

Visit of Shri Chhabilendra Roul, Special Secretary, DARE & Secretary, ICAR, to ICAR-CPRI, Shimla

Shri Chhabilendra Roul, Special Secretary, DARE & Secretary, ICAR visited ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla on 18th & 19th August, 2018. In the morning of 18th August, he visited the Breeder seed production farm at Kufri/Fagu including the National Hybridization Facility & the Lister House, and interacted with the staff of the station. During the interaction he suggested that for the benefit of farmers, there is need to develop short duration processing potato varieties which can compete with exotic processing varieties being imported by the multinationals. In the afternoon, he chaired a meeting of Senior Officers of the institute and regional stations of other sister institutes of ICAR at Shimla wherein Dr. S. K. Chakrabarti, Director, ICAR-CPRI, Shimla made a brief presentation on 'Potato Research in India'.



Sh. Roul appreciated the efforts of ICAR-CPRI, Shimla in the field of potato research and urged that focus should be on processing sector and varietal development for export purpose. He also emphasized on issue-based research on drip irrigation and fertigation, sensor based irrigation technology, processing technologies for small & marginal farmers, commercialization of technologies through FPOs, collaborative research with private sector, development of implements and tools especially for hilly terrain etc. He interacted with each Senior Officers and asked for problems/issues, if any, being faced by them. Sh. Ratnesh Kumar, Chief Administrative Officer, flagged certain administrative issues related to large number of vacancies under different categories, court cases, audit issues, land related issues, issues related to energy efficiency etc. Sh. Roul advised that the specific cases may be taken up personally with the HQ along with SMD, instead of sending only formal requests through letters. He assured that he will provide maximum help to resolve the issues if taken up in consultation with the SMD. In the afternoon, he also addressed the entire staff of ICAR-CPRI, Shimla and interacted with them to know about individual-specific issues and to resolve them. There were very few individual issues which he listened carefully and advised suitability which was appreciated by all the staff. He also visited different laboratories/ facilities of the institute and had interaction with scientists, technical staff and research scholars working in different labs. Besides, Sh. Roul also visited Regional Horticultural Research & Training Station, Dr. Y. S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Mashobra, IARI Regional Station, Amartara Cottage and its orchard at Dhanda.