

## Principal Secretary of Agriculture, West Bengal, Visits Jhargram Research Station

On August 2, 2025, Shri Onkar Singh Meena, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal, visited the Regional Research Station (RRS) of Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV) at Jhargram. He was warmly received by Prof. Subhra Mukherjee, Director of Research, BCKV.

The visit commenced with the Principal Secretary offering floral tributes to the bust of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, in the presence of university officials and staff members. He then proceeded to visit the cashew experimental plots, where Prof. Mini Poduval, Officer-in-Charge of the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Cashew, apprised him of the ongoing research activities. These included newly released cashew varieties, improved pruning practices, and region-specific cultivation strategies.



The Principal Secretary also interacted with Dr. Golam Moinuddin, Agronomist, on the millet research initiatives, and with Prof. Subhendu Jash regarding disease management trials. Prof. Benurkar Biswas, Officer-in-Charge of the AICRP on Agroforestry, elaborated on the ongoing work in fruit-based agroforestry systems and related activities under the programme.



Following the field visits, the Principal Secretary appreciated good works by BCKV for varietal development and research projects as per local needs. He suggested scaling up gate sale of good quality seeds and planting material at nominal prices to local farmers, and Department of Agriculture is willing to financial support for production/multiplication as per cost norms for each season to enhance the production. Post harvest processing and value addition of horticultural crops in collaboration with other State agencies and livelihood opportunities for tribal communities may be explored for better connect to the needs of the local people. Additionally, he encouraged the submission of a proposal for establishing a millet processing demonstration unit at the station.

The visit served as a valuable opportunity for RRS, Jhargram, to present its ongoing achievements, activities, and potential for future growth. The Principal Secretary's constructive suggestions are expected to significantly bolster the centre's productivity and outreach. The staff extended their sincere gratitude for his visit and for the encouragement extended towards the research and development efforts at the station.

