

HRD Programme on “Scientific Agri-Horticultural Practices to Augment the Income from Small Farming” organized

8-10th January, 2024, Kolkata

A three-day Human Resource Development Program on ‘Scientific Agri-Horticultural Practices to Augment the Income from Small Farming’ was organized by Directorate of Extensions and Farms, West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences (WBUAFS) in collaboration with ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata for KVKs of West Bengal.

At the outset, Prof. Shyam Sundar Dana, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, WBUAFS expressed his high level of satisfaction about this novel endeavour and emphasized that such need based capacity building programme will help in effective entrepreneurship development through improved agricultural and horticultural practices among the farming community of the state.

Prof. Gautam Saha, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, BCKV, expressed the necessity and importance of such training programme in order to improve the livelihood of the small and marginal farmers.

Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata hoped that learning from the programme will enable KVKs to become more equipped for reorienting extension strategies for *Amrit Kaal*. He emphasised the need of employing cutting-edge technologies, such as sensor-based drones and artificial intelligence, to address the livelihoods as well as better return in rural areas.

Dr. B.K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore underscored the importance of fisheries sector in the region.



Prof. Prabhat Pal, DEE of UBKV, Cooch Behar, Prof. Pintoo Bandopadhyaya, DEE of BCKV, Dr. Partha Das, Registrar, WBUAFS and Dr. Keshab Chandra Dhara, Deputy Director (Farms), WBUAFS also spoke on the occasion.

The program involved five major areas of scientific agri-horticultural practices viz., soil health, impact of climate change on crop and water resources, recent trend of pulses and oilseed production, soil borne diseases and extension strategies to mitigate the challenges faced by KVKs.

During the valedictory programme on last day, participants expressed their happiness and shared their experience of three days training programme. In this HRD programme, 36 trainees from 10 no of KVK across different agro-climatic zones of West Bengal participated. Dr. Nilendu Jyoti Maitra, Deputy Director (Research), WBUAFS proposed formal vote of thanks.