



CSIR-CCMB's third annex campus at Bommaipalli village focuses on working with farmers

Bommaipalli, 8th October, 2026: CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB) now has a functioning Annex III campus at Bommaipalli village in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District, Telangana. Currently, 50 acres large, it uses part of the land for growing Super Rice varieties. These are various different rice varieties that are more resistant to infections and parasites as well as to high salinity and low phosphorus in soil.

For a first, CSIR-CCMB organised a Scientist Meet and Seed Distribution Programme for farmers at this new facility. More than 150 farmers, district administration, agricultural officials, local representatives, and over 100 CCMB scientists, administrators and officials attended the gathering. The programme brought together the community to promote the adoption of scientifically improved, high-yielding and climate-resilient crop varieties.

The programme was graced by Dr. Vinay K. Nandicoori, Director, CSIR-CCMB; Mr. A. Bhaskar Rao, IAS, Additional Collector; Mr. Ramana Reddy, District Agriculture Officer; Mr. Upendar Reddy, Administrative Officer/RDO; Smt. G. Srivani, Councillor, Bommaipalli; Dr. Hitendra K. Patel, Chief Scientist; Mr. Devidas Nikhar, Engineer; Mr. C. Shyam Sundar, CoA, CCMB; and Dr. Mohammed Idris, Chief Scientist, CSIR-CCMB.

Support from District Administration

Dr. Vinay Nandicoori expressed his sincere gratitude to the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri Collectorate and its officers for their support in facilitating the title transfer of the CSIR-CCMB land at Bommaipalli. He highlighted the significance of the Bommaipalli facility in the future expansion of CSIR-CCMB activities. He also noted that the expansion of scientific and research activities at the campus could create new opportunities in and around Bhongir, contributing to the socio-economic development of the region.

Focus on Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Agriculture

Addressing the gathering, Mr. A. Bhaskar Rao, IAS, Additional Collector, emphasised the importance of sustainable agriculture and the adoption of crop varieties capable of withstanding changing climatic conditions.

He highlighted the need to promote climate-resilient, high-yielding and diabetic-friendly crop varieties developed through scientific research. He urged farmers to adopt these improved varieties and benefit from advances in agricultural science.

Mr. Ramana Reddy, District Agriculture Officer, responded to the queries raised by farmers regarding the newly developed high-yielding varieties. He clarified their concerns and assured the farmers of the support of the District Administration in facilitating procurement of the produce.

Mr. Upendar Reddy, Administrative Officer/RDO, emphasised the importance of bringing scientific research closer to the farming community. He encouraged CSIR-CCMB scientists to continue

developing new and improved crop varieties that can address the challenges faced by farmers and contribute to sustainable agriculture.

A growing CSIR-CCMB and ICAR-IIRR Collaboration

Dr. Hitendra K. Patel, Chief Scientist, CSIR-CCMB, explained that the rice varieties are jointly developed with ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (ICAR-IIRR). He highlighted the characteristics and potential benefits of these varieties especially for a diabetes-prone population. He also emphasised the importance of translating scientific research into technologies and products that directly benefit farmers.

Seeds Distributed to More Than 150 Farmers

As part of the programme, rice seeds jointly developed by CSIR-CCMB and ICAR-IIRR were distributed to more than 150 farmers. The initiative aims to facilitate field-level adoption of improved varieties and strengthen the connection between scientific research and the farming community.

The programme provided an important platform for direct interaction between farmers and scientists, enabling farmers to understand the potential of new crop varieties while providing scientists with an opportunity to learn about the practical needs and challenges faced by the farming community.

Dr. Mohammed Idris, Chief Scientist, CSIR-CCMB, who is a key member of the team building the new campus expressed his gratitude to the district administration and agricultural officials for their continued support in enabling the work at the Bommaipally campus.

The programme concluded with a commitment to strengthen collaborative efforts towards climate-resilient agriculture, enhanced crop productivity, sustainable livelihoods and science-led rural development in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District and the surrounding region.



Figure 1: Farmers who attended the programme