

## Training on sugarcane mgmt at IISR begins



**Lucknow (PNS):** A 21-day-long National Training on Sugarcane Management and Development from July 1-21, 2013, began at the Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (IISR) here on Monday. It was inaugurated by Dr S Solomon, Director, IISR, Lucknow.

In his inaugural speech Dr Solomon remarked that this training was being organised to introduce science in sugarcane production at farmers' fields in the sugar mill zone area. He said that scientific information was badly needed at every level from field to factory and three major issues were a major concern of this training which were how to increase sugarcane yield, enhance sugar recovery in mills and how to decrease cost of cultivation to make sugarcane more profitable and popular among the farmers.

Scientist AK Sah informed newsmen that besides other issues like information on recent advances in sugarcane cultivation, problem in exchange of information, penetration of sugarcane technologies to the grassroot level, communication strategy to increase cane area and yield in mill zone, IT tools for cane management etc would be deliberated in detail during the training programme.

Dr TK Srivastava, head, Crop Production and Course Coordinator, highlighted the importance of knowledge deliverance to address the challenges ahead before the sugar-

cane and sugar sector in the country. This training is supposed to be quite relevant due to liberalisation and introduction of the new sugar policy by the government. Scientists said that the new sugar mills and complexes were coming up and the existing sugar mills were planning to expand their crushing capacity which may require producing more sugarcane from the available cane acreage. "This needs effective use of sugarcane technologies. However, effective use of technologies largely depends on the knowledge and motivation of the personnel engaged in the cane development activities. They should be made aware about the new technologies so that they in turn could train and help the sugarcane growers for effective utilisation of innovative technologies. This is the major consideration under this training," said the scientists.

The training module thus developed will focus on the following thrust areas. Sugarcane and sugar scenario in India, techniques of cane seed production and multiplication of varieties, planning, replacement, development and harvesting schedule, plant population management and planting methods, soil health management and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), intercropping in sugarcane, water management in sugarcane, management of ratoon crop, mechanisation in sugarcane, sugarcane development strategies in sugar mill zone areas, management of sugarcane crop under abiotic stress conditions, physiological aspects for yield improvement, minimising post-harvest losses in sugarcane, biological control of insect and pests /diseases and IPM, integrated weed management, sugarcane marketing strategies and integrated communication strategy in sugarcane mill zone.