

## **'Millet Mela' organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra for creating awareness**

25<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, Howrah

One day 'Millet Mela' was organized by Howrah Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jagatballabpur, West Bengal under the jurisdiction of Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra at its campus today to create awareness as a part of yearlong celebration of International Year of Millet 2023 about health and nutritional benefits of millets among school and college students, progressive farmers including farm women.

The programme was inaugurated by the dignitaries by lighting of lamp. Dr. Barui welcomed the dignitaries and participants of the programme and discussed the theme of the 'Millet Mela'. He also described the roadmap of activities of Howrah KVK to celebrate the 'International Year of Millets 2023'.

On the occasion, the Chief Guest, Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata highlighted the importance of millets as climate resilient crop with low water footprint and to combat various diseases like diabetes. He urged farmers to form FPOs for marketing of millet based products as it was very much profitable. He also suggested to include millet in Mid-Day Meal programme for its nutritious superiority and addressing malnutrition among children. In his presidential address, Prof. U. Thapa, DEE, BCKVV narrated the importance of millets for its nutritious value. Dr. S. Banerjee, Asstt. Professor, BCKV pointed out the package of practices of different types of millets and their potentiality under West Bengal situations.

Dr. S. N. Khara, DHO, Howrah; Mrs. Arunima, District Youth Officer, Howrah; Mr. S. Saha, ADA, Jagatballavpur; Dr. K. Barui, SSH of Howrah KVK; SMSs and other staff of Howrah KVK; 75 students from various schools and colleges, 50 progressive farmers including farm women from different blocks of Howrah district; 46 youth club members of Nehru Yuva Kendra; 30 persons from different SHGs; 78 DAESI students and many others were present in the occasion. Finally, dignitaries visited the stall organized within KVK campus where various millet seeds, processed products of millets, various food items prepared from millets, leaflets and posters on millets were displayed.

The programme ended with vote of thanks by Dr. S. Banerjee.

