Brainstorming Session on Comfort Index for Workers' Engaged in Agriculture and Allied Sector

Brainstorming Session on the "Comfort Index for Workers Engaged in Agriculture and Allied Sectors" was organized by AICRP on ESAAS, on January 24, 2025 in hybrid mode under the chairmanship of honorable Dr. S. N. Jha, DDG (Agril. Engineering.), while Dr. K. P. Singh, ADG (Farm Engineering), and Dr. C. R. Mehta, Director of CIAE Bhopal, Co-chaired the event. Prominent experts in the ergonomics, including Dr. P.K. Nag, former Director, NIOH Ahmedabad; Dr. L. P. Gite, Ex-Project Coordinator and Emeritus Scientist, ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal; Dr. Debkumar Chakraborty, President, Indian Society of Ergonomics (ISE); and Dr. Saugata Karmakar from IIT Guwahati were participated in the event. Dr. Sukhbir Singh, PC, AICRP on ESAAS welcomed all the participants and briefed about motive behind organizing the event. Dr. R.R. Potdar presented the brief review on the various aspects of comfort assessment in different fields. All PIs and Co-PIs of cooperating centres of AICRP on ESAAS were actively participated and contributed their views during the brainstorming session. A total of 50 participants attended the session. Dr. S. N. Jha inaugural remarks on adopting the Comfort Index for assessment of technologies in workplaces over traditional measures like Drudgery Index, highlighting its focus on well-being, visual comfort, and aesthetic values to enhance satisfaction and productivity. Dr. K. P. Singh urged the ESAAS Project Coordinator to lead its development with expert collaboration, Dr. C. R. Mehta stressed the need for both subjective and objective assessments and suggested publishing a review paper to gather expert feedback. Dr. P. K. Nag recommended using Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to identify key comfort factors. Dr. Chakrabarti advocated for certification from organizations like ICMR or BIS, incorporating gender adjustability, and safety allowances for younger and less-skilled workers. Dr. Karmakar also highlighted grouping of machineries and operations for comfort assessment related factors and identifying the most influential ones for greater effectiveness. The session saw insightful contributions from all attendees, driving progress toward developing the Comfort Index.



