

Farmer FIRST Programme (2018-19)

After achieving success of Farmer FIRST Programme (FFP) during Phase I (2016-18), Agricultural Extension Division, ICAR, New Delhi decided to extend this prestigious programme for next two years (2018-2020). As per the directives of the Council, project proposals from the existing three ICAR Institutes (ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack; ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar and ICAR-IIWM, Bhubaneswar) and one State Agricultural University (OUAT, Bhubaneswar) were invited by ATARI Kolkata for the year 2018-2019 and 2019-20. Accordingly, Fourth Zonal Programme Management Committee (ZPMC) Meeting of FFP was conducted on 28.04.2018 at ATARI Kolkata for two Zones i.e. ATARI Kolkata and Patna to finalize the Action Plans for those existing institutes during the period 2018-2020 considering the target of Doubling Farmers Income. The recommendations of ZPMC on those projects were sent to the Council for approval from Programme Management Committee (PMC) at ICAR, New Delhi. Finally, four projects were approved by the Council for this Zone for the 2018-2019 and the details have been given below. During the period, one meeting-cum-workshop on 'Impact assessment of FFP' was organized at ICAR-NRRI Cuttack for four FFPs under ATARI Kolkata where scientists from ATARI Kolkata and Hyderabad, ICAR-NIAP New Delhi and participating Institutes attended the programme.

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the project (Institute/ University)</i>	<i>Name of the PI of the project</i>	<i>Fund allotted during 2018-19 (Rs. in lakh)</i>	<i>Fund utilized during 2018-19 (Rs. in lakh)</i>
1.	Promoting Improved Agriculture & Allied Sector Technologies in Khordha District (ICAR-Central Institute Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar)	Dr. H. K. De Pr. Scientist	18.75	18.69
2.	Increasing Productivity and Sustainable the Rice based Production System through Farmer First approach (ICAR-NRRI,Cuttack) (ICAR-National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack)	Dr. S. K. Mishra Pr. Scientist	37.15	32.24
3.	Enhancing water & livelihoods security (ICAR-Indian Institute of Water Management, Bhubaneswar)	Dr. P. Nanda Pr. Scientist	22.00	12.53
4.	Enhancing Farm Productivity & Profitability with 'Farmer-First' focus in Khordha district of Odisha (OUAT, Bhubaneswar)	Dr. B. Behera Professor	29.25	20.08
5.	ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI) Kolkata	-	6.50	3.36
Total			113.65	86.90

Salient achievements of projects:

ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar

Farmer FIRST project covered four villages in Khordha district and involved more than 400 beneficiaries that included small, marginal, landless and women-headed households. Demonstration of improved practices, field day, exposure visit and scientists-farmers interface were conducted during 2018-19. Thirteen field days and five scientist-farmer interfaces were organised involving 414 and 191 farmers/farmwomen, respectively. Modules on improved technologies of paddy, green gram, carp culture, Horticulture, poultry and integrated farming system were demonstrated during the period. Bush type French bean was also introduced in 0.4 ha of land for the first time including 10 beneficiaries. An average yield of 8 t/ ha of green pods

in 75-85 days was obtained. Institute Advisory Committee meeting and site planning & monitoring group meeting was held on 9th November, 2018. Facilitated formation of Bhargabi Fish Farmers Producers Company Limited having CIN no- U01100OR2019PTC030755 in Balipatna block. The DD Kisan channel prepared one episode on Farmer FIRST project being implemented by ICAR-CIFA. This was telecast on 4th February, 2019 (09:00 AM). Collection of data on performance of improved technologies as compared to farmers' previous practices is in progress. Impact assessment of Farmer FIRST project on socio-economic development of farmers will be carried out.



ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack

Demonstrated four most promising rice varieties i.e. Maudamani (CR Dhan 307), Pradhandhan (CR Dhan 409), CR Dhan 303 and Pooja with complete package of practices during Kharif 2018 covering over 100 ha area in four adopted villages. As input, 430 farmers were provided minikit seeds @ 10 kg/ farmer along with partial fertilizers and need-based pesticides etc. Demonstrated Leaf Colour Chart based nitrogenous fertilizer management for 430 farmers. Under farm mechanization, CRRI finger-weeder for 430 farmers and Cono-weeder for 10 farmers were demonstrated. Rice pest monitoring and surveillance were done through pheromone traps for 100 farmers. Demonstrated the raising mat type nursery and eight row power operated mechanical transplanter; green gram IPM-02-03 (360 kg seeds to 72 farmers @ 5 kg per farmer) to cover 18 ha area; nutritional garden with ten types of vegetables (Tomato- KSP 1306 Bahubali, Beans- Shravani, Radish- Palak Patta, Koshala- Red Kanka, Coriander- Royal Green Pumpkin- Rana BSS-749, Amaranthus- all Green, Cucumber- Supriya, French Bean- Harith and Okra- Amba) to 125 farmwomen; Backyard poultry strain Vanaraja to 65 farmwomen @ 20 chicks per women; Backyard duckery strain Khaki Campbell to 15 farmwomen @ 20 ducks per women and pond-based aquaculture production to 18 fish farmers (10000 fingerlings of Rohu and Catla).

Farmers were trained on '*Oyster mushroom farming*' for 124 farmers and farmwomen, on '*Freshwater aquaculture*' for 37 Farmers & farmwomen and on '*Scientific crop management practices*' for commercial vegetable production for 103 farmers and farmwomen. Field visits and interaction meets were also conducted for 52 farmers and farmwomen. Scientists attended training programme on "*Socio-economic impact assessment of research programmes*" at ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad.



ICAR-IIWM, Bhubaneswar

Three training programmes on “*Water resource management and agricultural diversification for enhancing water productivity and ensuring livelihood of farmers*” and one programme on “*System of rice intensification*” for 42 farmers (37 acre area of rice fallow land during Zaid 2019) were organized. One exposure visit for 51 farmers to State Level Kisan Mela at ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack was organized. Demonstrated cultivation of vegetables (35000 seedlings of Brinjal, tomato and chili) and tuber crops (2000 planting materials of Tapioca and 200 kg of Yam) for more than 200 farmers. Kitchen gardening was encouraged by distributing seeds of okra, radish and amaranthus. Use of pheromone trap and sticky trap was also demonstrated in the farms of the stake holders. Nine Farmers groups were formed and nine power threshers were distributed among them. WhatsApp group was used to identify and solve diseases/ pests in crops/ vegetables. One lady farmer of the project village was nominated and she received ‘*Best Farmer Award*’ at ICAR-NRRI Cuttack.



OUAT, Bhubaneswar

Under crop based module, demonstrations were done for high yielding rice variety ‘*Swarna Sub-1*’ in 30 ha involving 136 households under medium land condition and rice var. ‘*Upahar*’ in 30 ha involving 100 households under low land condition; scented rice var. ‘*Geetanjali*’ in 2.5 ha involving 14 households and YMV resistant green gram var. IPM 02-14 in 20 ha rice-fallows involving 75 households. Among different horticultural crops, demonstrations were also conducted to intensify the production of hybrid pumpkin var. ‘*Vimal*’ in 4 ha involving 20 households; hybrid cucumber var. ‘*Rajmata*’ (Arnnapurna hybrid) in 4.2 ha involving 21 households; hybrid bitter gourd var. ‘*VNR-21*’ in an area of 2 ha involving 10 households; leafy Amranthus in 2.5 ha involving 25 households; tomato var. ‘*VNR-Samridhi*’ in 0.4 ha involving 10 households; tissue culture banana var. ‘*Bantal*’ in 3.3 ha involving 21 households; hybrid papaya var. ‘*Red lady*’ in 2.5 ha involving 13 households and many others. Four hundred ‘*Pallishree*’ chicks of 21 days old were provided to 20 households @ 20 birds per household for backyard poultry rearing. The birds were reared for seven weeks and the mean body weight of

the birds was 2 kg/ bird. The mortality rate was totally avoided by taking care of birds in respect of feeding and health care. Each farmer realised gross income of Rs. 5330/- and net profit of Rs. 4430/-. Training was imparted on '*Honey bee rearing*' for 20 farmers, on '*Mushroom spawn production*' for 3 farmers and on '*Estrous synchronisation of heifer*' for 40 farmers during the year 2018-19.

