

**Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela 2023**  
**ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi**

- Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela (PKVM) 2023 of ICAR-IARI, New Delhi will be organized during March 2-4, 2023. The theme of the mela has been aptly kept as “*Nutritional, Food and Environmental Security through Millets*”, as the United Nations’ General Assembly has declared 2023 as the ‘International Year of Millets’ with India’s consistent pursuance to make millets a global food. The millets have been an integral part of Indian agriculture, food systems, culture and civilization since ancient times. Millets hold immense potential to ensure nutritional security and to make the food systems climate resilient.
- Earlier in 2018, India celebrated the National Year of Millets and the government has emphasized to popularize millets in global kitchen.
- The Hon’ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar Ji will be the Chief Guest of the inaugural function. Sh. Kailash Chaudhary Ji and Sushree Shobha Karandlaje Ji, Hon’ble Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare will be the Guests of Honour during the event.
- Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR will preside over the inaugural session. The other senior officials of the council and IARI will also grace the occasion.
- The main attractions of the PKVM this year will be:
  - a. Technical sessions on important and contemporary issues in agriculture, which will have imminent speakers from both research institutions as well as private organizations
    - Development of millet-based value chains
    - Precision farming & Protected Cultivation
    - Climate-resilient and regenerative agriculture
    - Agricultural Marketing & Export
    - Farmers' Innovations – Prospects and Problems
    - Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) – Startup linkage
  - b. Thematic exhibitions of the salient technologies
    - Stalls of research institutions, start-ups and entrepreneurs
    - Millet based stalls for education of the people about the different types of millets, their cultivation practices, value addition, and nutritional significance
    - Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad as well as VPKAS, Almora; CAZRI, Jodhpur and SKN Agricultural university, Jobner; who have been engaged in millets research will participate in the mela.
    - Agri-Startups and especially millets-based start-ups will put their stalls. It will motivate the youth to take up start-ups as source of livelihoods.
  - c. Live demonstrations of important varieties of wheat, mustard, chick pea, vegetables, flowers and fruits
  - d. Live webcast of the mela for the benefit of distant farmers and end users

- e. Sale of seeds of IARI varieties of paddy. Special arrangements have been made for helping the farmers to carry the purchased seeds from mela ground to IARI gates free of cost. Farmers often carried seeds on their shoulders or head.
- f. Stalls of farmer entrepreneurs, input agencies
- g. Kisan consultancy stall will help in on the spot diagnostics and solutions to the farmers.
- h. Recognition of farmers as IARI-Innovative farmers (36); IARI-Fellow farmers (5); Life Time Achievement (1).
- i. Innovative farmers meet will facilitate cross-learning among the farmers.
- j. The following varieties and technologies will be displayed in the mela:
  - Wheat varieties including HD 3406, HD 3407, which have resistance to leaf stem- and stripe- rusts;
  - HD 3411 for timely sown irrigated conditions
  - HD 3369, HI 1650 (*Pusa Ojaswi*), HI 1653 (*Pusa Jagrati*), HI 1654 (*Pusa Aditi*), HI 1655 (*Pusa Harsha*), HI 8826 (*Pusa Poshtik*) and HI 8830 (*Pusa Kirti*) developed for various agro-ecologies
  - Herbicide (Imazethapyr) tolerant rice varieties i.e., *Pusa Basmati 1979* and *Pusa Basmati 1985*
  - In chickpea, *Pusa JG-16* - a drought tolerant variety for drylands
  - *Pusa Mustard-34* - a single zero high yielding variety with low erucic acid (0.79%)
  - Biofortified pearl millet lines viz., PPMI 1280, PPMI 1281, PPMI 1283, and PPMI 1284 (with high iron and zinc content)
  - Besides these varieties, two varieties of Rose (*Pusa Lakshmi* and *Pusa Bhargava*); Marigold (*Pusa Parv* and *Pusa Utsav*); Gladiolus (*Pusa Rajat*); Chrysanthemum (*Pusa Lohit*) and Bougainvillea (*Pusa Akansha*) were released during the year.
  - In Fruits, two soft-seeded Guava varieties, *Pusa Aarushi* and *Pusa Pratiksha* with red and white pulp, respectively; agynodioecious, semi-dwarf papaya variety *Pusa Peet*
  - High-yielding vegetable varieties like *Pusa Krishna* of brinjal for Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra was released with a yield potential of 42.5 tons/ha, its fruits are medium and suitable for stuff making. *Pusa Prateek* of carrot was released for Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry with an average yield potential of 33.5 tons/ha, suitable for early harvesting, roots are uniform and medium size. Tomato hybrid, *Pusa ToLCV Hybrid-6* is the first tomato hybrid resistant to Tomato Leaf Curl New Delhi Virus released from IARI, New Delhi with a yield potential of 70.0 tons/ha. These varieties/hybrids were identified by All India Coordinated Research Project on Vegetable Crops. Red cabbage hybrid, *Pusa Red Cabbage Hybrid-1*, cauliflower, *Pusa Snowball Hybrid-2* and capsicum, *Pusa Capsicum- 1* were also released for high yield potential
  - Among farming systems, the integrated farming system model which includes (Crop + Dairy + Fishery + Poultry + Duckery + Apiary + Boundary Plantation + Biogas

unit + Vermi-compost) was found to be the most profitable with a net income generation of Rs 4.2 lakh/ year/ha.

- Microbial technology of *PUSA Decomposer*, an environment-friendly solution for the management of paddy straw, has been licensed to 24 private firms.
- On-site diagnosis kit for the pathogen detection for Chilli leaf curl virus and bakanae disease
- *Pusa Samachar*, a weekly programme started by IARI on YouTube, to disseminate the IARI technologies, where-in the latest technologies and season-wise advisories are communicated to the farmers and other stakeholders, in Hindi and other regional languages like Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, Bangla, and Oriya.
- A dedicated *Pusa WhatsApp number* (9560297502) has been launched for farmers' queries regarding their problems related to agriculture, which are addressed promptly by the team of experts. At present, there are 31,000 subscribers to the IARI YouTube Channel with a total viewership of more than 9 lakhs.
- Science-based innovations in agricultural research, education, and extension, to address the challenges of Indian agriculture, is the primary motto of the Institute. The institute is committed to enhancing farmers' income through the development of appropriate technologies to promote eco-friendly and sustainable agriculture, harmless to man, land and environment.