

Farmers' conclave in Bihar

Honorable Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh, addressed farmers from across twenty-five villages in East Champaran in a *Krishi Goshthi* (farmers' conclave) event organized by Sehgal Foundation. About 509 farmers from more than 25 villages participated in the event. Shri Radha Mohan Singhji emphasized that for farmers' income to double by 2022, farmers must adopt integrated farming and new farm technologies. He acknowledged Sehgal Foundation and Bayer CropScience for working with farmers to increase their income. He appreciated the project's efforts for bridging the technology gap in agriculture and bringing scientists to farmers' fields.



Sehgal Foundation with support from Bayer India is implementing *Samagra Krishi* (holistic agriculture) project in twenty-five villages in East Champaran. The two-year project since December 2015 has benefited more than 4,178 farmers, trained so far on paddy cultivation, animal health management, soil health management, and farm mechanization. Dignitaries including Mr. Suhas Joshi, head, Corporate Social Responsibility, Bayer South Asia, and key officials from the government and industry associations released a project booklet featuring the interventions.

A social commitment project by Bayer India together with the S M Sehgal Foundation has helped many small and marginal farmers in Bihar. Farmers in Devirai Tola village used traditional bed nurseries in the open fields, which did not provide protection to the seedlings, and caused damage. Sanjay Bhagat came forward to try out a new technique of mini polytunnel (hi-tech nursery) proposed under the *Samagra Krishi* project. Seeing his success, other farmers also adopted the solution.