers to adopt the innovative jute cultivation technologies to produce good quality fibres which can be utilized by the SHG groups to produce value added jute products targeting the foreign market. The minister emphasized the need of new farm technologies as well as formation of FPOs in the jute sector for organized and profitable jute farming in West Bengal.

The Hon'ble Agriculture Minister reiterated that Govt. has emphasised on determining the MSP of jute crop taking into consideration the labour intensiveness of the crop. Consequently, the MSP of jute has been enhanced by almost two times during the last 12 years to encourage jute cultivation in the country. He also expressed concern that the jute farming is to be made free of mediators in marketing to give profit to the farmers. He appreciated the ICAR-CRIJAF to train farm women to make jute-based handicrafts and hand stitched jute bags, and utilization of by-products from fibre crops. He also interacted with some 'lakhpati didis' who have been trained from ICAR-CRIJAF.

He urged all concerned to work both for the farming as well as artisan communities, so that they continue to the jute production system which not only will increase their income but also saves the environment in the long run.

Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary (DARE) & Director General, ICAR addressed the gathering and highlighted that ICAR and its institutes have taken up the problem-solving research to remove the bottlenecks to obtain the potential yield of field crops. He expressed that, in West Bengal, there

is good scope for Jute Farming, thus ICAR and State should work together for seed production in the state itself and implementing the improved technologies for further productivity enhancement through problem solving, demand driven, need based research.

Sri Dudh Kumar Mandal, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of West Bengal who graced the occasion as guest of honour told that although the jute productivity has increased in the state which is highest at national level, it is very important to continue the adoption of new varieties, machineries and technologies to sustain this growth.

Sri Kalyan Chakraborty, Hon'ble Information Technology and Electronics; Science & Technology and Bio-technology; Food Processing Industries and Horticulture Minister of West Bengal emphasized the importance of organic farming, soil health management and waste to wealth for sustainable soil health.

Dr. D. K. Yadava, DDG (CS), ICAR appreciated the role of CRIJAF in enhancing the jute productivity which is mainly due to the realization of climate resilient varieties in recent years. The varietal replacement with new varieties is another factor in the productivity enhancement of jute.

Dr. Gouranga Kar, Director, ICAR-CRIJAF welcomed all the dignitaries and briefed about the activities of the institute regarding farmers, Self Help Groups and Jute stakeholders while displaying the exhibits in the hall. He also emphasised that this institute is working for achieving the target of 'Fibre-to-Foreign' through production of high-quality fibre and products for the foreign markets.

Sri Onkar Singh Meena, Principal Secretary, Agriculture of West Bengal also graced the occasion as Guest of Honour.

Altogether 200 farmers, farm women, entrepreneurs, industry representatives, scientists from ICAR institutes, Govt. officials and representatives of the press and media participated in the programme. The programme was concluded with vote of thanks to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare & Rural Development and other dignitaries, scientists, farmers, jute industries, SHGs, FPCs, Press and media and other personnel involved in the Meet.











