

PRESS RELEASE
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Bihar Hosts High-Level Dialogue on Accelerating Sustainable and Inclusive Agricultural Growth

21 May, Patna, Bihar: The Bihar Chamber of Commerce & Industries (BCCI), in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and BiharTimes Development Foundation convened a high-level Policy Dialogue on “Accelerating Sustainable and Inclusive Agricultural Growth in Bihar” in Patna today.

The event was graced by the Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, and brought together policymakers, economists, researchers, entrepreneurs, and farmers to deliberate strategies for strengthening Bihar’s rural economy through innovation, diversification, and evidence-based agricultural policy.

Underscoring Bihar’s deep agrarian roots and its potential to emerge as a model for inclusive growth, **Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar**, emphasized the government’s commitment to enhancing productivity and value addition in agriculture. “Bihar’s future lies in modernizing its agriculture, empowering its farmers, and ensuring that our policies reflect the needs of every farmer in every village. This dialogue is a step toward aligning innovation and investment for lasting rural prosperity”

Dr. Anjani Kumar, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI-South Asia, set the context for the dialogue and highlighted the importance of supporting smallholders through better value chains, financial access, and climate-resilient interventions. “Building on its recently signed MoU with the Government of Bihar, IFPRI aims to identify key research and development priorities aligned with the state’s agricultural transformation goals. This policy dialogue serves as a vital platform to surface critical challenges and perspectives from stakeholders across the agricultural ecosystem, ensuring that future interventions are both responsive and impactful”

Underscoring the significance of convening such a multi-stakeholder dialogue, **Shri Ajay Kumar, Editor BiharTimes Development Foundation**, noted that the collaboration between BiharTimes Foundation, IFPRI, and the Bihar Chamber of Commerce reflects a promising model of civil society engagement in shaping Bihar’s agricultural future. He emphasized that this is the most substantial dialogue held since the signing of the MoU between IFPRI and the Government of Bihar and marks a pivotal step forward in collective policy thinking. He also highlighted BiharTimes Development Foundation’s active role in advancing agricultural development through strategic interventions- most notably, a

collaborative study with IIT Delhi on soil and water systems, and pioneering efforts to integrate agroforestry into the state's agricultural roadmap.

The thematic panel discussion, chaired by **Dr. P. K. Joshi, President of Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA)**, covered a range of pressing issues including the role of integrated farm and non-farm systems in income generation, credit access for agricultural transformation, the significance of secondary agriculture, and insights into organic and natural farming from local practitioners.

Panelists including senior academicians, farmer leaders, and entrepreneurs shared insights on strengthening agricultural value chains, market linkages, and policies to empower women and youth in the agri-sector.

The policy dialogue reflects the state's growing momentum toward achieving the goals of the 4th Agriculture Roadmap (2023–2028), with the objective of aligning agricultural growth with employment generation, nutrition security, and inclusive economic development.



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About the organizers

IFPRI

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) provides research-based policy solutions to sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition. IFPRI's strategic research aims to identify and analyze alternative international and country-led strategies and policies for meeting food and nutrition needs in low- and middle-income countries, with particular emphasis on poor and vulnerable groups in those countries, gender equity, and sustainability. IFPRI is a research center of CGIAR, a worldwide partnership engaged in agricultural research for development. Visit the regional website at <http://southasia.ifpri.info/> for more information.

BiharTimes Development Foundation

The BiharTimes Development Foundation is a visionary non-profit organization committed to driving sustainable and inclusive development across Bihar. Founded with the mission to empower communities and foster progress through knowledge, innovation, and action. It serves as a catalyst for positive change in the region. Leveraging the power of information and community engagement, the Foundation works across key sectors such as education, healthcare, rural development, digital empowerment, and civic participation. For more information visit: <http://www.bihartimes.in/>

BCCI

Ever since its inception in 1926, Bihar Chamber of Commerce & Industries (BCCI) has shown a deep sense of responsibility towards the welfare of the entire society, even while giving voice to the aspirations of the business community. It successfully endeavoured to build a bridge between the government and the business community and ensured that a variety of skills and experience available with the private sector were channelised in the right direction, benefiting the entire society. In its bid to promote economic activities, the Chamber helped in the establishment of Magadh Stock Exchange at Patna. The Chamber has succeeded in building partnerships with the academic world to foster development of the economy. For more information visit: <http://www.biharchamber.org/>