

## Director's message

It is indeed a privilege and an honor for me to write this message. Targeting development of scientific citrus farming and thereby contributing to the prosperity of citrus growers across India, the ICAR- Central Citrus Research Institute (ICAR-CCRI), Nagpur has come a long way in achieving several milestones in citrus research and technology development. Established in July, 1985 as a Regional Citrus Station under the umbrella of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, upgraded to the National Research Centre for Citrus in 1986, it was recognized as the ICAR-CCRI in 2014. In 2017, a Regional Research Centre for Citrus (RRCC) was established at Biswanath Chariali, Assam for catering to the North Eastern Hill region of India.



The journey of more than three decades has enabled ICAR-CCRI become a symbol of trust for farmers, industry, academia and other stakeholders in terms of research and development (R&D), extension and farm advisory services. The institute functions with the mandate of developing technologies for overall improvement of productivity and profitability of citrus farmers across India through twelve coordinating centres under the ICAR-AICRP (Fruits). With a dedicated multidisciplinary team of scientists and technical team, administrative and support staff, state-of-the-art laboratory infrastructure that provides an enabling environment, the institute is committed to pursue excellence in R&D to provide sustainable solutions to the problems of citrus growers and the industry.

ICAR-CCRI has made some notable achievements that include Development of the National Citrus Repository at the institute that functions as the Gene Bank at the National level for citrus varieties with 600 exotic and indigenous accessions of various citrus germplasm; release of promising citrus varieties for commercial production; containerized nursery for production of disease-free planting material, etc. and has designed innovative extension modules for farmers and other stakeholders. ICAR-CCRI has been at the forefront of delivering cutting-edge user-friendly technologies in cultivar identification and improvement, molecular diagnostics of insect-pests and diseases and integrated pest management, production and distribution of >4 m disease-free quality planting material countrywide. The institute has also standardized advanced protocols for soil health management, micro-irrigation, regulation of crop physiology, etc. Post-harvest processes for some innovative citrus products have been commercialized. ICAR-CCRI has also trained 52,869 personnel that include farmers, officers, subject matter specialists, industrial partners across India and abroad.

ICAR-CCRI, as the torch bearer of R&D in the Indian citrus industry could address the growing and emerging needs more than ever only with the strong and committed partnership with the citrus farmers and the industry across the Nation. The institution with its state-of-the-art laboratory infrastructure provides an ideal environment in enabling multi-disciplinary research addressing industry need. A highly agile and dynamic scientific and technical team of CCRI is supported by a dedicated administration and support staff to accomplish the mission. Efforts are being made for having research collaborations with international organizations. Given the multiple challenges faced by the citrus farmers in management of biotic and abiotic stresses, effects of climate change, post-harvest losses, soil degradation, etc., there is an urgent need to custom-tailor the R&D for faster pace in technology generation to address some unresolved issues, more impacting technology dissemination, increased export

of citrus fruits as well as processed products and finally to enhance the income of citrus farmers. As a team, we at ICAR-CCRI shall strive towards providing sustainable solutions to support the citrus farmers and the industry through overcoming challenges affecting various components of the value chain. I strongly believe that with the unflinching devotion, the team ICAR-CCRI will scale new heights in foreseeable future.

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