

ICAR-NCIPM organized Farmers' Field School (FFS) on Rice IPM at Nidana, Rohtak, Haryana

Rice team of ICAR-NCIPM organized "Farmers' field school cum scientist-farmer interaction meeting" on 24th September 2022 at Nidana village of Rohtak district of Haryana. Despite continuous rain >50 farmers participated in the programme. The programme started with the welcome of the Director, ICAR-NCIPM, Dr. Subhash Chander by rice farmers of the village followed by welcome address by Mr. SP Singh, Chief Technical Officer. Dr Anoop Kumar, Principal Investigator of Basmati Rice IPM Project, apprised about the IPM validation programme which is being implemented in 300 acres with participation of 25 farmers, highlighting baseline information of the village, pest scenario of rice and the IPM strategy adopted to manage the pest problems for residue free rice production. Dr. M K Khokhar, Scientist, Plant Pathology explained about different rice diseases, their symptoms and management.

Farmers namely Mr. Gaurav and Mainpal provided their feedback, briefed the Director, NCIPM about the benefits of IPM programme and requested him to continue the programme in whole village for few more years. Various queries raised by the farmers were addressed by the NCIPM team. Dr. Subhash Chander, Director, ICAR-NCIPM addressed the farmers and shared his valuable thoughts. He stressed upon enhancing farmers' income by preventing avoidable losses caused by biotic stresses and their management using IPM, thereby saving expenditure on unwarranted pesticide applications and reducing cost of production. He also explained different aspects of IPM and emphasized on importance of timely IPM interventions to ensure effective pest suppression and higher crop productivity. He assured the farmers of all sorts of technical guidance and continuance of IPM activity in the village. He also apprised the farmers about the recently emerged dwarfing disease of rice. The programme was concluded with the formal vote of thanks followed by visits to rice fields by the Director along with scientists. During field visit no incidence of dwarfing disease was noticed.

