

Hon'ble Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR inaugurated Natural Farming Demonstration Unit at Kalyan KVK

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Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Hon'ble Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR inaugurated the Natural Farming Demonstration Unit of at Kalyan KVK, Purulia today. The Unit has unique display of ingredients and preparation procedures of *Beejamrit*, *Jivamrit*, *Neemastra*, *Brahmastra*, *Agniastra* etc. Dr. Pathak in his address apprised the farmers and others present during the occasion about the significance natural farming for reducing input cost of cultivation and increasing the farm income. He further added that natural farming is very much suited to the farming/production systems of Chotanagpur plateau region. He hoped that this Unit will serve as one-stop-shop for various inputs of natural farming for Chotanagpur plateau region.

Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ICAR- Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Kolkata urged the farmers to adopt nature friendly farming for livelihood improvement of the farming community and reducing carbon footprint.

The ceremony was attended by Swami Vaskarananda, Secretary, Kalyan, Purulia, Swami Bhaveshananda, Secretary, Divyayan Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ranchi, Dr. Swarup Kumar Chakraborty, Vice Chancellor of Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Dr. T.K. Mondal, Vice Chancellor, WBUAFS, Kolkata, Dr. Sujay Rakshit, Director, ICAR-IIAB, Ranchi, Dr. B.K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore, Dr. T. Damodaran, Director, ICAR-CISH, Lucknow, Dr. Kaushik Banerjee, Director, NRC on Grapes, Pune, Sh. Sajal Kumar Ghosh, Project Director, ATMA, Purulia, Sh. Debasish De, District Representative, PRADAN, Sh. Subhas Mahato, CEO, Manbazar Agro producer company Ltd, Purulia, Sh. Joydeb Mahato, Progressive Farmer, Purulia, several Line Department Officials, Scientists of ICAR Institutes, SAUs and Heads of KVKs. About 130 participants from Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal including Scientists of ICAR Institutes, SAUs, KVKs, Officials of Line Departments and progressive farmers participated in the ceremony.

During the occasion, an exhibition was also organized where various low-cost farm machineries which are being disseminated by Kalyan KVK, Purulia were displayed for the benefit of functionaries of FPOs and famers. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. M.K. Bhattacharjya, Head, Kalyan KVK, Purulia.

