Proceedings of the Three-Day Visit to IRRI-ISARC and BHU by UPCAR Delegation

Uttar Pradesh Council of Agricultural Research (UPCAR), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

International Rice Research Institute, South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Date of Visit: 5th -7th October, 2025

Delegation Members:

- Dr. Sanjay Singh, Director General, UPCAR
- Dr. Rajarshi Gaur, Deputy Director General, UPCAR
- Dr. Rinni Singh, Scientific Officer, UPCAR

Day 1

PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION BY DIRECTOR GENERAL, UPCAR IN THE DSR CONCLAVE 2025, IRRI, VARANASI

A delegation from the Uttar Pradesh Council of Agricultural Research (UPCAR), led by Director General Dr. Sanjay Singh, attended a three-day Global Workshop on Direct Seeded Rice Research at the International Rice Research Institute, South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, from October 5-7, 2025, as distinguished guests.

On the conclave platform, Director General, UPCAR presented his special remarks on the "Direct Seeded Rice" technology: Progress, Vision, and Policy Pathways for Large-scale adoption. He discussed for the benefit of target audience-farmers, that Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) is an advanced rice cultivation technique where seeds are sown directly into the field either by dry, wet, or water-seeding methods, eliminating the need for nursery raising and transplanting. As agriculture continues to face the challenges on the front lines of climate change, direct-seeded rice (DSR) offers numerous benefits to the farmers, saving water and labor, reducing production costs, reducing methane emissions, and increasing agricultural profitability compared to traditional puddled transplanting. DSR promotes early crop maturity, improves soil health by minimizing puddling-induced degradation, and facilitates timely sowing of succeeding crops. However, effective weed management, proper seedbed preparation, and moisture control are crucial for achieving high productivity under DSR systems. Finally, Director General congratulated team ISARC for organizing the conclave and that this congregation will serve as a platform to share knowledge, shape enabling policies, explore business opportunities, and chart a collaborative roadmap for making DSR a global success story.

2 PRESENCE OF HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, UTTAR PRADESH, SHRI YOGI ADITYANATH, CHIEF GUEST COMMEMORATING - 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, UTTAR PRADESH.

The second day featured the session to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Department of Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh. On this occasion, Hon'ble Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath unveiled innovative agricultural mechanization equipment and knowledge production designed to empower farmers and modernize agricultural practices across the state. He distributed quality seeds to the participating farmers as a step towards boosting inclusive growth of the agricultural sector in the state of Uttar Pradesh. He also emphasized on the profound growth of the sector from the past 11 years. He emphasized the importance of initiatives such as seed parks, climate-resilient varieties, and farmer capacity building and also mentioned regarding the establishment of more seed park under consideration for the state.

The session, themed "Exploring Pathways for Making Uttar Pradesh the Global Food Basket by 2030," underscored the State's vision to transform agriculture through sustainable, climate-smart, and technology-driven practices.

The DSR Conclave 2025 established as a platform for policymakers, scientists, and industry leaders to explore actionable pathways for resilient, inclusive, and climate-smart agricultural development in Uttar Pradesh and beyond.

03

VISIT TO THE INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, and DEPARTMENT OF DAIRY SCIENCE AND FOOD TECHNOLOGY, BHU

Team from Uttar Pradesh Council of Agricultural Research (UPCAR), led by Director General Dr. Sanjay Singh, reviewed the experimental field under the UPCAR sponsored project " Morpho-Molecular Characterization, Evaluation and Utilization of Landraces Finger Millets (Eleusine coracana)" under the PI, Dr. P. K Singh, Professor, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Uttar Pradesh. Additionally discussions regarding the UPCAR-sponsored Millet (Shri Anna) National Conference on "Innovative Approaches for Millets Improvement" to be organized during 7-8th November 2025, were also undertaken.

Director General, UPCAR, along with his team, visited the Department of Dairy Science and Food Technology, emphasizing the importance of research driven growth of the dairy science sector to boost productivity and quality yield of the dairy-based products. Additionally, need for synchronized efforts to strengthen the food technology industry in line with the efforts by the state government. A discussion was also held on future collaboration with UPCAR to promote milk production and dairy products in Uttar Pradesh.

The team emphasized for future collaborations with UPCAR through projects and conferences for translational impact driven research keeping in view the societal benefit.

MAJOR FOCUS AREAS FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION

Discussions during the visit identified the following areas of strategic collaboration:

- Promotion of Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) technology for water-saving, cost-effective, and climate-resilient rice cultivation.
- Advancement of climate-smart and technology-driven agriculture to make Uttar Pradesh a global food hub by 2030.
- Strengthening millet (Shri Anna) production and research through collaborative programs.
- Promotion of dairy sector development and value-added dairy products for farmer income enhancement.
- Improvement of food technology and quality standards through research partnerships and innovation.

CONCLUSION

The three-day visit to Global Workshop on Direct Seeded Rice and to various institutional/ departments at BHU, concluded on emphasizing innovations like Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), climate-resilient farming, and modern mechanization, the team highlighted support for sustainable, water-efficient, and profitable agricultural practices. The discussions on millets, development in dairy research, and food technology underscored UPCAR's commitment to value addition, farmer empowerment, and research-driven growth. These initiatives collectively aim to modernize and promote agriculture in Uttar Pradesh towards a climate-smart and globally competitive future.