

# ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata and Rathindra KVK, Visva-Bharati jointly organized Zonal Workshop of Flagship Natural Farming Project

16-17 February 2024, Sriniketan

Two-day Zonal Workshop of ICAR flagship project on *Out scaling of Natural Farming through Krishi Vigyan Kendras* was jointly organised by ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata and Rathindra KVK, Visva-Bharati. All the 34 KVKs of Zone – V implementing the Natural Farming project from Odisha, West Bengal Andaman & Nicobar Islands participated in this programme.

In his welcome address, Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata underscored the importance of natural farming for reducing input cost, improving profit of the farming community and reducing carbon footprint. He also accentuated on synergy between natural farming, ecosystem services and and “One Health” concept to save the health of soil, plant, animals, and humans in a continuum.

Dr. A.K. Barik, Principal, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Sriniketan, Visva-Bharati said that Natural Farming should be taken to the grass root level through increased awareness and by establishing scientific basis of practices.



Dr. Hardik Lakhani, Expert, Natural Farming, MANAGE, Hyderabad and Dr. Goutam Chatterjee, Assistant Professor, RKMVERI, Narendrapur presented on “Untangling the science of Natural Farming: A Microbiological perspective” which was Chaired by Dr. S.S. Dana, Vice Chancellor of WBUAFS, Kolkata.

In the Evening of first day, a rich cultural programme encompassing Tagore’s creations and local Folk culture was organized in sync with the culture of Visva-Bharati, founded by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. Progress report and annual plan were presented in three Technical Sessions convened by Dr. A. Halder, Nodal Officer of the project at ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata. Also poster and video competitions were organised during the occasion which were judged by panel of experts involving DEE of BCKV and UBKV as well as faculty of Sriniketan and prizes were distributed to the winners during valedictory session on second day. Publications on natural farming were released during the event for the benefit of stakeholders.



More than 60 participants including the Heads of KVKs, Nodal Subject Matter Specialists, Senior Research Fellows, Young Professionals of KVK participated in the workshop. The Staff of the Rathindra KVK, Visva-Bharati actively participated in organizing the event. Dr. S. Mandal, Head, Rathindra KVK proposed the vote of thanks.