

Agripreneurship Development Program on Hybrid Seed Production of Vegetable Crops Concluded at ICAR-IARI

The Zonal Technology Management & Business Planning and Development (ZTM & BPD) Unit, in collaboration with the Division of Vegetable Science, ICAR-IARI, successfully organized a week-long Agripreneurship Development Program (ADP) - 'Entrepreneurship Development through Hybrid Seed Production of Vegetable Crops' from 6th to 11th October 2025.



The program officially commenced on 6th October 2025 at the ZTM & BPD Unit conference hall. The inaugural session was graced by the presence of Dr. B. S. Tomar, Head, Division of Vegetable Science, ICAR-IARI; Dr. Gograj Singh Jat, Senior Scientist and Dr. Akriti Sharma, In-Charge, ZTM & BPD Unit along with other eminent scientists from IARI. During the session, a specially curated manual outlining key concepts of hybrid seed production and agripreneurship was released to guide participants throughout the training.

The primary objective of the program was to build capacity and promote entrepreneurship in the field of hybrid seed production of vegetable crops - an area that holds immense potential for agri-startups and rural enterprises. The training provided an integrated approach, combining theoretical knowledge with practical exposure to ensure comprehensive learning.



Over the course of six days, the participants were engaged in detailed sessions covering a wide array of topics. These included an overview of recent vegetable varieties and technologies, principles and techniques of hybrid seed production, legislative frameworks governing seed quality regulation in India and business strategies for starting a vegetable seed enterprise. Specific technical sessions focused on hybrid seed production techniques for key crops such as tomato, okra, brinjal, chilli, bottle gourd, cucumber, bitter gourd and muskmelon. Participants also received hands-on training on seed processing for quality upgradation, packaging, storage and seed quality testing in vegetable crops.



To enhance practical understanding, participants were taken to experimental farms for field visits and real-time demonstrations of hybrid seed production techniques. A highlight of the training was the industrial exposure visit to Acsen AgriScience in Gurugram, a leading seed production company, where participants observed large-scale seed production processes, quality control measures and commercial operations.



The program concluded with a valedictory session held on 11th October 2025 at the ZTM & BPD Unit. The session was presided over by Dr. Sudhakar Pandey, Assistant Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), who served as the Chief Guest.



In his address, Dr. Pandey appreciated the efforts of ICAR-IARI in fostering agripreneurship and emphasized the growing importance of hybrid seed production in addressing food and nutritional security. Participants expressed their appreciation for the knowledge-rich sessions, interactive format and practical exposure provided during the training. They also acknowledged the relevance of such programs in empowering youth and aspiring entrepreneurs in the agri-business sector.