NATIONAL BRAINSTORMING WORKSHOP ON FORMALIZATION OF SEED SYSTEM IN TROPICAL TUBER CROPS

03 December 2024; 10.00am to 4.00pm

(*In hybrid mode*)

Zoom meeting ID: 898 3801 5147 Passcode: 695017







Organized by

ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute

Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala-695017

Invitation

Sir/madam

Greetings form ICAR-CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram

Sub: Invitation for participation in 'National brainstorming workshop on formalization of seed system in tropical tuber crops'-reg

We are happy to announce that a "National brainstorming workshop on formalization of seed system in tropical tuber crops" will be organized on 03.12.2024 by ICAR-CTCRI in hybrid mode.

The workshop is intended to develop a formal seed system for enabling faster spread of tuber crop varieties with a view to increase area to 5-6 lakh ha in 2030 from the existing 4.5 lakh ha. The workshop will be attended by former and present directors, national experts, officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India and distinguished scientists working on vegetatively propagated horticultural crops from across the country.

Hence, you are kindly invited to participate online and share your valuable inputs in the brainstorming workshop for the benefit of the stakeholders of tuber crops and vegetatively propagated horticultural crops as a whole.

Yours Sincerely

Dr. G. Byju
Director

About ICAR-CTCRI

The ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala was established in July 1963 and its Regional Station in Bhubaneswar, Odisha in September 1976. It also houses the headquarters of All India Coordinated Research Project on Tuber Crops (AICRP TC) functioning since April 1968 and Indian Society for Root Crops (ISRC) established in 1971, which publishes the Journal of Root Crops. In addition, ICAR-CTCRI is a centre under the AICRP on Post Harvest Technology (PHT) and All India Network Programme on Organic Farming (AINP-OF).

The focus of ICAR-CTCRI is the well being of the farmers and stakeholders through co-ordinated research, development and extension activities in tropical tuber crops. During the last 61 years, the major outcome of the Institute include 75 improved varieties for yield and various quality traits, a number of potential technologies for production, protection, pre and post harvest processing, value addition, smart farming etc. The agri-business incubator and techno-incubation centre at headquarters and regional station are involved in promoting entrepreneurship among the farmers and other stakeholders.

About the workshop

Tropical tuber crops occupy third position among staple food crops after cereals and pulses. Major tropical tuber crops include cassava, sweet potato, elephant foot yam, yams, taro, tannia etc. Non-availability of sufficient quantity of seed/planting material with assured quality is one of the major problems faced by tropical tuber crops sector.

Unlike the case of seed propagated crops, tuber crops seed system have certain inherent problems with respect to ensuring required quantity and quality of planting materials on regular basis.

a) Tuber crops are vegetatively propagated and have low multiplication rate of 5-7 times against 100 times or more in case of grain crops.

b) Bulkiness and hence storage as well as transportation is difficult and costly. Eg. In case of elephant foot yam the seed rate is 7.5 t/ha which incur huge cost for material and transportation.

c) Since vegetatively propagated and perishable in nature, the seed material cannot be stored and need to be produced every season.

d) Seed system of tropical tuber crops is predominantly dependent on public sector agencies and seems less attractive to private players in terms of economics.

e) Because of all these above, only a small portion of entire seed requirement by this sector is currently met and need a different approach to tackle the issue.Being the national institute working on tropical tuber crops and nodal agency for its seed system, ICAR-CTCRI proposes to address the same in a proactive manner.

Hence, an intervention for development of seed system in tropical tuber crops' is proposed. This is envisaged to be achieved by integration of existing formal (public sector) and informal (Farmer groups, FPOs, SHG, NGO etc) seed producers in one hand and identifying and promoting new local seed producers (Decentralized Seed Multipliers-DSM) on the other. The DSM model is already implemented in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, where seed production is done locally through Decentralized Seed Multipliers and found successful. It is expected that by this way the lack of institutional capacity, lack of implementation mechanism and the lack of seed standards in the ground could be addressed to a great extent.

Thus, in order to discuss and find solution to the perennial problem of planting material shortage in tropical tuber crops in the country, the National brainstorming workshop on formalization of seed system in tropical tuber crops " is proposed to be organised on 03.12.2024 in hybrid mode.The recommendations and actionable points/suggestions arising out of the workshop would be documented for developing a formal seed system of tuber crops at national level.

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