

Agroforestry (2022-23)

The majority of the farmers in the Purba Medinipur district including six selected villages were small landholders with various available resources. As there was a huge scope of homestead agroforestry regardless of ecological and socioeconomic diversities, an attempt was made to motivate the smallholder farmers for developing homestead agroforestry in the vacant and/ or unutilized land adjacent to the farmer's dwellings for providing multiple products through the production of a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, spices, and different tree products to the households and making homestead agroforestry system productive, profitable and sustainable. The project utilized the backyard barren land for developing three-tier system agroforestry model (Fruit plants + Forest plants + Vegetables/ Spices) with the active participation of 287 farm families covering a total of 5.74 ha area. An earning of Rs. 3350.00 to Rs. 4500.00 by the farm families from one katha interspace land was recorded by cultivating seasonal vegetables and/ or spices in newly developed agroforest for the first time in the adopted villages. Till date, various Fruit Plants (5385 numbers) like Mango, Guava, Ber, Sapota, Jackfruit and Amla, Forest Plants (3450 numbers) like Lambu, Sonajhuri, Kadam, Subabul, Neem and Gamar, 44 kg Vegetable Seeds (Spinash, Red Amaranthus, Cucurbits) and 32,000 Vegetable Seedlings (Chilli, Brinjal, Tomato, Cauliflower), 13.5 q Ginger and Turmeric, 15 q Elephant Footyam and 100 cuttings of Dragon fruits were given to 287 farmers. Besides, vermicompost, fertilizer, organic pesticides, pheromone trap with lure etc were given to the beneficiaries.

Dr. Avijit Halder, Pr. Scientist & PI of the project; Dr. M. Dutta, Agroforestry Expert and Former Joint Director ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region; Mr. P. Das, DDM NABARD, Purba Medinipur; Senior Scientist & Head of the KVK along with other KVK staffs visited different plots and interacted with the farmers during two days on 23rd and 24th June, 2022 to review of progress of work. Dr. A. Halder, PI of the project and Principal Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata along with Co-PIs from KVK, Purba Medinipur further visited 10 model agroforestry units developed at different selected villages of Panskura block of Purba Medinipur district on 19th September 2022. First Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) meeting was held at Purba Medinipur Krishi Vigyan Kendra on 20th September 2022. The Director of ATARI, Kolkata, Dr. Pradip Dey along with the Director of Extension Education, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV), Mohanpur, Nadia, Prof. Umesh Thapa and the Principal Scientist of ATARI Kolkata and PI of the project, Dr. A. Halder along with Co-PIs of KVK, Purba Medinipur visited different homestead agroforestry plots and attended second PMC meeting at Purba Medinipur Krishi Vigyan Kendra on 17th March 2023. All the members appreciated the continuous efforts taken by the scientists of KVK, East Medinipur for developing 287 agroforestry units under this project.



Model 1: Homestead agroforestry with fruit plants + forest plants + vegetables



Model 2: Homestead agroforestry with fruit plants + forest plants + spices



Agroforestry field visit by PI and Co-PIs of the project



Agroforestry field visit by Director, ATARI Kolkata; DEE, BCKV, Nadia; PI and Co-PIs of the project