

**Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia**

# PRESS RELEASE

**Better infrastructure for storage, local production and farmers' awareness needed to enhance the seed supply chain in eastern India**

Patna, 14 May, 2014

Proper infrastructure and storage to maintain seed quality, local production and sale to ensure timely availability, better extension services and more demonstrations to increase farmers' awareness will help enhance the seed supply chain in eastern India, said Dr. Sain Dass, President, Indian Maize Development Association and Consultant, National Seed Corporation.

Addressing a meeting entitled '**Seed Summit for Enhancing the Seed Supply Chain in Eastern India**', organized by the Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) (an initiative funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), at the Hotel Maurya in Patna, he talked about the seed scenario in eastern India.

In recent decades, a large number of rice and wheat varieties have been released in India. These cultivars have the capacity to significantly increase agricultural productivity and reduce rural poverty in eastern India. However, most small-scale and poor farmers in eastern India do not have access to new generations of modern rice and wheat varieties that can tolerate flooding or are resistant to pests and diseases, and give higher yields.

Dr. Takashi Yamano, Senior Scientist and Agricultural Economist, CSISA and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines, said, "Seed Summit has brought together key players from the government, research and private sector to discuss and design actionable solutions that will improve the delivery of improved rice and wheat varieties to farmers."

He highlighted, "The summit will include discussions on expanding the role of agricultural extension and advisory services in promoting better varieties, how to leverage civil society—farmers' association, community groups, and non-governmental organizations — to help promote new varieties."

Dr. David Spielman, Senior Research Fellow, CSISA and International Food Policy Research Institute, U.S.A., said, "India is the fifth largest seed market in the world, growing at 12 percent annually." He underscored the gaps in the policy environment of India's seed market and how public and private sectors need to work together for farmers' benefits.

"There is a need for better decision-making tools – better data, information, and analysis, at a strategic level to improve seed systems and markets in Asia. Greater investments in the research systems, and improved market surveillance to identify and prosecute fraudulent seed production and marketing, are also required," Dr. Spielman added.

The Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) promotes durable change at scale in South Asia's cereal-based cropping systems. Working with partners in the public and private sectors, CSISA develops and works to extend knowledge of improved cropping systems, cereal varieties and hybrids, livestock feeding strategies, policies and markets. CSISA is committed to supporting national and local

efforts to expand and improve the region's seed supply chain.

For more information, please contact

Anuradha Dhar, [a.dhar@cgiar.org](mailto:a.dhar@cgiar.org), 08377004292

Sugandha Munshi, [s.munshi@irri.org](mailto:s.munshi@irri.org), 8002686617

**[www.csisa.org](http://www.csisa.org)**