

## **International hands-on training on quality rice seed production-2014**

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Manila, Philippines in collaboration with Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, India, ICAR-Directorate of Seed Research (DSR), Mau, India and National Seed Research and Technology Centre (NSRTC), Varanasi, India, organized joint training programme entitled ***“International hands-on training on quality rice seed production”*** at Institute of Agricultural Science(IAS), BHU, Varanasi, India from 06<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> October, 2014.

The aim of the training was to improve the technical skills of researchers and trainees in quality seed production and discussions with special emphasis on seed production problems encountered by farmers, researchers and other stake holders. The training included a series of lectures, delivered by eminent scientists and experts on varied topics on seed production, quality control, and new innovations in seed research, post-harvest technologies, and storage related aspects pertaining to quality control mechanisms in quality rice seed production system.

Thirty participants from seven South East Asia (Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines, Laos, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia and Myanmar) and three South Asian (Bangladesh, India and Nepal) countries attended the training. Participants were exposed to a two-day rigorous hands-on training and modalities in nursery bed preparation, seed cleaning, field preparation, transplanting, rouging etc. Dr. R. K. Singh, Senior Scientist, IRRI and training coordinator, Dr. P.K. Singh, professor, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, BHU demonstrated techniques related with panicle selection, emasculation, tagging and bagging. Participants also visited the seed processing unit of the university and apprised about seed processing techniques.

The team visited the demonstration field and various laboratories at ICAR-Directorate of Seed Research for an overview of seed management activities and technologies involved in rice seed production. Despite the use of modern production technologies it is still a great challenge to bridge the yield gap as average yield lies much below the attainable yield of rice varieties in the region. The seed being the basic input in agriculture, good quality seed alone can increase grain yield by 5-20 %. Prof. R. P. Singh, Director, IAS-BHU in opening remarks mentioned about importance of quality seed in enhancing rice productivity, it is important to ensure the purity of seed and availability of quality seed to cater the growing demand and increase the rice production. Optimization of water management technologies is also important to harness the potentials of high yielding rice varieties. Dr. U.S. Singh, Senior Scientist, IRRI applauded the contribution of BHU in rice research and thanked the University for providing valuable support to conduct the training.

Dr. Mukesh Gautam, Managing Director, Uttar Pradesh Seed Development Corporation, distributed certificates to the participants at the end of the training and further emphasized upon role of quality seed and seed replacement rate in increasing productivity of rice in Uttar Pradesh.

The training was concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Manzoor Hussain Dar, Senior Associate Scientist, IRRI. Among the dignitaries who attended the event were Dr. S. Rajendra Prasad, Project Director, ICA-DSR, Mau (UP), Dr. R.K. Trivedi, Director, NSRTC, Varanasi, and Deputy Commissioner for Quality Control, MoA, New Delhi and Dr. A. Vaishmapayan, Dean, IAS-BHU. The training on quality rice seed production was supported by STRASA, CURE, GRISP, IRRI, BHU, and Trukai Industries Ltd, Papua New Guinea.

