



ICAR-IIMR NEWS LETTER

Nurturing diversity, Resilience, Livelihood and Industrial inputs



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RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Hybrids released (Field Corn)

Two field corn hybrids, IMH 230 and IMH 231, were released by the Central Sub-Committee on Crop Standards, Notification and Release of Varieties for Agricultural Crops (CSS on CSN&R VAC) in the 92nd meeting held on August, 02, 2024, and notified vide Gazette notification no. SO. 4388(E) dated October 08, 2024.

IMH 230: This is a medium maturity single cross field corn hybrid released by CVRC vide Gazette notification no. SO. 4388(E) Sl. No.87 dated October 08, 2024, for cultivation during the rabi season in the North Eastern Plains Zone comprising the states of Bihar, Eastern UP, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal. It has a grain yield of 9.236 t/ha and has shown significant yield superiority (25.59%) over the relevant best check in NEPZ. This hybrid has long conico-cylindrical ears with semi-flint yellow kernels. The hybrid is moderately resistant to major diseases like Turcicum Leaf Blight, Maydis Leaf Blight, and Charcoal Rot, as well as pests stem borer (*Chilo partellus*) and fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*)

insects. The hybrid has also exhibited a superior agronomic performance, being responsive to higher inputs and demonstrating good grain and fodder yield.

IMH 231: This is a medium maturity single cross field corn hybrid released by CVRC vide Gazette notification no. SO. 4388(E) Sl. No.88 dated October 08, 2024, for cultivation during the kharif season in the North Eastern Plains Zone comprising the states of Bihar, Eastern UP, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal. It has a grain yield of 7.028 t/ha and has shown significant yield superiority (12.49 %) over the relevant best check in NEPZ. This hybrid has long conico-cylindrical ears with semi-dent yellow kernels. The hybrid is moderately resistant to Turcicum Leaf Blight (TLB) and Maydis Leaf Blight (MLB) and resistant to Fusarium Stalk Rot (FSR). It has also shown moderate resistance to stem borer (*Chilo partellus*), and fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) insects. The hybrid also exhibited good performance under waterlogging conditions, with a 44.2 % yield superiority over the best check (P-3502) in CIMMYT's waterlogging trial.



CMS-based Baby Corn Hybrid Development

IBH 11-227 (IBCH 402): It is a CMS baby corn hybrid and EDV version of IMHB 1539 identified for release in the varietal identification committee held in the 67th Annual Maize Workshop at Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University, Hyderabad (8th to 10th May, 2024) and the gazette notification number is

S.O. 4388 (E) Sl. No. 86, dated 8th October, 2024. It is a CMS-based baby corn hybrid that does not require detasseling and is recommended for the NHZ zone (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand (Hill region), Meghalaya, Sikkim, Assam, Tripura, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh). The hybrid has the following maize feature:

Traits	Features
Yield with husk	7064 kg/ha
Yield without husk	1845 kg/ha
Detasseling	Does not required detasseling as it is sterile
Reaction against diseases	Moderately resistant to TLB & BLSB
Reaction against insect-pests	Moderately resistant to spotted stem borer and Fall armyworm
Color	Golden yellow



Fig. 3: Field view and seed/ear photograph of Baby corn IBCH 402

Technology Development

Five innovative technologies developed by ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, were honoured during the 96th ICAR-Technology-cum-Foundation Day celebration held on 16th July, 2024, in New Delhi. This prestigious recognition highlights the institute's unwavering commitment to innovation and excellence in agricultural research and development. Congratulations to all the brilliant minds whose contributions have made these advancements possible.



Technology certificate presented to IIMR Scientist by **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**

Research highlights of Basic Sciences

Evaluation of RIL population for callus induction & regeneration

Previously, we have standardised an efficient and reproducible regeneration protocol using mature seed as a starting material in DMRH 1308 and DMRH 1301 hybrids. Since the main genotypes used in our tissue culture and transformation work are hybrid, getting fixed genome-edited events in hybrids will take more time due to segregation in subsequent generations. Therefore, to address the same, we have developed RIL mapping population (250 lines) for better callusing and regeneration traits (**Figure 4**). We have also started

phenotyping these RILs for callusing and regeneration. So far, 26 genotypes/RILs have been evaluated for their ability to form embryogenic calli using nodal explants. Significant variations in callus induction efficiency were observed. Out of 26 RILs, four genotypes, namely DMRH1308-239, DMRH1308-274, DMRH1308-85, and DMRH1308-40, displayed high callus induction (up to 75%) and regeneration frequency (up to 70%), making them promising candidates for further research (**Figure 5**). Conversely, other genotypes exhibited lower efficiency. Evaluation of the rest of the RILs is underway.

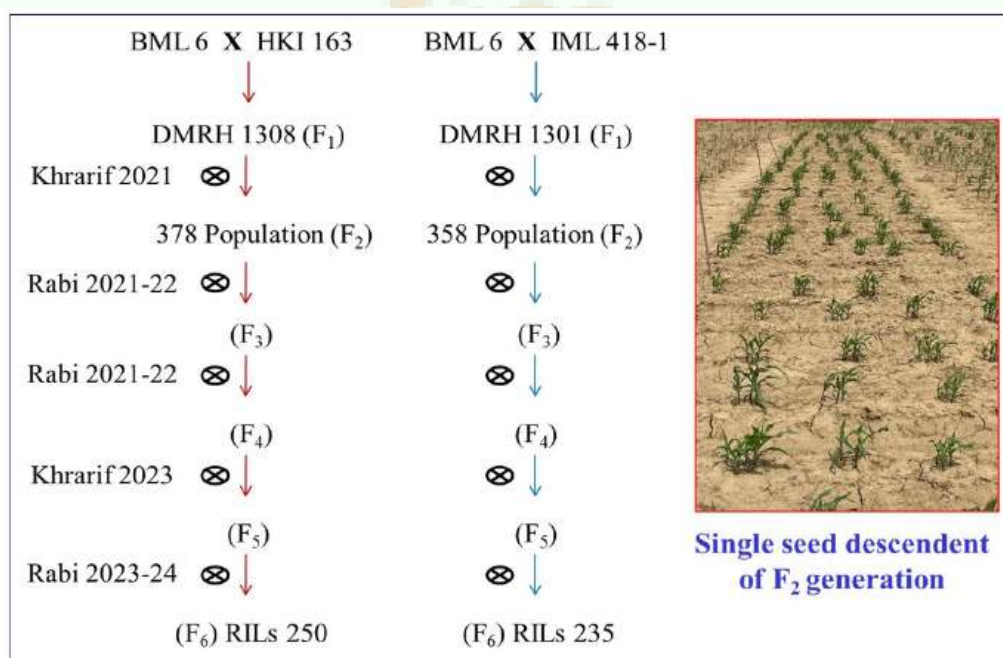


Fig. 4: Development of RIL populations for callusing and regeneration from DMRH 1308 and DMRH 1301 hybrids.



Fig. 5: Schematic representation of callus induction and regeneration in the DMRH1308-85 line.

Generating knockout mutants of the phytoene desaturase gene in maize

The phytoene desaturase (PDS) gene sequence was isolated from the DMRH 1308 genotype, which is being utilized for tissue culture and

transformation experiments. The CDS sequence information generated from the specific cultivar (DMRH 1308) was used to design a target-specific guide RNA (gRNA) targeting the 5' end of the coding region with minimal off-target effects

using CRISPR Direct (<https://crispr.dbcls.jp/>) and CHOP-CHOP (<https://chopchop.cbu.uib.no/>) software. The secondary structure of gRNA was predicted using the RNAfold 2.0 tool. The selected gRNA was cloned into the pRGE32-BAR vector, and this was confirmed by colony PCR, restriction digestion, and Sanger sequencing. The successfully assembled construct was used for biolistic transformation into the nodal explant-derived callus

from DMRH 1308. After three rounds of selection in the dark in a callusing medium having 2 mg/l DL-Phosphinothricin (PPT or Basta), calli were shifted for regeneration under a 16-hr light and 8-hr dark photoperiod. Further, the regenerated shoots were shifting in the rooting medium. The integration of the construct was confirmed by PCR analysis of putative transformants with *bar* and *nptII* gene-specific primers (Figure 6).

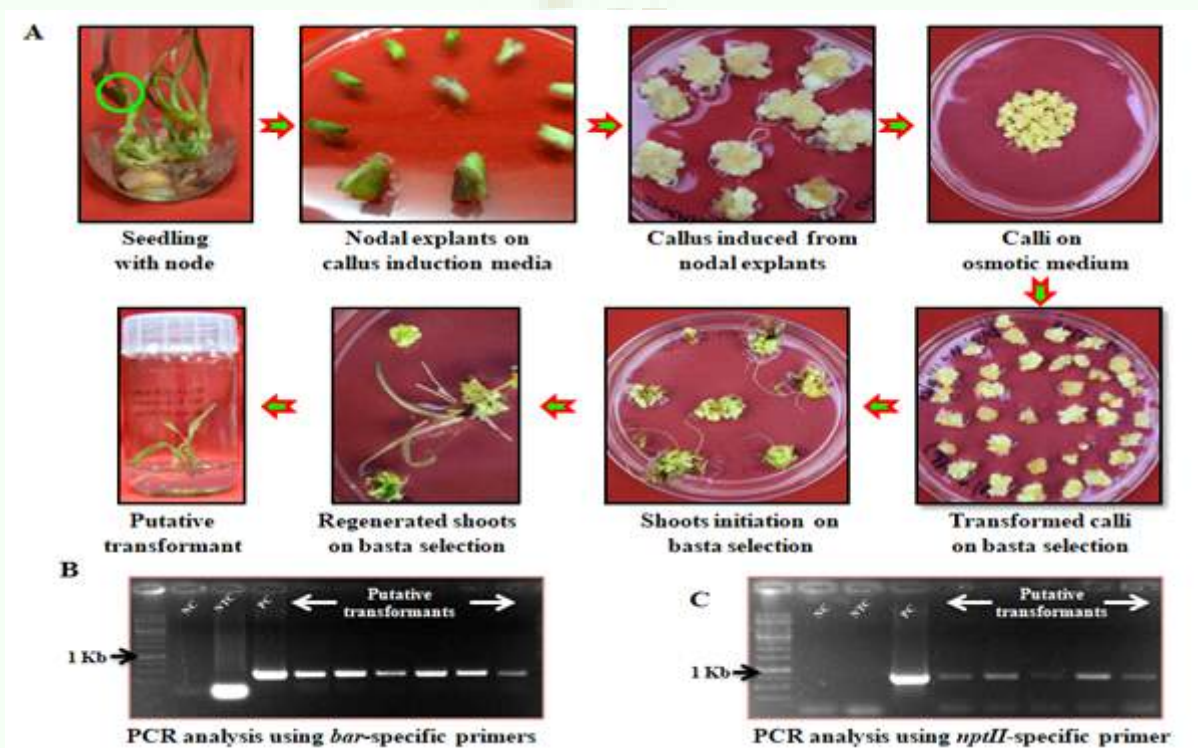


Fig. 6: (A) Editing of the DMRH1308 maize genotype by knockout of the PDS gene with CRISPR/Cas9 . (B-C) Molecular confirmation of putative transformants using PCR.

E) Important Research Achievements in Insect Pest Management

CML 60 (2.40) was identified as resistant to the spotted stem borer, *Chilo partellus*.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Independence Day Celebrations

The ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research, Ludhiana, proudly celebrated India's 78th Independence Day on 15th August, 2024, with the hoisting of the national flag along with inspirational speeches. The inspirational speeches highlighted the nation's progress and the institute's dedication to agricultural innovations. Researchers and staff

reaffirmed their commitment to advancing maize research for a self-reliant and prosperous India. The celebrations reflected the spirit of unity and progress in strengthening the nation's food security.





Flag Hoisting ceremony on 78th Independence Day

Parthenium Awareness Week

The ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research, Ludhiana, observed Parthenium Awareness Week from 16-22nd August, 2024, with the participation of 30 staff members. The initiative aimed at addressing the rising threat of this invasive weed to agriculture, biodiversity, and human health. Participants learnt about timely weed management practices and discussed effective control strategies, including manual removal, biological agents, and chemical methods. They were encouraged to implement these measures in their respective fields, ensuring the practical application of the knowledge gained.



Glimpses of Parthenium Awareness Week

National Conferences on Maize

The Maize Technologists Association of India (MTAI), in collaboration with ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR) and Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), jointly organised a three-day national conference on maize, “A Crop for Food, Feed, Nutritional and Bioenergy Security with Environmental Sustainability”, from 23rd to 25th August 2024, at PAU, Ludhiana. Honourable Vice Chancellor of PAU Dr. S.S. Gosal was the chief guest in the plenary function, while Dr. S.K. Vasal, World Food Laureate, had chaired the plenary session, and Dr. Rajbeer Singh, ADG, ICAR, was the guests of honour. Dr. S.S. Gosal congratulated the presenters and award winners, emphasising the conference's role in idea-sharing and collaborations. Dr. Rajbeer highlighted maize's potential in distilleries and silage units, noting Punjab's influence on national farming practices. Dr. H.S. Jat outlined six key themes for maize sector growth, stressing ethanol recovery and genetic diversity. Dr. Vasal underscored youth involvement, speed breeding, and farmer-friendly technologies. Dr. Sain Dass praised ongoing efforts but urged soil and plant health conservation practices for sustainable growth. The event saw active participation from 400 scientists, students, farmers, entrepreneurs, and industry representatives, fostering collaboration for maize growth in food, feed, and fuel sectors.





Glimpses of the National Conference on Maize 2024

Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Campaign

ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, proudly participated in the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaigns on 2nd and 17th September 2024, honouring our mothers and Mother Nature. As a tribute, the team planted trees on campus, promoting a greener future. This initiative reflects our commitment to environmental sustainability and a lasting legacy for future generations.



Glimpses of Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Campaign

Swachhta Hi Seva-2024 Pledge

On 17th September 2024, the Swachhta Hi Seva-2024 pledge was taken by ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana,

reaffirming its commitment to cleanliness and sustainability. Efforts are being made to keep the surroundings clean and green while promoting responsible waste management and eco-friendly agricultural practices. By adopting sustainable solutions, contributions are being made toward a pollution-free environment for a healthier India. They encouraged collective actions for a cleaner and greener tomorrow.



Glimpses of Swachhta Hi Seva-2024 Pledge

Rajbhasha Fortnight

The closing ceremony of Rajbhasha Fortnight (held from 13-27th September, 2024) at ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, took place on 1st October, 2024, in the presence of Dr. Hanuman Sahay Jat, Director, ICAR-IIMR. Shri Navdeep Singh, the chief guest, emphasized Hindi as a symbol of culture and national identity, encouraging its use in daily life and official work. He discussed the nuances of essay writing, speech, and poetry, urging greater interest in the language. Dr. Jat encouraged employees to actively participate in Hindi competitions and incorporate



practical Hindi in government work. He highlighted that promoting Hindi strengthens national identity and enriches cultural heritage. The event concluded with enthusiasm, reaffirming the institute's commitment to promoting the Hindi language.



Glimpses of Closing Ceremony of Rajbhasha

Inauguration of Newly Established Glass and Polyhouse Facilities

On 21st October, 2024, Dr. T. R. Sharma, DDG (Crop Science), ICAR, New Delhi, inaugurated the newly established glasshouse and polyhouse facilities at ICAR-IIMR, Ladhowal. The event was honoured by



Glimpses of the Inauguration of Newly Established Glass and Polyhouse Facilities

the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Dr. R. K. Singh, Dean, College of Agriculture, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi; Dr. P. K. Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, Government of India, New Delhi; and Dr. H. S. Jat, Director, ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana. The dignitaries participated in a ceremonial tree-planting event at the institute's new campus, marking a significant milestone in its development. Dr. Krishan Kumar, the indenter of both facilities, briefed the dignitaries about these facilities. The dignitaries also visited various experimental plots and discussed ongoing research activities with the institute's scientists. They also visited various experimental plots and discussed ongoing research activities with the institute's scientists. Dr. Sharma took the opportunity to interact with the staff members, gaining insight into their work and offering valuable feedback for the institute's continued growth.

Vigilance Awareness Week

Vigilance Awareness Week was observed at ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, from 28th October to 3rd November, 2024, under the theme "Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity." The institute's staff collectively pledged to uphold transparency and integrity in the growth of the institute. The event aimed to foster a culture of integrity and accountability. During the week, the significance of these values in contributing to national prosperity was strongly emphasized.



Glimpses of vigilance awareness week

Inauguration of AICRP on Maize CELL and Entomology Lab

On 28th November, 2024, the AICRP on Maize CELL and Entomology Lab at the Winter Nursery Centre, ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad, were inaugurated by Dr. T.R. Sharma, Deputy Director General (Crop Science). The event was graced by the presence of Dr. H.S. Jat, Director, ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana. This milestone marks a significant step forward in enhancing maize research and pest management strategies, paving the way for innovation and excellence in maize cultivation.



Glimpses of the Inauguration of AICRP on Maize CELL and Entomology Lab

Signing MOUs for Research Collaborations

1) MoU with Ambra Agritech Private Limited, New Delhi

On 6th August 2024, ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, signed an MoU with Ambra Agritech Private Limited, New Delhi, for the production and sale of “Maize Hybrid IMH 224”. This collaboration

aims to enhance the availability and distribution of the hybrid seed.



MoU signed between ICAR-IIMR Ludhiana and Ambra Agritech Private Limited, New Delhi

2) MoU with Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Karnal & SBS Nagar

ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, has signed an MoU with Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) from Karnal and SBS Nagar on 8th August, 2024, to establish silage units under the Silage Project, an initiative supported by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare, Government of India. This



MoU signed between ICAR-IIMR Ludhiana and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Karnal & SBS Nagar

collaboration marks a significant step towards enhancing maize-based silage production and empowering the maize-growing farmers.

3) MoU with Bhartiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Ltd. (BBSSL)

An important MoU was signed on 10th September, 2024, between ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, and Bhartiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Ltd. (BBSSL) for collaborative efforts in seed production and the popularisation of high-yielding maize hybrid suitable for ethanol production. This collaboration will play a significant role in meeting the growing demand for hybrid maize seeds in the country.



Glimpse of MoU between ICAR-IIMR Ludhiana and Bhartiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Ltd. (BBSSL)

4) MOU with Corteva Agriscience

ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, and Corteva Agriscience have come together for their collaboration on maize through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 26th September 2024. The two organisations aim to boost the maize sector by working together to disseminate pre-harvest and post-harvest technologies, providing training and capacity-building programmes, and promoting the maize and maize-based value chain in the country. They also plan to share knowledge and technological expertise alongside addressing key challenges by undertaking suitable new-age interventions for corn industrial (feed,

bioethanol, starch) security in India.



MoU signed between ICAR-IIMR Ludhiana and Corteva Agriscience

5) MoU with Indo Maize and Millet Development Association, Pune

ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indo Maize and Millet Development Association, Pune, on 18th October, 2024, to collaborate on research and extension activities. As part of this initiative, exposure visits were organised for 10 experts, providing them with insights into various aspects of maize cultivation, silage production, value addition, and the evolving dynamics of maize use for ethanol production.



MoU signed between ICAR-IIMR Ludhiana and Millet Development Association, Pune

IMPORTANT MEETINGS

Institutional Research Committee meeting

The Institutional Research Committee (IRC) Meeting

of ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research (ICAR-IIMR), Ludhiana, was successfully conducted from 9th to 11th July, 2024. During the three-day meeting, all ongoing and proposed research projects of the institute were comprehensively reviewed. Scientists and experts engaged in detailed discussions, evaluating the progress, challenges, and future directions of various research initiatives aimed at advancing maize research and development.



Institute Research Committee Meeting at ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana

Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting

ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR) successfully conducted its Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. Satbir Singh Gosal, Vice Chancellor, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, from 5th to 6th September 2024. The RAC reviewed the ongoing research and management activities of the institute and guided further to strengthen maize-based innovations and research strategies across India.



Interaction with Research Advisory Committee members during the field visit at ICAR-IIMR, Ladhawal Campus, Ludhiana

Interaction Meeting

On 28th November, 2024, the ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR), Ludhiana, hosted a one-day interaction meeting on “Licensing of Public Sector Maize Hybrids to Small and Medium Enterprises in Hybrid Seed Production”. The event saw active participation, with 60 representatives from 39 companies attending. Private sector participants expressed significant interest in licensing public sector maize hybrids, highlighting the potential for strengthening collaborations in the maize seed sector. The meeting was graced by Dr. T.R. Sharma, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), as the Chief Guest, underscoring the importance of such partnerships in advancing agricultural innovations. The program was well received, and the initiative taken by ICAR-IIMR was well appreciated by the private partners.



Glimpses of interaction meeting held on November 28th, 2024

EXTENSION AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Input Distribution at Pattangi, Koraput

On 4th July 2024, ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana organised an input distribution and awareness programme entitled "Enhancing Kharif Maize Yields: Advanced Production & Post-Harvest Technologies" for Koraput farmers at the High-Altitude Research Station, OUAT, Pattangi, under the DMF-funded project aimed at improving livelihoods and nutritional security through scientific maize cultivation. A total of 41 farmers from three Gram Panchayats attended the program, where inputs like

Kalinga Raj Maize Hybrid seeds, sprayers, spades, and khurfis were distributed. Experts, including Dr. Parshuram Sial from OUAT, Sri Pradeep Mohanty, Chief District Agriculture Officer, and others, provided training on maize cultivation, hybrid seed production, pest management, and maize-based processing. Dr. Romen Sharma, PI of the project, encouraged farmers to adopt these technologies, particularly in remote hilly areas. The program was coordinated by Dr. Alok Kumar Sahoo from ICAR-IIMR, with a vote of thanks to all participants and supporting staff.



Input Distribution at Pattangi, Koraput

Seed Distribution at SBS Nagar, Punjab

On 29th June 2024, seed distribution was carried out at SBS Nagar, Punjab, to promote silage maize cultivation in Punjab and Haryana. This initiative aims to boost silage production for the upcoming kharif season. Farmers were encouraged to adopt advanced practices to enhance maize productivity and support the livestock sector.



Seed Distribution at SBS Nagar, Punjab

Training on Scientific Maize Cultivation and Seed Production

ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research, Ludhiana, organised a training program on “Scientific Maize Cultivation and Seed Production for Enhancing Farmers' Income” from 28-30th August, 2024 at ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana, under the project “Enhancement of Maize Production in Catchment Area of Ethanol Industries” funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The program aimed at equipping farmers with knowledge on best practices in maize cultivation, seed production, nutrient management, mechanisation, pest and disease management, and storage. A total of 25 farmers from Telangana's Mulkanoor Co-operative Society participated in the training. In the valedictory session, Dr. H.S. Jat, Director, ICAR-IIMR, stressed the need for collaboration to achieve the 20% Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) target by 2025-26 and encouraged participants to work together to address challenges in the sector.



Training on Scientific Maize Cultivation and Seed Production

Training on Best Management Practices for Maize Productivity in Bihar

A training programme on "Best Management Practices for Higher Productivity and Income in Maize in Bihar" was held from 3-5th September 2024 at the Vishnupur campus of the Regional Maize Research and Seed Production Centre, ICAR-IIMR, Begusarai. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Chikkappa G. Karjagi, Principal Scientist, and Mr. Ajit Kumar Yadav, District Agriculture Officer, Begusarai, who shared their invaluable experiences with the trainees. The programme also included various sessions by experts from ICAR-IIMR and other agricultural institutions. The programme concluded on 5th September, 2024, with a certificate distribution ceremony led by Mr. Shailes Kumar, Joint Director of Agriculture, Muger, and was funded by Bamati, Patna, Bihar.



Training on Best Management Practices for Maize Productivity in Bihar

Training on Maize for Enhancing Food, Fodder, Fuel and Emerging Food Products

A training programme on "Maize: Food Production, Fodder, Fuel, and Emerging Food Products" was held from 10-12th September, 2024, at the Vishnupur campus of the Regional Maize Research and Seed Production Centre, ICAR-IIMR, Begusarai. The program was inaugurated by Dr. Chikkappa Gan Karjagi, Principal Scientist, and Mr. Ajit Kumar Yadav, District Agricultural Officer, Begusarai, who shared valuable insights with the participants. The training, attended by 25 farmers from six districts, covered key topics related to maize, including its use for food, fodder, fuel, and emerging food products. Experts from ICAR-IIMR and other agricultural institutions, including Dr. Ramesh Kumar Pradhan, Dr. S.B. Singh, Dr. Sumit Aggarwal, and Dr. Usha Singh, shared their knowledge on maize cultivation, industry, and its potential. The programme aimed to educate farmers on improving maize production and

exploring its diverse uses.



Training on Maize for Enhancing Food, Fodder, Fuel, and Emerging Food Products

Training on Scientific Maize Cultivation for Enhanced Productivity in Bihar



A training programme on “Scientific Maize Cultivation Practices for Enhancing Productivity and Income in Bihar” was organised by ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR), Ludhiana, Punjab, in collaboration with ATMA, Lakhisarai, Bihar, from September 23-25th, 2024, at PAMETI, Ludhiana. The programme was designed to provide

farmers with comprehensive knowledge on best practices in maize cultivation that aimed at increasing productivity and improving their livelihoods. A total of 21 farmers participated in the training programme.



Training on Scientific Maize Cultivation for Enhanced Productivity in Bihar

Farmer Scientist Interaction Meet

On 20th September 2024, ICAR-IIMR's Regional Maize Research and Seed Production Centre (RMRSPC), Begusarai, in collaboration with ATMA Begusarai, organised a “Farmer-Scientist Interaction Meet” for 46 farmers at the RMRSPC campus. The programme focused on "Prospective Commercial Maize Farming through Emerging Baby Corn, Sweet Corn, Popcorn, and Quality Protein Maize," the event was chaired by Dr. Chikkappa G. Karjagi, Principal Scientist, with Dr. Alok Kumar Sahoo, Scientist, Agricultural Extension, and Sri Ajit Singh, Deputy Project Director, ATMA Begusarai. The session provided an opportunity for farmers to interact with experts, address farming challenges, and gain insights



on cultivation techniques for various maize types, hybrid seed production, and integrated pest management.



Farmer Scientist Interaction Meet

Training on Professional Maize Production and Processing

A training program on "Professional Maize Production and Processing" was held from 27-29th September, 2024, at the Vishnupur campus of the Regional Maize Research and Seed Production Centre, Begusarai. The program, attended by 21 farmers from Sitamarhi district, was inaugurated by Dr. Alok Kumar Sahu and Dr. Shankar Lal Jat, who emphasized coordinated maize cultivation for increased production. Experts covered various aspects of maize farming, including weed control, hybrid varieties for animal fodder, and processing techniques for producing nutritious food products like biscuits, cakes, and baby corn. The training also focused on maize's potential in bioethanol production and the importance of scientifically managing maize farming for better yields.



Training on Professional Maize Production and Processing

Training on Scientific Maize Cultivation for Higher Productivity in Bihar

ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR), Ludhiana, in collaboration with ATMA, Khagaria, Bihar, organised a training programme on "Scientific Maize Cultivation Practices for Enhancing Productivity and Income in Bihar" from 17-19th September, 2024, at PAMETI, Ludhiana. The programme aimed to provide farmers with comprehensive knowledge on maize cultivation, covering topics such as hybrid selection, seed production techniques, nutrient management, mechanisation, pest control, and post-harvest storage. Twenty-four farmers from Khagaria district actively participated, engaging in discussions and sharing knowledge. At the valedictory session, Dr. H.S. Jat, Director of ICAR-IIMR, emphasised collaboration to achieve the 20% Ethanol Blended Petrol target by 2025-26 and encouraged overcoming challenges in the maize sector through collective efforts.





Training on Scientific Maize Cultivation for Higher Productivity in Bihar

Field Day cum Training Program on Maize

ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, organised a Field Day cum Training Program on 23rd October, 2024, in Machhiwada village, Punjab, under the project "Upscaling of Maize-Based Silage Value Chain in Punjab and Haryana." The event aimed to raise awareness about best practices for maize cultivation for silage production, introduce advanced silage technology, and promote kharif maize to enhance feed security and support farmers' livelihoods. Dr. Pardeep Kumar, Senior Scientist and Principal Investigator, emphasised the environmental and income benefits of kharif maize for silage. Experts, including Dr. B.S. Jat, Dr. Romen Sharma, and Dr. Seema Sepat from ICAR-IIMR, along with Mr. Manpreet Singh from Grant Thornton, shared insights on silage maize cultivation, addressing farmers' queries. The event saw over 100 farmers participating in discussions, and the project, funded by the Ministry



of Agriculture, supports the expansion of maize cultivation for silage across an area of 50 hectares in Punjab and Haryana.



Field Day cum Training Program on Maize

Enhancing Food, Nutrition, and Fuel Security through Scientific Maize Cultivation

A training programme on "Best Management Package for Food, Nutrition, and Fuel Security in Bihar" was organised by the Regional Maize Research & Seed Production Centre, ICAR-IIMR, Begusarai, from 22-24th October, 2024, at Vishnupur, Begusarai. Twenty progressive farmers and consultants from multiple districts participated in the event. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Alok Kumar Sahoo and Dr. Chikkappa G. Karjagi, mainly focusing on scientific maize cultivation, soil health, weed and pest management, and seed production. Experts, including Dr. S. L. Jat, Dr. Seema Sepat, Dr. Abhijit Kumar Das, Dr. Pradeep Kumar, and others, provided insights on maize-based food processing, bio-ethanol production, and hybrid fodder varieties. Farmers were also introduced to the concept of



Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and natural farming techniques. The programme was supported by BAMEITI, Patna.



Enhancing Food, Nutrition, and Fuel Security through Scientific Maize Cultivation

Advancing Maize Silage Production for Sustainable Farming



On 25th October, 2024, ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, organised a field day cum training programme in Bachhodi village, SBS Nagar, Punjab, under the project "Upscaling of Maize-Based Silage Value Chain in Punjab and Haryana." The event aimed to educate farmers on maize silage production, advanced technology, and the benefits of kharif maize for feed security and sustainability. Dr. Pardeep Kumar, Senior Scientist and Project PI, highlighted the role of silage in environmental and livelihood security, while experts including Dr. B.S. Jat, Dr. Romen Sharma (ICAR-IIMR), and Dr. Puspendra Kohli (ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi) shared best practices on maize. Interactive sessions allowed farmers to engage directly with experts and the event witnessed active

participation of 100 farmers in discussions and knowledge transfer.



Advancing Maize Silage Production for Sustainable Farming

Training on Climate-Friendly Maize Production in Bihar



A three-day training programme on "Climate-Friendly Maize Production Technology" was held from 27-29th October, 2024, at the Regional Maize Research and Seed Production Centre, ICAR-IIMR, Begusarai, funded by BAMEITI, Patna. Farmers and consultants from 11 districts of Bihar participated, discussing solutions to climate challenges such as floods, droughts, extreme temperatures, and soil fertility issues. The event was led by Dr. Chikkappa G. Karjagi and Dr. Alok Kumar Sahoo and the training covered conservation agriculture, biodiversity, and climate-resilient practices like zero tillage, crop rotation, and mechanisation. Experts, including Dr. S. L. Jat, Dr. S.B. Singh, Dr. Saujanya, Dr. Seema Sepat, and Dr. Sumit Aggarwal, shared insights on hybrid seed breeding, pest and weed

management, and disease control. Participants also learnt about maize-based value-added products such as bioethanol, silage, fodder, and processed foods. Demonstrations on hybrid seed production were conducted at the Kushmahat campus, and farmers received training kits and certificates.



Participants of 'Training on Climate-Friendly Maize Production in Bihar'

Awareness cum Seed Distribution at Kodgal, Telangana

On 7th November, 2024, an "Awareness Training cum Maize Seed Distribution Programme" was organised at Kodgal (V), Jadcherla (M), Mahbubnagar Dist.), under the project "Enhancement of Maize Production in Catchment Areas of Ethanol Industries" project, funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, led by ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana. The initiative aimed at enhancing maize productivity by providing high-quality seeds and advanced farming knowledge. Scientists from ICAR-IIMR and PJTSAU highlighted the potential of quality maize production technologies to meet the



rising demand. Farmers received hybrid seeds and inputs to support their cultivation efforts, ensuring a steady supply for ethanol industries. The event, supported by local agricultural officers, concluded with an interactive session, reinforcing the program's impact on future maize production and sustainability.



Few glimpses of Awareness cum Seed Distribution at Kodgal, Telangana

Awareness on Farmer Rights and Seed Preservation Programme



A glimpse of the Programme

A one-day Farmer Rights Awareness Programme was held at the Regional Maize Research and Seed Production Centre, Begusarai, on 12th November, 2024. Forty farmers from eight districts of Bihar participated in the event, and learnt about seed preservation, multiplication, and registration under PPVFR. Experts, including Mr. Dipol Rai Chaudhary and IIMR ITMU's Dharendra Aulakh, detailed the seed registration process, while Dr. S.B. Singh highlighted the benefits of indigenous seed conservation. Odisha's Sudam Sahu shared insights

on seed preservation efforts, and demonstrations on safe pesticide use and seed treatment were conducted. Dr. Chikkappa and Dr. Alok Sahoo explained hybrid and indigenous seed production methods, with the program supported by Bameeti, Patna.

Field Day cum Training Programme at Lallya Kallan Village, Jalandhar

ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, organised a Field Day Cum Training Programme at Lallya Kallan Village, Jalandhar, on 13th November, 2024, under the project "Upscaling of Maize-Based Silage Value Chain in Punjab and Haryana." The event aimed at enhancing farmers' knowledge on maize silage production, silage technology, and the promotion of kharif maize. Dr. Pardeep Kumar, Senior Scientist and Project PI, emphasised the role of maize in environmental sustainability and encouraged farmers to adopt kharif maize alongside spring maize. Experts, including Dr. B.S. Jat, Dr. Romen Sharma, and Dr. Deep Mohan, along with the District Agricultural Officer, provided insights into silage maize cultivation and addressed farmers' queries. Over 100 farmers actively participated in discussion and knowledge exchange programme aiming at advancing maize-based silage practices.



Scientist and farmer interaction during Field Day cum Training Programme

Training on Maize Value Addition for Entrepreneurship Development

ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research (ICAR-IIMR), Ludhiana, organised a residential training programme on "Entrepreneurship Development

through Value Addition in Maize for Livelihood Security" from 7-9th November, 2024. The training was attended by eight participants and aimed at equipping them with skills and knowledge to enhance value addition in maize to foster entrepreneurship and ensure livelihood security. The programme was funded by Dharmapur Krishak Producer Company (KPC) Limited, Harjupur, Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh, and sponsored by Yamdagnipuram Farmer Producer Company (FPC) Limited, Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh. It was organised by the Agri-Business Incubation (ABI) Unit of ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana.



Glimpse of Training Program

Field Day on Maize to Boost Ethanol Production at Abohar (Fazilka)

ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, in collaboration with KVK Fazilka, organised a "Field Day on Maize" on 14th November, 2024, at Bazidpur Kattinwali village, Tehsil Abohar, District Fazilka, under the project "Enhancement of Maize Production in Catchment Areas of Ethanol Industries" project. During the event, experts disseminated knowledge on advanced

maize farming techniques, including mechanised cultivation, zero tillage, and aflatoxin-free maize production for bioethanol and poultry feed. Dr. S.L. Jat, Senior Scientist and Project PI, along with Dr. Ph. Romen Sharma, Dr. B.S. Jat (ICAR-IIMR), Dr. Arvind Ahlawat (KVK Fazilka), and Dr. Parminder Singh (BAO), addressed over 100 farmers with their queries and shared innovative strategies with them. The event marked a key step towards enhancing maize production for ethanol and sustainable agriculture.



Field Day on Maize to Boost Ethanol Production at Abohar (Fazilka)

Participation in the Global Soils Conference

ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, participated and showcased the institute's technologies at the “Global Soils Conference”, organised at NASC Complex, New Delhi, from 19-22nd November, 2024. Various researchers and farmers visited the stalls and interacted in order to gather maize technology-based information.



Glimpse of Global Soils Conference

Field Day on Maize to Boost Ethanol Production at Ajnala (Amritsar)

ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, in collaboration with KVK Amritsar, the RGR initiative, and the Department of Agriculture, organised a “Field Day on Maize” on 28th November, 2024, at Village Awan, Ajnala Tehsil, Amritsar District. The event was conducted under the project “Enhancement of Maize Production in Catchment Areas of Ethanol Industries” and funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, aimed at boosting maize production and empowering farmers with essential knowledge. Experts emphasised on role of maize in India's ethanol production target, environmental sustainability, and local economic growth. Over 100 farmers took active participation in the event offering them valuable insights on cultivation practices and Promising regions like Amritsar, Gurdaspur, and Pathankot were identified as key clusters for expanding maize cultivation.



Glimpse of Field Day on Maize to Boost Ethanol Production at Ajnala (Amritsar)

Field Day on Maize to Boost Ethanol Production at Moga (Ludhiana)

ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana; KVK, Moga; IFFCO; and Grant Thornton, collectively organised a field day on 12th December, 2024, at village Kokri Kalan, Moga district (Punjab) for the promotion of maize crops under the project "Enhancement of Maize Production in Catchment Areas of Ethanol Industries". The event provided a platform for direct interaction between farmers and experts, addressing farmers queries and fostering a collaborative learning environment. The enthusiastic participation of over 100 farmers demonstrated the programme's success and its potential to drive agricultural innovation in the region.



Glimpses of the Field Day

Training programmes on value addition in maize

ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, conducted three training programmes entitled "Bio-fortified Maize Innovations: Bridging Nutrition and Economic Opportunities," under the DBT Biotech-Kisan project

on 4th, 21st and 23rd December, 2024. The first training was held at Village Barundi, Pakhowal, Ludhiana, in collaboration with Grant Thornton, which engaged 50 women from Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). The second training was organised at Village Mehatpur, Una district, Himachal Pradesh, benefiting 70 participants, while the third training was conducted at Village Latala, Ludhiana, addressing 36 participants.



Training at Mehatpur (Vil.), Himachal Pradesh



Training at Barundi (Vil.), Ludhiana



Training at Latala (Vil.), Ludhiana

All these trainings equipped the participants with skills in maize processing, product diversification, and income generation. These initiatives emphasized capacity building, rural empowerment, and the potential of maize in enhancing nutrition and economic growth.

Student's exposure visits to ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana



Glimpses of Students' Exposure Visits To ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana on July 12th, 2024

On 12th July 2024, ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, hosted students for exposure visits under the SERB project. The visit offered the students a valuable opportunity to learn about the latest agricultural research and innovations. It was an engaging experience that allowed them to interact with experts and gain practical insights into agricultural advancements.

On 27th September 2024, 58 students of final-year B.Sc. (Agriculture) from the University of Agricultural & Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga, Karnataka, visited ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana. The

exposure visit provided the students with insights into the institute's research and maize cultivation practices. The visit aimed to enhance their practical knowledge and understanding of agricultural advancements in maize research.



Glimpses of Students' Exposure Visits to ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana on September 27th, 2024

Participation in various kisan melas

PAU Kisan Mela:

ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, participated in the Kisan Mela organised by Punjab Agricultural University, held during 13-14th September, 2024, and showcased innovations in maize research, various IIMR maize hybrids, sustainable farming approaches, and value-added products of maize.





Glimpses of PAU Kisan Mela

CIPHET Mela

ICAR-IIMR Ludhiana Participated in the IIFA CIPHET-2024 Food Processing Fair organised at CIPHET, Ludhiana, from 3-5th October, 2024 and showcased various maize technologies and value-added maize products.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Awards/Honours/Recognition

- 1. Dr. S. B. Singh** was awarded the “**Scientist of the Year Award**” for outstanding contribution in the field of genetics and plant breeding by the Society for Scientific Development in Agriculture & Technology on the occasion of the IXth International Conference on Global Research Initiatives for Sustainable Agriculture & Allied Sciences (GRISAAS-2024) held at SKNAU-RARI, Durgapura, Jaipur, Rajasthan, on December 10-12, 2024.
- 2. Dr. S. B. Singh** was nominated as **Chairman** in Technical Session III on Key Factors for Crop Productivity: Cropping Systems, Agronomic and Soil Health Management Practices, Farm Mechanisation, Indigenous Technical Knowledge and IPR Issues in the International Conference on Global Research Initiatives for Sustainable Agriculture & Allied Sciences (GRISAAS-2024) held at SKNAU-RARI, Durgapura, Jaipur, Rajasthan, on December 10-12, 2024.
- 3. Dr. S. B. Singh** was nominated as **Chairman** in Technical Session III: Key Factor for Crop Productivity: Cropping System, Agronomic and Soil Health Management Practices, Farm Mechanization, Indigenous Technical Knowledge and IPR Issues in the International conference on Global Research Initiatives for Sustainable Agriculture & Allied Sciences (GRISAAS-2024) held at SKNAU-RARI, Durgapura, Jaipur Rajasthan on December 10-12, 2024.
- 4. Dr. S. B. Singh** was nominated as **Chairman** of the Award Screening Committee of the International Conference on “Innovative and current Advances in Agriculture and Allied Sciences (ICAAAS-2024)”, held in hybrid mode on July 15-20, 2024 at Cong Doan Vietnam Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam.
- 5. Dr. P. L. Soujanya** was awarded the MTAI Fellow award (2024) during the National Conference on Maize: A Crop for Food, Feed, Nutritional and Bioenergy security with Environmental Sustainability held from 23rd to 25th August, 2024, at Ludhiana.

Participation in training programs

SI No.	Name of scientist	Training programme attended	Venue/Organized by	Date
1.	Sunil Neelam	Smart Digital Tools for Sustainable Agriculture	CRIDA, Hyderabad	October 15-24, 2024

Participation in Conferences/Workshops/Symposium/Seminars/Important Meetings

SI No.	Name of the Scientist	Foreign visits/Conferences/Workshops/Symposium/Seminar/Important Meeting attended	Venue/Organized by	Date
1	Drs HS Jat, Sunil Neelam, Yathish K R, Bhupender kumar, Manesh Dagla and P. Soujanaya	Workshop cum interactive meeting on "Licensing of Public Sector Maize Hybrids to Private Partners Involved in Hybrid Seed Production	ICAR-IIMR	November 28, 2024
2	Sunil Neelam	Awaress cum interface meeting under the Catchment Area Project	Kodgal village, Jadcherla Mandal, Mahbubnagar district organized by ICAR-IIMR	November 11, 2024
3	Shyam Bir Singh	Attended National Conference on Maize: A Crop for Food, Feed, Nutritional and Bioenergy Security with Environmental Sustainability	Maize Technologists Association of India (MTAI) in collaboration with ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana, CIMMYT, BISA & PAU, Ludhiana at PAU Campus Ludhiana	August 23-25, 2024
		Attended International Conference on Global Research Initiatives for Sustainable Agriculture & Allied Sciences (GRISAAS - 2024)	SKNAU-RARI, Dugapura, Jaipur Rajasthan	December 10-12, 2024
4	Suby S. B.	Attended National Conference on Maize: A Crop for Food, Feed, Nutritional and Bioenergy Security with Environmental Sustainability	MTAI in collaboration with ICAR-IIMR, CIMMYT, BISA & PAU at PAU Campus Ludhiana	August 23-25, 2024
5	Yatish K R	Attended National Conference on Maize: A Crop for Food, Feed, Nutritional and Bioenergy Security with Environmental Sustainability	MTAI in collaboration with ICAR-IIMR, CIMMYT, BISA & PAU at PAU Campus Ludhiana	August 23-25, 2024
6	Abhijit Das	Attended National Conference on Maize: A Crop for Food, Feed, Nutritional and Bioenergy Security with Environmental Sustainability	MTAI in collaboration with ICAR-IIMR, CIMMYT, BISA & PAU at PAU Campus Ludhiana	August 23-25, 2024
7	Pardeep Kumar	Attended National Conference on Maize: A Crop for Food, Feed, Nutritional and Bioenergy Security with Environmental Sustainability	MTAI in collaboration with ICAR-IIMR, CIMMYT, BISA & PAU at PAU Campus Ludhiana	August 23-25, 2024

8	Mamta Gupta	Attended National Conference on Maize: A Crop for Food, Feed, Nutritional and Bioenergy Security with Environmental Sustainability	MTAI in collaboration with ICAR-IIMR, CIMMYT, BISA & PAU at PAU Campus Ludhiana	August 23-25, 2024
9	Krishan Kumar	Attended National Conference on Maize: A Crop for Food, Feed, Nutritional and Bioenergy Security with Environmental Sustainability	MTAI in collaboration with ICAR-IIMR, CIMMYT, BISA & PAU at PAU Campus Ludhiana	August 23-25, 2024
10	Alla Singh	Attended National Conference on Maize: A Crop for Food, Feed, Nutritional and Bioenergy Security with Environmental Sustainability	MTAI in collaboration with ICAR-IIMR, CIMMYT, BISA & PAU at PAU Campus Ludhiana	August 23-25, 2024
11	B. S. Jat	Attended National Conference on Maize: A Crop for Food, Feed, Nutritional and Bioenergy Security with Environmental Sustainability	MTAI in collaboration with ICAR-IIMR, CIMMYT, BISA & PAU at PAU Campus Ludhiana	August 23-25, 2024
12	Mukesh Choudhary	Attended National Conference on Maize: A Crop for Food, Feed, Nutritional and Bioenergy Security with Environmental Sustainability	MTAI in collaboration with ICAR-IIMR, CIMMYT, BISA & PAU at PAU Campus Ludhiana	August 23-25, 2024
13	Pravin Kumar Bagaria	Attended National Conference on Maize: A Crop for Food, Feed, Nutritional and Bioenergy Security with Environmental Sustainability	MTAI in collaboration with ICAR-IIMR, CIMMYT, BISA & PAU at PAU Campus Ludhiana	August 23-25, 2024
14	Ph Romen Sharma	Attended National Conference on Maize: A Crop for Food, Feed, Nutritional and Bioenergy Security with Environmental Sustainability	Maize Technologists MTAI in collaboration with ICAR-IIMR, CIMMYT, BISA & PAU at PAU Campus Ludhiana	August 23-25, 2024
15	Alok Kumar Sahoo	Attended National Conference on Maize: A Crop for Food, Feed, Nutritional and Bioenergy Security with Environmental Sustainability	MTAI in collaboration with ICAR-IIMR, CIMMYT, BISA & PAU at PAU Campus Ludhiana	August 23-25, 2024

IIMR

Lecture /TV/ radio talks delivered

Sr. No.	Name of the Scientist	Lecture delivered	Organized by	Date
1	Shyam Bir Singh	Delivered an oral presentation on "Combining ability analysis and heterotic grouping of medium maturity maize inbreds under non-stress and waterlogging stress" in the National Conference on Maize: A Crop for Food, Feed, Nutritional and Bioenergy Security with Environmental Sustainability".	MTAI in collaboration with ICAR-IIMR, CIMMYT, BISA & PAU,	August 23-25, 2024
		Delivered a lecture on "Maize requirement in Bihar: Status, Challenges, Prospects and Strategies" in a three days farmer training programme for Farmers/Kissan Salahkar on "Best Management Practices for higher productivity and Income in Maize in Bihar".	RMRSPC, Begusarai, Bihar	September 03, 2024
		Delivered a lecture on "Maize requirement in Bihar: Suitable Varieties for Bihar Agro-climatic situation" in a three-Day Training Program for Farmers/Kissan Salahkar on "Maize as food, fodder, fuel and emerging food products".	RMRSPC, Begusarai, Bihar	September 10, 2024
		Delivered a lecture on "Improved maize varieties for Bihar" in the three days farmer training programme on "Scientific Maize Cultivation Practices for Enhancing Productivity and Income in Bihar".	ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana	September 23, 2024
		Delivered a lecture on "Climate Resilient Maize Breeding Program and Suitable varieties development for farmers of Bihar" in the three days farmer training programme on "Climate Smart Maize Production Technologies".	RMRSPC, Begusarai, Bihar	October 27, 2024.
		Delivered a lecture on "Role of farmers in Germplasm collection, conservation and multiplication" in the "Farmers Right Awareness	RMRSPC, Begusarai, Bihar	November 12, 2024

2	Dr.P.Lakshmi Soujanya	Delivered talk on “Maize insect pests and their management” during two days training programme on “Scientific Maize Cultivation and Seed Production for Enhancing Farmers Income” held from 28-30 August, 2024.	ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana	August 29, 2024
		Delivered talk on “Maize storage pest and their management” during two days training programme on ‘Scientific maize cultivation practices for enhancing productivity and income in Bihar from 17-19 September, 2024.	ATMA-Khagaria, Bihar funded Scheme organised by ICAR-IIMR at PAMETI, Ludhiana.	September 18, 2024
		Delivered talk on “IPM in maize” during three days training programme on Best Management package for maize production in Bihar for food, nutritional, and fuel security for farmers from 22 - 24 October, 2024.	RMRSPC, Begusarai, Bihar	October 23, 2024
		Delivered talk on “Integrated pest management in maize for climate smart maize cultivation” during three days training programme on Climate smart maize production technologies for farmers from 27-29 October, 2024.	RMRSPC, Begusarai, Bihar	October 28, 2024
3	Dr. Pardeep Kumar	Deliver an oral presentation on “Morpho-biochemical based identification of superior diverse maize cultivars for quality silage” in National Conference on Maize: A Crop for Food, Feed, Nutritional and Bioenergy Security with Environmental Sustainability .	MTAI in collaboration with ICAR-IIMR, CIMMYT, BISA & PAU	August 23-25, 2024
		Delivered a lecture on “Speciality corn cultivation for improving farmer’s income” during training on Scientific Maize Cultivation and Seed Production for Enhancing Farmers Income held from	ICAR-IIMR, Ludhiana	August 29, 2024

		28-30, August, 2024 under the project entitled “Enhancement of Maize Production in Catchment Area of Ethanol Industries” on held at IIMR, Ludhiana.		
		Delivered a lecture on “Prospects and potential of Maize as Fodder and Silage in Bihar” during three Day Training Program for Farmers/Kissan Salahkar.	RMRSPC, Begusarai, Bihar	September 10-12, 2024
		Delivered a lecture on “Fodder maize cultivation” in raining on maize Scientific Maize Cultivation Practices for Enhancing Productivity and Income in Bihar.	ATMA- Khagaria, Bihar organized by ICAR-IIMR	17-19, September 2024
		Delivered a lecture on “Prospects and potential of Maize as Fodder and Silage in Bihar” during three Day Training on Commercial Maize Production & Processing Program for Farmers/Kissan Salahkar.	RMRSPC, Begusarai, Bihar	27-29, September 2024
		Delivered a lecture on “Prospects and potential of Maize as Fodder and Silage in Bihar” during three Day Training Program on Best Management Package for Maize Production in Bihar for food, nutritional and fuel security for Farmers/Kissan Salahkar.		October 22-24, 2024

Participation of Kisan Mela/Kisan Goshti/ Exhibition/ Field Day/ Lectures

SI No.	Name of the Scientist	Name of the Program	Venue/Organized by	Date
1.	Drs HS Jat, Sunil Neelam, Yathish K R, Bhupender Kumar, Manesh Dagla and P Soujanaya	Workshop cum interactive meeting on “Licensing of Public Sector Maize Hybrids to Private Partners Involved in Hybrid Seed Production	ICAR-IIMR	November 28, 2024
2.	M.C. Dagla	CIPHET-IIFA 2024 & Food Processing Fair	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	October 3-5, 2024
3.	Mukesh Choudhary	PAU Kisan Mela	PAU, Ludhiana	September 14- 15, 2024
		CIPHET-IIFA 2024 & Food Processing Fair	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	October 3-5, 2024
4.	Abhijit Das	CIPHET-IIFA 2024 & Food Processing Fair	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	October 3-5, 2024
5.	Dr. Pardeep Kumar	CIPHET-IIFA 2024 & Food Processing Fair	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	October 3-5, 2024
6.	Mamta Gupta	PAU Kisan Mela	PAU, Ludhiana	September 14- 15, 2024
		CIPHET-IIFA 2024 & Food Processing Fair	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	October 3-5, 2024
7.	Pravin Kumar Bagaria	PAU Kisan Mela	PAU, Ludhiana	September 14- 15, 2024
		CIPHET-IIFA 2024 & Food Processing Fair	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	October 3-5, 2024
8.	B S Jat	PAU Kisan Mela	PAU, Ludhiana	September 14- 15, 2024
		CIPHET-IIFA 2024 & Food Processing Fair	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	October 3-5, 2024
9.	Ph Romen Sharma	PAU Kisan Mela	PAU, Ludhiana	September 14- 15, 2024
		CIPHET-IIFA 2024 & Food Processing Fair	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	October 3-5, 2024
10.	Deep Mohan	CIPHET-IIFA 2024 & Food Processing Fair	ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana	October 3-5, 2024
11.	Shanti Bamboriya	PAU Kisan Mela	PAU, Ludhiana	September 14- 15, 2024

**Organized Seminar and Conference /Workshops and Conducted Trainings
/Field Days/Students/Trainees visits**

Sl No.	Name of the Scientist	Name of the Program	Venue/Organized by	Date
1	Dr. Pardeep Kumar (PI) Co-PI: Drs. Seema Sepat, BS Jat and Romen Sharma SRF (Taranveer Singh & Tajinder Singh)	Upscaling the silage and sharing the new silage technologies	Gallewal, Ludhiana by ICAR-IIMR	October 23, 2024
2	Dr. Pardeep Kumar (PI) Co-PI: BS Jat, Romen Sharma SRF (Taranveer Singh & Tajinder Singh)	Upscaling the silage and sharing the new silage technologies	Bachhuari, SBS Nagar by ICAR-IIMR	October 25, 2024
3	Dr. Pardeep Kumar (PI) Co-PI: Drs. BS Jat, Romen Sharma, Deep Mohan Mahala SRF (Taranveer Singh)	Upscaling the silage and sharing the new silage technologies	Lallian Kalan, Jalandhar	November 13, 2024

हिंदी पखवाड़ा 2024

राजभाषा विभाग, गृह मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के नीतिगत निर्देशों के अनुरूप, भारतीय मक्का अनुसंधान संस्थान, लुधियाना की राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति द्वारा प्रतिवर्ष आयोजित होने वाली हिंदी प्रचार-प्रसार गतिविधियों की श्रृंखला में इस वर्ष भी दिनांक 13 से 27 सितम्बर, 2024 तक 'हिंदी पखवाड़ा 2024' का सफल आयोजन किया गया। यह आयोजन संस्थान मुख्यालय सहित इसके क्षेत्रीय केंद्रों में ऑफलाइन एवं ऑनलाइन दोनों माध्यमों से सम्पन्न हुआ। हिंदी पखवाड़ा का शुभारंभ 13 सितम्बर को संस्थान के निदेशक डॉ. एच. एस. जाट की गरिमामयी उपस्थिति में हुआ। हिंदी पखवाड़ा के उद्घाटन अवसर पर संस्थान के निदेशक महोदय ने सभी अधिकारियों एवं कर्मचारियों को हिंदी दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं और अपने संबोधन में हिंदी भाषा के महत्व पर प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने कहा कि हिंदी केवल राजभाषा नहीं, बल्कि हमारे प्रशासनिक दायित्वों की प्रभावी अभिव्यक्ति का माध्यम भी है। निदेशक महोदय ने सभी कर्मचारियों से आग्रह किया कि वे कार्यालयीन कार्यों में अधिक से अधिक हिंदी का प्रयोग सुनिश्चित करें तथा सरकार द्वारा समय-समय पर जारी राजभाषा संबंधी निर्देशों एवं आदेशों का पालन पूरी निष्ठा से करें। उन्होंने यह भी

कहा कि वर्ष भर आयोजित होने वाले हिंदी से संबंधित कार्यक्रमों में सक्रिय भागीदारी के माध्यम से हम न केवल भाषा के प्रचार-प्रसार में योगदान दे सकते हैं, बल्कि आमजन को इसकी महत्ता और उपयोगिता के प्रति भी जागरूक बना सकते हैं।

इस वर्ष हिंदी पखवाड़ा के अंतर्गत कुल छह प्रतियोगिताओं/हिंदी टिप्पण एवं प्रारूप लेखन, आशुभाषण, हिंदी निबंध लेखन, हिंदी काव्य पाठ, प्रश्नोत्तरी, तथा हिंदी सुलेख, अनुलेख एवं श्रुतलेखकका आयोजन ऑफलाइन एवं ऑनलाइन माध्यमों से सफलतापूर्वक किया गया। इन प्रतियोगिताओं में संस्थान के वैज्ञानिक, तकनीकी, प्रशासनिक कर्मचारी तथा आरए, एसआरएफ, जेआरएफ, वाईपी सहित अन्य संविदा कर्मिकों ने अत्यंत उत्साह एवं सक्रिय भागीदारी के साथ सहभागिता की। हिंदी पखवाड़ा का समापन समारोह दिनांक 01 अक्टूबर, 2024 को आयोजित किया गया, जिसमें आकाशवाणी, लुधियाना के सेवा-निवृत्त कार्यक्रम प्रमुख श्री नवदीप सिंह ने मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में उपस्थित होकर कार्यक्रम की गरिमा को बढ़ाया।

हिंदी पखवाड़ा 2024 के समापन समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि श्री नवदीप सिंह, कार्यक्रम प्रमुख (सेवानिवृत्त), आकाशवाणी लुधियाना ने अपने संबोधन में राजभाषा हिंदी

के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा कि हिंदी मात्र अभिव्यक्ति का माध्यम नहीं, बल्कि हमारी सांस्कृतिक पहचान, भावनात्मक एकता और राष्ट्र की आत्मा है। उन्होंने कहा कि हिंदी ने विभिन्न भाषाई और सांस्कृतिक विविधताओं को जोड़ने का कार्य किया है तथा यह संपूर्ण देश में संवाद और समरसता का सेतु है।

मुख्य अतिथि महोदय ने यह भी उल्लेख किया कि वैश्वीकरण के इस युग में जब अनेक भाषाएं विलुप्त होने की कगार पर हैं, ऐसे में हिंदी जैसी समृद्ध और व्यापक भाषा को सशक्त बनाना हम सभी की सामूहिक जिम्मेदारी है। उन्होंने संस्थान में हिंदी पखवाड़ा जैसे आयोजनों को सराहनीय पहल बताया और कहा कि इस प्रकार की गतिविधियाँ न केवल भाषा के प्रति जागरूकता बढ़ाती हैं, बल्कि सरकारी कार्यों में राजभाषा के प्रभावी उपयोग को भी प्रोत्साहित करती हैं। अंत में उन्होंने प्रतिभागियों की सक्रिय सहभागिता की सराहना की और सभी को हिंदी के प्रचार-प्रसार में निरंतर योगदान देने के लिए प्रेरित किया।

हिंदी पखवाड़ा 2024 के अवसर पर भारतीय मक्का अनुसंधान संस्थान, लुधियाना के निदेशक डॉ. एच. एस. जाट ने अपने उद्बोधन में राजभाषा हिंदी के महत्व को रेखांकित करते हुए कहा कि हिंदी केवल एक भाषा नहीं, बल्कि यह हमारी राष्ट्रीय एकता, सांस्कृतिक विरासत और भावनात्मक समरसता की सशक्त अभिव्यक्ति है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रशासनिक और वैज्ञानिक कार्यों में हिंदी के प्रयोग से कार्य की सहजता, पारदर्शिता और जनसामान्य से जुड़ाव को बल मिलता है।

निदेशक महोदय ने यह भी उल्लेख किया कि तकनीकी संस्थानों में हिंदी के प्रभावी प्रयोग से शोध और नवाचार जनसामान्य तक सरल भाषा में पहुँचते हैं, जिससे विज्ञान एवं कृषि क्षेत्र में व्यापक जागरूकता और भागीदारी संभव हो पाती है। उन्होंने सभी अधिकारियों, वैज्ञानिकों, तकनीकी व प्रशासनिक कर्मियों को प्रेरित किया कि वे अपने दैनिक कार्यों में अधिक से अधिक हिंदी का प्रयोग करें और इसे कार्य संस्कृति का अभिन्न हिस्सा बनाएं।

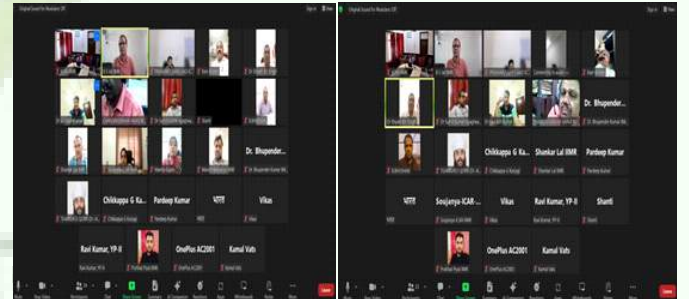
उन्होंने संस्थान में हिंदी पखवाड़ा के आयोजन को न केवल राजभाषा नीति के अनुपालन का माध्यम, बल्कि भाषाई गर्व और प्रेरणा का उत्सव बताया। अंत में, उन्होंने सभी प्रतिभागियों और आयोजन समिति को सफल आयोजन हेतु बधाई दी तथा हिंदी भाषा को कार्यशील, जीवंत और प्रभावी बनाए रखने हेतु निरंतर प्रयास करने का आह्वान किया। हिंदी पखवाड़ा 2024 के अंतर्गत आयोजित सभी प्रतियोगिताओं का समन्वय एवं समापन समारोह का सफल संचालन राजभाषा प्रभारी डॉ. बहादुर सिंह जाट द्वारा संस्थान के निदेशक डॉ. एच. एस. जाट के मार्गदर्शन में किया गया। उनके कुशल संयोजन एवं नेतृत्व में कार्यक्रम की सभी गतिविधियाँ सुचारु रूप से सम्पन्न हुईं।



भारतीय मक्का अनुसंधान संस्थान में आयोजित हिंदी पखवाड़ा की झलकियाँ

हिन्दी कार्यशाला

संस्थान द्वारा हिंदी को राजभाषा के रूप में बढ़ावा देने और सरकार की आधिकारिक भाषा नीति की अनुपालना हेतु, भारतीय मक्का अनुसंधान संस्थान, लुधियाना द्वारा स्टाफ सदस्यों को प्रशिक्षित करने के लिए 7 जुलाई से दिसम्बर 2024 छमाही के दौरान ऑफलाइन एवं ऑनलाइन माध्यम से तीन हिंदी कार्यशालाओं रू हिंदी लेखन में शुद्धता एवं प्रभावशीलता (20 अगस्त, 2024), हिंदी रू राजभाषा से जन भाषा की ओर (25 सितम्बर, 2024) एवं राजभाषा हिंदी रू प्रशासनिक कार्यों में उपयोगिता (23 दिसम्बर, 2024) विषयों पर आयोजित की गयी उपरोक्त कार्यशालाओं के दौरान संस्थान में 45 स्टाफ सदस्यों को प्रशिक्षित किया गया।



भारतीय मक्का अनुसंधान संस्थान में आयोजित हिन्दी कार्यशाला की झलकियाँ

भा.कृ.अनु.प.—भारतीय मक्का अनुसंधान संस्थान में की गई अन्य राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन गतिविधियाँ

राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति (ओएलआईसी) बैठकें संस्थान में जुलाई से दिसम्बर 2024 छमाही के दौरान राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति की दो बैठकें (04 सितम्बर, 2024, 24 अक्टूबर, 2024) आयोजित की गयी। नराकास स्तर पर प्रतियोगिताओं में सहभागितारू संस्थान के अधिकारियों / कर्मचारियों ने वर्ष 2024 के दौरान नराकास स्तर पर आयोजित विभिन्न हिंदी प्रतियोगिताओं में भाग लिया।



भामअनुसं
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Compiled & Edited By:

Dr. Krishan Kumar
Dr. Mamta Gupta
Dr. Deep Mohan Mahala
Dr. Romen P. Sharma
Dr. Alok Sahoo
Dr. Bahadur Singh Jat
Dr. Mukesh Choudhary

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Dr. H.S. Jat, Director
ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research
Ladhowal, Ludhiana

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Village Chahar, Ladhowal, Ludhiana-141008
Phone: 0161-2440048, Fax: 0161-2430038

E-mail: pdmaize@gmail.com | director.maize@icar.gov.in
Website: www.iimr.icar.gov.in