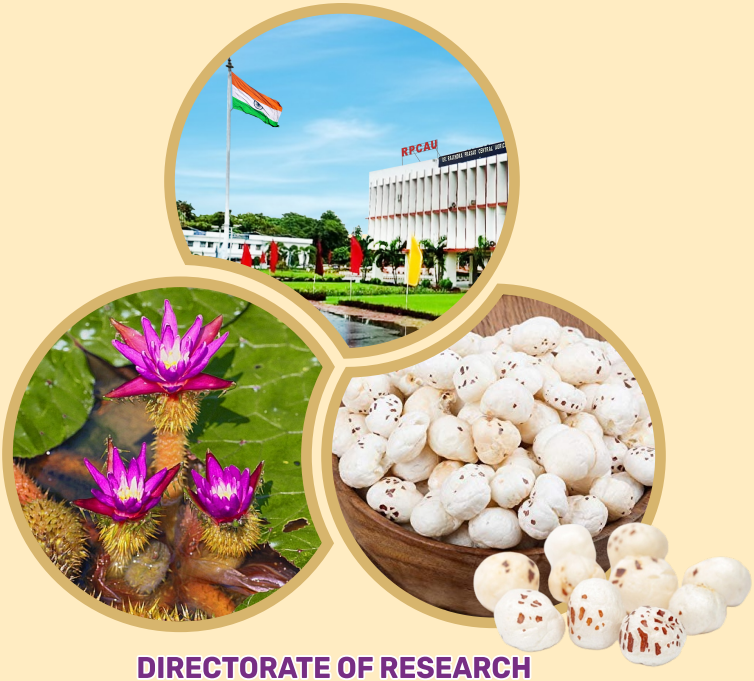
National Seminar on Makhana Research and Development: Linking Farmers, Scientists and Entrepreneurs

26th–27th February, 2026

Venue :
Vidyapati Sabhagar
RPCAU, Pusa



DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH
Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar

BACKGROUND

Makhana (Euryale ferox Salisb), belonging to the family Nymphaeaceae, is a unique aquatic crop that has transcended its traditional boundaries to become a global superfood. Historically grown in stagnant perennial water bodies like ponds, land depressions, and oxbow lakes, it is an integral part of the cultural identity of the Mithilanchal region, essential for Vedic oblations and religious rituals. Often referred to as the "Gorgon nut" or "Fox nut,"Makhana provides critical livelihood support to thousands of resource-poor farmers and fisher communities across North Bihar. Bihar holds a monopoly on its cultivation, contributing over 85% to 90% of the total national production, with cultivation spanning approximately 35,224 hectares and yielding over 56,000 tonnes of seed annually. The sector has also seen a shift from wild harvesting to scientific cultivation with the introduction of high-yielding varieties like Swarna Vaidehi and Sabour Makhana-1, which offer significantly higher productivity than local landraces.

NUTRITIONAL VALUE AND GI HERITAGE

Beyond its cultural roots, Makhana is a nutritional powerhouse. It boasts a high essential amino acid index (89-93%), which is superior to rice and wheat and comparable to milk and fish, while being rich in protein (9.7g/100g) and minerals. Its medicinal properties, including high antioxidant content and anti-aging benefits, have spurred demand in health-conscious markets. To protect this unique heritage, "Mithila Makhana" was awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag on 16th August 2022, ensuring premium value for farmers and preserving the crop's regional identity. The sector is rapidly evolving with value-added products like kheer mix, roasted snacks, and cookies, driving an export market that currently exceeds 200 tonnes annually.

ABOUT THE EVENT

Responding to the growing global demand and the urgent need for technological intervention in the aquatic crop sector, the Directorate of Research at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University is organizing this prestigious event. This occasion marks a significant milestone with the official Inauguration of the Advance Centre of Makhana Research and Development, coupled with a two-day National Seminar titled "Makhana Research and Development: Linking Farmers, Scientists and Entrepreneurs". The seminar will feature following objectives:

- To provide a common platform for interaction among progressive Makhana growers, scientists, entrepreneurs, exporters, and policymakers.
- To discuss and disseminate recent scientific advancements in cultivation, particularly the shift from traditional pond systems to field-based cropping systems.
- To address critical challenges in the processing sector, specifically focusing on mechanizing the popping process to reduce the drudgery and health hazards.
- To explore strategies for moving beyond raw "seeds" towards high-value processed products to enhance farmer income.
- To strategize on leveraging the GI Tag (Mithila Makhana) for global branding and to discuss roadmaps for increasing exports.

Chief Guest:

Shri Ramnath Thakur

Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Government of India

Guest of Honour :

Dr. Prabhat Kumar

Horticulture Commissioner
Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Government of India

Event Schedule

Day – 1 (26th February, 2026)	
11:00 am	Inaugural Function of the Advance Makhana Research & Development Centre & National Seminar
Technical Session – I	
2:30 pm	Advance Makhana Production Techniques
3:10 pm	Makhana Processing and Value Addition
4:50 pm	Quality Standardisation and Export Potential
Day – 2 (27th February, 2026)	
Technical Session – II	
10:30 am	Field Visit of KVK, Jale, Darbhanga
Valedictory Session	
2:30 pm	Group Discussion-Production and Technical Constraints Group Discussion-Processing and Market Lecture by Special Invited Experts
4:50 pm	Vote of Thanks

Patron	
Dr. P. S. Pandey	Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor RPCAU, Pusa
Convenor	
Dr. A. K. Singh	Director Research
Co-Convenor	
Dr. Mukesh Kumar	Professor (Agronomy), DoR
Organizing Secretaries	
Dr. Pushpa Singh	Prof. & Head (Entomology) & Nodal Officer (Makhana Team)
Dr. Dibyanshu Shekhar	Senior Scientist & Head, KVK, Jale, Darbhanga
Co-organizing Secretaries	
Dr. A. K. Panda	Asstt. Prof. (Horticulture), PGCA
Dr. Sarvesh Kumar	Asstt. Prof. (Soil Science), DoR