

ICAR-CCRI Conducts Training Programme for Citrus Farmers of Sitamarhi District of Bihar

A three day training program is being organized by ICAR-Central Citrus Research Institute (CCRI), Nagpur during 29-31st August, 2024 in the institute for citrus growers of Sitamarhi district, Bihar. A total of 25 trainees under guidance of Mr. R.D Chourasia, BTM, ATMA, Sitamarhi are participating in the program. The program was inaugurated on 29th August by Dr. Dilip Ghosh, Director, ICAR-CCRI, Nagpur who briefed the trainees about the different varieties of lime and lemons available in the country and selecting the right flowering time to obtain a good production of *Hasta Bahar* fruit during month of April which fetches high market price. Dr. Ghosh urged the trainees to form FPOs to reap maximum benefits of government schemes. The Chief Guest of the program, Dr. Harihar H. Kausadikar, Director (Research and Extension Education), Maharashtra Council of Agricultural Education and Research, Pune encouraged the farmers to adopt scientific package of practices for acid lime cultivation and procure planting materials only from certified nurseries. In the technical sessions, scientists from ICAR-CCRI guided farmers on various important aspects of citrus cultivation. Dr. Darshan Kadam guided farmers on Acid Lime Nursery and Orchard Establishment and Complete Package of Practices, Dr. Thirugnanavel introduced the farmers to different varieties of limes and lemons and their distinguishing features, Dr. N.M. Meshram guided farmers about the control measures of various insect pests which attack acid lime plants. The farmers also visited the nursery and experimental blocks of acid lime and lemons in the institute. In upcoming program, Dr. A.K Das will be dealing in details with the aspect of Disease management of Acid Lime and Dr. S.S Roy will be conducting an Entrepreneurship Development Program on Acid Lime Production and Processing. Dr. Sangeeta Bhattacharyya was the training coordinator from ICAR-CCRI, Nagpur. Technical Bulletins on “*Production Technologies of Acid Lime*” and “*Pocket Diary of Citrus Diseases and Insect Pests*” were distributed to farmers. The program will also include insect pest identification, Bordeaux mixture preparation and demonstration of pesticide spraying through drone and an off-campus exposure visit of the trainees to orchards of progressive citrus growers of Wardha district.

