

## **EU Delegation Visits ICAR-IARI**

**12-9-2025**

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi hosted the delegation European Commissioner for Agriculture and Food at ICAR-IARI, New Delhi on the 12th September 2025. The European Union delegation on Agriculture and Food was led by Mr Christophe HANSEN, EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Food and the members Ms. Catherine Combette, Head of Unit, DG Agriculture; Ms. Maud Feuillet, Policy Officer, DG Agriculture; Mr. Pawel Stachowiak, Counsellor, EU Delegation to India; Akansha Bhushan, Trade Affairs Officer, EU Delegation to India. Dr. M L Jat, Secretary, DARE and DG (ICAR), chaired the meeting which was attended by Dr D K Yadava, DDG (Crop Sciences), ICAR; Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR- IARI, New Delhi; Shri Abhishek Dev, Chairman APEDA Dr. A K Singh, Former Director ICAR-IARI & Emeritus Scientist; Dr. Viswanathan C, Joint Director (Research), ICAR-IARI, New Delhi and members of ICAR-IARI, APEDA and the rice industry.

Dr ML Jat in his remarks emphasized the need to take care of people, plant and profit to move towards sustainability with Basmati rice as an example. While praising the Basmati rice researchers for their enormous contributions in reducing duration with improved yields, he emphasized on the needs for periodic updating of Basmati rice varieties owing to the best practices adopted in development, testing and release of new Basmati rice varieties in India so that the small-scale farmers and the consumers can benefit as Basmati rice. He also talked about low carbon rice which is sustainably produced with lesser inputs as low carbon rice, and also the need for safe MRLs of pesticides rather than default limits or Codex levels without risking human health. The meeting ended with vote of thanks.

Mr. Christophe Hansen applauded the research efforts towards sustainable production of Basmati rice in India and briefed on the status of GI of Basmati rice, the inclusion of improved Basmati rice varieties in view of the free trade agreement and the negotiations on organic products on the basis of mutually agreed equivalence.

Dr DK Yadava, DDG (Crop Sciences), ICAR set the context with the brief on the items on the agenda for the meeting including the issue of listing of improved Basmati rice varieties, default MRLs of pesticide residues in EU, the overview of agricultural exports and the trade of organic products between EU and India.

Dr. Ch Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi welcomed the delegation and the participants and extended warm greetings to the delegates to the seat of green revolution and briefed the flagship role of ICAR-IARI in achieving food and nutritional security in India.

Dr Gopala Krishnan S, Head, Genetics presented an overview of the Basmati rice research, testing and evaluation at the national level and the improved Basmati rice varieties and the need for inclusion of the improved Basmati rice varieties as and when they are released and notified under the seed act, 1966 in the gazette by the Government of India in the listing and for duty exemption of these improved environment friendly Basmati rice varieties with inbuilt resistance to diseases, less water consumption and better profitability for the farmers. Mr. Abhishek Dev, Chairman, APEDA, presented the status of exports from India and highlighted the major issues in exports with EU including MRLs for pesticides and standards, the issue of GI for Basmati rice. Dr Saswati Bose, General for Organic Products (Regulatory), APEDA presented the National Policy on Organic Products and briefed the status of the

negotiations on the need for mutually recognition agreement between India and EU, followed by the discussions. Earlier, the team visited the Basmati rice fields, where it was showcased the demonstrations of Basmati rice varieties developed by ICAR-IARI,



**Source:** ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi