

## **ICAR-AICRP on Cotton, ICAR-CICR Organizes Farmer Training and Input Distribution Program for Farmers in Bhandara NAGPUR, MAHARASHTRA –**

ICAR-All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Cotton of the ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur, successfully organized a "Farmer Training cum Inputs Distribution Program" on June 10, 2026. The event, held at Lawada and Khapa Khurd villages in the Tumsar Taluka of Bhandara District. The program was conducted under the centrally sponsored Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) scheme.

The program was organized under the guidance of Dr. V. N. Waghmare, Director of ICAR-CICR Nagpur; and Dr. G. T. Behere, Nodal Officer of ICAR-AICRP on Cotton, ICAR-CICR Nagpur.

The event commenced with an opening address by the program coordinator, Dr. Deepak Nagrale, Senior Scientist (Plant Pathology). Dr. Nagrale detailed the various objectives and activities of the ICAR-AICRP on Cotton DAPST scheme, emphasizing its role in empowering Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities. He highlighted how the initiative is designed to help farmers adopt advanced agricultural techniques and sustainable farming practices to secure diverse long-term benefits.

As part of the initiative's tangible support, vegetable seed kits were distributed to the attending farmers to promote subsidiary livelihood opportunities. A total of 50 ST farmers from the beneficiary villages of Lawada and Khapa Khurd received these agricultural inputs.

The event was well-supported by several dignitaries and local officials, including Mr. Sujit Kumbhare (Technical Assistant, ICAR-CICR), who managed farmer registration and program coordination was done by Mr. Vedavyas K., Personal Assistant at ICAR-CICR Nagpur, Mr. Chetan Wasnik (Agriculture Assistant, Agriculture Department, Tumsar); and Shri Dipak Ghodichor (News Reporter). The program concluded successfully with a formal vote of thanks proposed by Mr. R.M. Ramteke (Senior Technical Assistant, ICAR-CICR);

