

ICAR-Indian institute of Rice Research

The Hyderabad-based ICAR–Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR) celebrated Farmers’ Day on November 7, 2025, at its Rajendranagar campus. The event witnessed the active participation of around 400 farmers from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab, and Karnataka.

As part of the programme, a field visit was organized to familiarize farmers with improved rice production technologies and management practices. Farmers expressed interest in the cultivation of IIRR released cultivars like DRR Dhan 48, 60 and 79 and greatly appreciated DRR Dhan 87, a new high yielding variety in the pipeline soon to be released and notified. An exhibition showcasing various IIRR technologies was also arranged for the benefit of the participants.

In his welcome address, Dr. R. Meenakshi Sundaram, Director, IIRR, highlighted the institute’s commitment to advancing rice research for the welfare of farming communities. Dr. R. Mahendra Kumar, Principal Scientist and Head, Crop Production, briefed the audience on the major achievements of the institute.

The Guests of Honour included Smt. Jayasree, CEO, Prakriti Environment Society (PES), Hyderabad, and Sri S. Jaipal Reddy, President, Telangana State FPO Association, Mahabubabad. Smt. Jayasree, in her address, emphasized the importance of effectively utilizing government schemes and available services to enhance farmers’ livelihoods. Sri Jaipal Reddy appreciated the high-yielding varieties and technologies developed by IIRR and stressed the need to focus on breeding pest- and disease-resistant varieties.

Dr. Sheikh N. Meera, Director, ATARI Zone X, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He highlighted the significant technologies developed by IIRR and advised farmers to adopt them efficiently to reduce the cost of cultivation. He also spoke about the use of biochar in rice, certification for natural farming products, and alternative uses of rice and its by-products.

On this occasion, a Telugu publication on detailed rice production technologies and improved management practices were released.

Several progressive farmers were felicitated for their outstanding contributions to the farming community. The programme was convened by Drs R Mahendra Kumar, MS Prasad and Amtul Waris and hosted by Drs CH Padmavathi and Jyothi Badri

