

## ICAR-CSSRI Organized Paddy Seed Distribution Programme Under Farmer FIRST Project

On the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI) led Farmer FIRST Project team, MGMG (Team No. 6) & under SCSP schemes organized a quality seed distribution programme at Kathwar and Sapan Kheri villages of Kaithal district, Haryana. In this programme around 50 farmers participated and took benefit of quality seeds of improved paddy varieties (PB 1847, PB 1885, PB 1886, PB 1121, PB 1718, PB 1509, PB 1692, CSR 30 and CSR 56) and guidance from CSSRI experts. Principal Investigator (PI) of the Farmer FIRST Project & MGMG Team Leader, Dr. Rajkumar advised the farmers



about steps to boost agriculture productivity and encouraged them to follow sustainable farming practices. Dr. Rajkumar advised farmers to follow recommended practices that encompass various aspects of crop management from soil preparation, seed selection, planting techniques, irrigation methods, pest and disease management. By adhering to these recommendations, farmers can enhance productivity, minimize losses, and promote sustainable rice cultivation. Farmers were encouraged to plow the land to a suitable depth, ensuring proper aeration and water drainage, incorporating organic matter into the soil which can improve its fertility and structure. Additionally, farmers were advised to conduct soil tests to determine the nutrient availability, allowing them to apply appropriate fertilizers and soil amendments accordingly. Er. Mukesh Kumar Mehla (SRF) emphasized the significance of using high-quality seeds for establishing disease free healthy nursery, which ensures uniform germination, vigorous crop growth, and consistent grain quality. It was also advised to use seed treatment techniques to protect against seed-borne diseases and pests. He told farmers about importance of effective irrigation practices which is crucial for paddy cultivation, as rice plants require ample water for healthy development. Farmers were advised to maintain proper water levels throughout different growth stages of the crop. Using techniques such as alternate wetting and drying (AWD) or system of rice intensification (SRI) to optimize water usage and minimize water losses. Adequate drainage is also important to prevent waterlogging, which can lead to root damage and the growth of pests and diseases.

