

ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research
Rajendranagar mandal, Hyderabad, Telangana 500030

National Consultation & Industry Meet on Smart Seed Systems and Oilseed Innovations for Yield Gains

A National Consultation and Industry Meet on “Smart Seed Systems and Oilseed Innovations for Yield Gains” was convened on 28 January 2026 at the ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (IIOR), Hyderabad, under the chairmanship of Dr. R. K. Mathur, Director, ICAR-IIOR. Dr. Praveen Kumar Singh, Agricultural Commissioner, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, graced the programme as Chief Guest, while Dr. S. K. Rao, Former Vice-Chancellor, RVSKV and Chairman, Research Advisory Committee (RAC), IIOR, participated as Special Guest. The meet was attended by distinguished dignitaries including Shri Anup K. G., Managing Director, Karnataka State Seeds Corporation Ltd.; Dr. A. Kiran Kumar, Managing Director, Telangana State Seed and Organic Certification Authority; Dr. K. S. Varaprasad, Director (Research), RySS Academy and Former Director, IIOR; Shri A. Praveen Reddy, President, MCRCMS Cooperative; Dr. G. N. V. Rama Krishna, President, Seed Manufacturers Association, Hyderabad; Dr. R. Ganapathy, General Manager, NABARD, Hyderabad; Shri Ramesh Kolath, Chief Executive Officer, IOPEPC, Mumbai; Dr. A. Vishwakarma, Project Coordinator (Seeds & Nuts), ICAR; Dr. O. P. Sharma, Director (PHM), NIPHM; Dr. (Mrs) C. Tara Satyavathi, Director, IIMR, Hyderabad; and Dr. Y. G. Prasad, Director (Incumbent), Agri Biotech Foundation, Rajendranagar, along with representatives from ICAR institutes, seed corporations, industry, FPOs, and seed certification agencies.

The programme included technical presentations on oilseed varieties and hybrids developed by ICAR-IIOR and recent advances in microbial and biopolymer-based seed technologies for enhancing seed quality, germination, vigour, shelf life, and sustainability. Deliberations focused on strengthening smart seed systems through industry-research collaboration, breeder seed production, improved storage and seed treatment technologies, cluster-based approaches, and public-private partnerships to bridge yield gaps and improve farmer profitability. Industry representatives expressed keen interest in biopolymer-based seed technologies due to their effectiveness, cost efficiency, and scalability. In his address, Dr. Praveen Kumar Singh emphasized a One Health Approach, adoption of climate-resilient varieties, sustainable technology guidelines, and supportive policy frameworks for innovations such as seed coating. The programme concluded with thematic breakout sessions on Biologicals and Oilseed Varieties and Hybrids.