

## **MoU Signed between IISR, Lucknow and SID Patna Bihar**

On September 2, 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between ICAR-Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow, and the Sugarcane Industries Department, Patna, Government of Bihar. This MoU is a crucial step towards maximizing the yield potential of sugarcane varieties, with direct benefits for the stakeholders and sugar mills across Bihar state. Dr. Rasappa Viswanathan, Director, ICAR-IISR Lucknow and Mr. A.K. Jha IAS, Cane Commissioner, Government of Bihar signed the MoU. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Head, Division of Crop Improvement, IISR Lucknow, Dr. A.K. Mall, In-charge, IISR Regional Center, Motipur, Shri. J.P.N. Singh, Joint Cane Commissioner and Mr. Sunil Kr. Pankaj, Joint Director of Agriculture (JDA) Sugarcane Industries Department, Patna witnessed the ceremony.

The primary objectives of this MoU are to enhance the production and supply of quality breeder seed of elite notified sugarcane varieties. The breeder seed will be utilized to produce foundation/certified at the designated locations directly under the supervision of ICAR-IISR. Recently, IISR Motipur centre has developed handful of varieties and they are notified by the CVRC. These varieties possess high yield/ quality with red rot resistance and they are included in the seed chain. These improved varieties will be part of Bihar seed production programme and will replace red rot affected varieties in the region. This collaboration is poised to strengthen the sugarcane industry in Bihar by ensuring the availability of high-quality seeds, which will, in turn, lead to increased crop yields and improved profitability for farmers and sugar mills.



