

## HRD Programme on “Contemporary Issues and Recommendations from Network Research in food crops for facilitating OFT proposals” organized

19-20<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, Kalyani, Nadia

A two-day Human Resource Development Program on ‘Contemporary Issues and Recommendations from Network Research in food crops for facilitating OFT proposals’ was organized by Directorate of Extension Education, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya at the Farmer’s Academy & Convention Centre of the university at Kalyani for KVKs of West Bengal under the jurisdiction of ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata. At the outset, the Dean Extension Education, BCKV, Dr. Pintoo Bandopadhyay while welcoming the Guests and participants highlighted the need of organizing such programmes to reorient the OFTs under changing agricultural scenario.

Chief Guest Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata emphasized the need for reorienting extension approaches for *Amrit Kaal* and hoped that KVKs will address the emerging problems of the farmers to provide better return. He underscored the role of KVK for enhancement of livelihoods, promoting entrepreneurship in rural areas and transforming young people from job searchers into employment providers. He suggested on designing OFTs which should have relevance to the particular district, matching agro-climatic condition and available human resources as well as changing socio-economic scenario.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Gautam Saha in his President’s address urged to expand natural farming programs with the uses of modern technologies like artificial intelligence and sensor-based drones for rapid plant stress detection. He called for strengthening DAMU as weather variations and contingencies are emerging as most important in recent years.



Earlier Prof. Jayanta Tarafder, Director of Research, BCKV briefed about the recommendations including varietal development, production and protection technologies coming out from different AICRP programs under BCKV, specifically on horticultural crops towards nutritional security in addition to food security.

The program involved six areas which has potential to enrich OFT trials in ensuing cropping seasons for different KVKs—with proven technologies of fruits, vegetables, pulses, maize as well as integrated farming system models. These crops are more helpful for doubling farmers' income, respond to food and nutritional security and are gender responsive besides have potential for post-harvest value addition and getting industry support. In this HRD programme, 29 Senior Scientist & Head as well as SMS of KVKs participated.