

Project Completion-cum-Convergence Workshop on Integrated Farming System

30th June, 2023, Kolkata

The Project Completion-cum-Convergence Workshop on NABARD funded project entitled 'Formulation of Area Development Schemes and Development of Area-specific Software Template for Model Integrated Farming across Six Agro-climatic Regions of West Bengal' was organized at ICAR-ATARI Kolkata today. The Chief Guest Dr. J.K. Ray, IAS, Secretary, PSC, Arunachal Pradesh in his address suggested to connect agri-preneurs with integrated farming system and mapping of infrastructure to identify the deficiency. He also suggested to upload different bankable project templates of IFS model in ICAR-ATARI Kolkata website so that farmers could opt for suitable model according to their convenience.

Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata in his welcome address depicted the significance of Integrated Farming System (IFS) towards circular economy and ecosystem services. He also highlighted the importance of technology diffusion and research monetization through this type of convergence workshop. He suggested for developing machine learning based module to identify best IFS model based on investment capacity of farmers.

Guest of Honour Shri P. Sengupta, Director and Ex-officio Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal, emphasized on formation of FPC to facilitate group activities as well as the marketing for the farmers for facilitating IFS. Dr. R. Mondal, Joint Director, Directorate of Animal Resource and Animal Health, depicted the importance of inclusion of livestock in integrated farming system to boost the income per unit area of land. Dr. A.K. Das, representing ICAR-CIFRI, suggested to opt fishery in IFS as a higher economic return option.

Dr. D. B. Shakyawar, Director, ICAR-NINFET and Dr. G. Kar, Director, ICAR-CRIJAF, Barrackpore and Shri Jayanta Kumar Aikat, Commissioner Department of Food Processing Industries and Horticulture, Govt. of West Bengal joined the session in virtual mode and enriched the House with their deliberation.

Dr. Avijit Halder, Principal Scientist and PI of the project, delivered a presentation on the initiation, fund allocation, objectives, area covered, activities, results and achievements of the project in a comprehensive manner. He highlighted the use of SWOT-AHP analysis for identifying the driving and limiting factors for practicing different IFS models of six agro-climatic zones of West Bengal. He highlighted the use of machine learning technique for ranking the IFSs and formulation of bankable project on different IFS models.

Dr. S.N. Mandal, Co-PI of the project, presented the digital questionnaire and discussed the ranking procedure of IFS models. He informed the development of a software template on exploring IFSs in WB under this project.

Mr. S. Priyadarshi Asst. Manager, NABARD, Kolkata gave an overview on how to design a project to acquire more fund allocation from NABARD. Dr. S. N. Mandal, Asst. Professor,

Kalyani Govt. Engineering College and Co-PI of the project along with the Senior Scientists and Head, Nodal Subject Matter Specialists of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Senior Research Fellows, Young Professionals and all the technical as well as scientific staff of ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata and two progressive farmers were present in the workshop. Total 15 KVKs of six agro-climatic zones of WB participated in the workshop.

Overall, bio-economic circularity of resources, development of prediction model on optimization of IFS and site-specific economic importance of IFS components were discussed in this meeting. The conducive environment created through this project in agro-climatic zone-specific IFS model development was specially appreciated by the house. The workshop ended with vote of thanks by Dr. P.P. Pal, Principal Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata.

