

## ICAR-CSSRI Organized *Kharif* Kisan Goshthi and Paddy Seed Distribution Programme Under Farmer FIRST Project

On 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, In an effort to boost agriculture productivity and promote sustainable farming practices, the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI) led Farmer FIRST Project organized a Kisan Goshthi cum Seed Distribution Programme at village Kathura in Sonipat District of Haryana. About 130 farmers participated in the programme and seed of improved paddy varieties (PB 1847, PB 1885, PB 1886, PB 1121, PB 1718, PB 1509, PB 1692, CSR 30 and CSR 56) were distributed amongst them. Dr. Rajkumar, the Principal Investigator (PI) of the Farmer FIRST Project, discussed the characteristics of the improved rice varieties with the farmers. He told farmers about the importance of raising healthy and disease-free nursery using improved rice varieties seeds of good quality for better crop establishment and higher yields. He emphasized the importance of using quality seeds and following recommended practices like crop rotation, soil testing, and proper irrigation to achieve higher yields. Er. Mukesh Kumar Mehla (Senior Research Fellow, FFP) told farmers about resource-efficient technologies like Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) and System of Rice Intensification (SRI). Adopting such technologies can reduce the use of water and fertilizers, leading to cost savings for farmers and promoting sustainable rice cultivation. Additionally, these technologies can also improve soil health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to environmental sustainability.

Dr. Rajkumar and the team members also visited field of guava farmer where good varieties of guava plants were established through the project. He told farmers about important of timely training and pruning of crop for better growth and yield. *Kharif* Kisan Goshthi is a vital part of the Farmer FIRST Project's efforts to promote sustainable agriculture and increase farmer incomes. The project aims to provide farmers with access to the latest farming techniques, innovations, and technologies. By distributing quality seeds and promoting sustainable farming practices, the project is helping farmers increase their productivity and income.

