

All India Coordinated Research Project on Rapeseed-Mustard
26th Annual Group Meeting
Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi
August 3-5, 2019

26th Annual Group Meeting of Rapeseed-Mustard Research Workers held at Birsa Agricultural University, Kanke, Ranchi during August 3-5, 2019. Number of dignitaries from ICAR, SAU's, Departments of Agriculture, Govt. of India and States participated on this important meeting.

BAU session to increase rapeseed production in state

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Ranchi: Birsa Agriculture University (BAU) is hosting a three-day 26th Annual Group Meet of ICAR — All India Coordinated Research Project on Rapeseed-Mustard from Saturday. During the meet, 140 scientists from different agricultural universities and research institutes discussed the ways and means of increasing production, productivity, quality and area under rapeseed-mustard cultivation.

Jharkhand leads the country in rapeseed-mustard production. While rapeseed mustard contributes 25% of the national basket of oilseeds, in Jharkhand, 79% of the oilseed produced is rapeseed-mustard, indicating that the state has a substantial contribution to the national oilseed basket.

However, the productivity of rapeseed mustard in the state is as low as 725kg per hectare which is half the national average. The low productivity of rapeseed-mustard in the state is attributed to lack of availability of suitable varieties, lack of irrigation facilities, rain-fed farming, use of unbalanced fertilisers, delayed sowing among others. In the majority part of the state, rapeseed-mustard is grown as a mixed crop with pea, wheat or chickpea.

Rapeseed-mustard is one of the most important oilseed crops among the seven edible oilseeds viz, soybean, groundnut, Sunflower, Mustard,



26th Annual Group Meet of ICAR in progress at BAU

was cultivated in 6.02 million hectare with a production of 7.98 million tonne during 2017-18. Productivity of rapeseed-mustard at the national level is approximately 1,300kg per hectare while at the world level, the productivity is as high as 2,000kg per hectare.

Public relation officer at BAU, Pankaj Vatsal said the scientists would try to find the reasons and a solution for this huge gap in productivity. "As against 2,000kg per hectare, if Jharkhand produces only 725kg per hectare, there is a huge scope to increase the overall production without increasing a single inch of land under rapeseed-mustard cultivation," he said adding, efforts would also be made to bring more area under rapeseed-mustard cultivation.

"Against the total domestic demand of 25.88 million tonne of vegetable oils, India is able to meet hardly 10.52Mt (40%) through its domestic production, the rest 15.35Mt (59.31%) is met through imports. An expenditure of \$75