

## ICAR Hosts 5-Day IP Awareness Programme to Boost Agricultural Innovation

The ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), organized a comprehensive five-day Intellectual Property (IP) Awareness Programme from January 16th to 23rd, 2025. This initiative aimed to enhance the understanding of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) among scientists, researchers, and employees from various ICAR crop science institutes. The programme was designed to equip stakeholders with the knowledge needed to protect their innovations and foster a culture of research and development in agriculture.



The inaugural session, held on January 16th, was chaired by Dr. Cherukumalli Srinivasa Rao, Director of IARI. Dr. Rao emphasized the crucial role of intellectual property in agriculture, noting that securing IPR is vital for protecting innovative solutions and encouraging further research. He also commended IARI and IIMR for organizing the event, calling it a significant step toward raising awareness of IPR within the agricultural sector. Over 340 participants from various ICAR institutions attended the first session.

The five-day programme covered various aspects of IPR, including Trademarks, Patents, Copyrights, the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act (PPVFRA) and Technology Licensing. These sessions were designed specifically for agricultural scientists and researchers, providing them with practical knowledge on how IPR can support innovation, foster business growth and strengthen the agricultural sector. The discussions also included practical advice on navigating the complexities of IP protection, from filing patents to managing technology transfer. Participants gained valuable insights into how they can use IPR to safeguard their research, collaborate with industry partners and bring innovations to market.

By the end of the programme, attendees were better equipped to apply these concepts in their own work, ultimately enhancing the impact of their agricultural innovations.