

ATARI Kolkata NEWS



Volume: 8 Number: 1
January - June, 2024

A Biannual Newsletter of ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute Kolkata
(An ISO 9001: 2015 Certified Institute)

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From the Director's Desk

'Farming is the riskiest profession in the world since the fate of the crop is closely linked to the behavior of the monsoon'

- Prof. M. S. Swaminathan

The mixed farming system- a blend of crops, forestry, livestock, and fish farming- is a cornerstone of rural livelihoods, contributing significantly to income diversification, food security, and nutritional well-being. By optimizing shared resources, it provides a sustainable solution to the challenges of an agrarian economy, offering resilience and stability to rural households.

To address the growing threat of climate vulnerability, scientists from ICAR institutes, AUs, and KVKs are actively exploring diversified mixed farming systems to strengthen agricultural resilience and ensure sustainable food production. These efforts underline the urgent need for policy measures to integrate climate-resilient practices into government schemes, ensuring efficient resource utilization and livelihood diversification for rural communities.

The Government of India has launched various initiatives to empower farmers, which are being meticulously monitored at multiple levels. Success in these efforts depends on collaboration for enhanced monitoring, research, and dissemination of sustainable agricultural innovations. Such partnerships amplify the impact of these programs at the grassroots level.

ICAR-ATARI Kolkata, in collaboration with its 59 KVKs, has taken the lead in implementing a wide array of activities. These include signing MoUs with organizations, conducting review workshops, strategic meetings, advisory sessions, field visits, and organizing farmer-centric events like field days, farmer meets, and celebrations of national and international days. Signature initiatives like the 'Vikshit Bharat Sankalp Yatra', 'PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Programme', and the 'Voyage of the KVK Golden Jubilee Torch' have further propelled these efforts.

In addition to field activities, scientists have enriched agricultural knowledge by publishing research articles, technical bulletins, newsletters, and news items, creating a valuable repository for current and future use.

This chronicle highlights the dedication of KVKs under the jurisdiction of ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata, towards achieving agricultural sustainability. Their collective efforts serve as an inspiration, and feedback is encouraged to further enhance this journey of innovation and progress, ensuring a prosperous future.




(P. Dey)

Technologies applied successfully

Scientific vegetable farming: Way to improve livelihood of Nicobarese tribes

Shri Patrick Jeremiah, a tribal farmer of Car Nicobar, was practising *tuhet* farming in 3.5 ac land. He was keen to take up new initiatives for profitable agriculture but was lacking technical and scientific know-how. The scientists of KVK Nicobar guided and provided him latest technologies and on-hand trainings as well as demonstrations. He started diversified organic vegetable farming through utilizing his fallow lands. He visited ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair and many mainland institutes to increase his exposure. The KVK

Nicobar provided critical inputs viz. seeds, bio-fertilizers, organic pesticides, farm implements, piglets, chicks etc. to him.



At present, he is cultivating 15 types of vegetables, is selling the same to the



local consumers at reasonable prices and is earning a substantial amount. Following table showed that his annual gross and net income were recorded as Rs. 550249/- and Rs. 461249/-, respectively.

Table: Economics of farming, spread of technologies and social impact

| Enterprise | Gross cost (in Rs.) | Gross return (in Rs.) | Net return (in Rs.) | B:C Ratio |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Before intervention | | | | |
| Solonaceae / Malvaceae | 30000 | 89900 | 59900 | 2.00 |
| Cucurbitaceae | 1000 | 3325 | 2325 | 2.33 |
| Leafy vegetables | 100 | 336 | 236 | 2.36 |
| Tuber crops | 7000 | 25704 | 20704 | 2.96 |
| Total | 38100 | 119265 | 83165 | 2.18 |
| After intervention | | | | |
| Solonaceae / Malvaceae | 78000 | 365400 | 305400 | 3.92 |
| Cucurbitaceae | 15000 | 54435 | 39435 | 2.63 |
| Leafy vegetables | 5000 | 17350 | 14350 | 2.87 |
| Leguminous | 26000 | 78750 | 73750 | 2.84 |
| Tuber crops | 11000 | 34314 | 28314 | 2.57 |
| Total | 135000 | 550249 | 461249 | 3.42 |

| Enterprise | Horizontal spread | | Vertical spread | | Overall impact* |
|------------------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|-----------------|
| | Area covered (ac or ha) / no. of livestock unit or no. of livestock | No. of farmers | Area covered (ac or ha) / no. of livestock unit or no. of livestock | No. of farmers | |
| Before intervention | | | | | |
| Solonaceae / Malvaceae | 1 ha | 8 | 1.5 ha | 16 | 3 |
| Cucurbitaceae | 1.5 ha | 18 | 2 ha | 29 | 3 |
| Leafy vegetables | 0.5 ha | 7 | 1 ha | 18 | 2 |
| Tuber crops | 3 ha | 30 | 6 ha | 35 | 4 |
| After intervention | | | | | |
| Solonaceae / Malvaceae | 3 ha | 20 | 6 ha | 38 | 4 |
| Cucurbitaceae | 5 ha | 29 | 8 ha | 46 | 4 |
| Leafy vegetables | 1 ha | 20 | 2 ha | 24 | 3 |
| Leguminous | 2 ha | 15 | 3 ha | 26 | 3 |
| Tuber crops | 7 ha | 41 | 12 ha | 51 | 3 |

*1-5 scale; 1= Lowest and 5= Highest

The KVK Nicobar and other Departments of Nicobar district are getting his services as resource person for local tribal people to gain the confidence and interest for maximum horizontal spread of vegetable cultivation in Nicobar Islands. During PM Kisan Samman Nidhi programme, PM of India interacted with him through video conferencing. He won several awards

from A & N Administration and ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair and his interview was broadcasted by AIR, Port Blair.



Contributor: Nicobar KVK, A & N Islands

News from KVKs

APC Roy Memorial Science Fair attended

ICAR-ATARI Kolkata along with some selected KVKs of this zone participated in a fair which was organized by the GoWB at WBUAFS, Kolkata held on 06-08.01.2024. It was organized to increase the scientific aptitude and awareness in the society, primarily among the school children.



Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR inaugurated farmers' meet

Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Hon'ble Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR inaugurated the farmers' meet on 'Encouraging innovation to adopt climate resilient agriculture' organised by KVK Purulia in collaboration with ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata; ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru and ICAR-IIAB, Ranchi in the presence of revered Swami Shivapradananda, Secretary, RKM Vidyapith and Swami Vashkarananda, Secretary, Kalyan KVK, Purulia. Dr. Pathak emphasized the importance of diversification in agriculture and the potential of horticulture, fisheries and animal husbandry in enhancing

farmers' income. He highlighted the need for adopting modern technologies to combat climate change and improve productivity and sustainability and stressed upon the need of training of the SMSs in advanced and/ or modern agricultural technologies for further capacity development of the farmers for economic development of the rural areas in the country. Dr. Pathak released publications and distributed inputs among the farmers.



Dr. S. K. Singh, Director, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru focused on the latest developments and best practices in horticulture and need for the importance of market linkages and post-harvest management in ensuring the success of horticultural ventures. Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata highlighted the importance of working KVKs and district-officials hand in hand to ensure the development of farming faction and enabling them to enhance their income from agriculture and allied sectors.



Scientists of various ICAR institutes, staff of Kalyan KVK also deliberated in the programme. During the two technical sessions, district officials of Govt. of West Bengal shared their experiences for the improvement of the district. A Q&A session was organised during allowing farmers to seek clarifications of their queries by the experts present on the occasion. The programme witnessed a participation of 234 farmers, officials and KVK Staffs.

Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR inaugurated voyage of the KVK Golden Jubilee Torch in Zone-V

Dr. H. Pathak, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR inaugurated the voyage of the KVK Golden Jubilee Torch in Zone-V comprising Odisha, West Bengal and A&N Islands today from ICAR-KVK (A), Nadia on 31.03.2024. The KVK Golden Jubilee Torch relay symbolizes the spirit of KVK service to the farming community and simultaneously is being carried out in all 11 ATARIs as



a part of Golden Jubilee celebrations of KVKs. He said that the torch will act as a symbol of knowledge transfer by KVKs to all districts. Dr. Pathak mentioned about the crucial role of KVKs in propelling agricultural technology transmission since 1974 when the first KVK was established. He called upon to intensify the work of KVK during Amrit Kaal to address the aspirations of farmers. Dr. R. Bhatta,

DDG (AS) and Dr. D. Singh, Director, ICAR-NDRI, Karnal ICAR, New Delhi presented their views. Dr. P. Dey, Director, ATARI Kolkata said that the torch relay would create ripple effect in KVKs to serve as a change catalyst and convergence hub for Indian agriculture to accomplish the aspirations of the Nation by 2047. Directors/Heads of nearby ICAR institutes were present on the occasion.

Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR visited KVKs of A & N Islands

Dr. H. Pathak, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR visited KVK Port Blair on 05.05.2024. He was accompanied by Dr. V. B. Patel, ADG (Fruits &



Plantation Crops), ICAR, New Delhi; Dr. E. B. Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI, Port Blair and Dr. P. Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata. Dr. Y. Ramakrishna, SSH, KVK, Port Blair briefed about the activities of KVK. Dr. Pathak advocated for climate resilient technology to carefully integrate with Andaman's fragile ecosystem, preserving its innate beauty. He acknowledged the role of KVK for technical dissemination to improve the standard of living for the farming community on the islands, despite the logistical limitations. An exhibition of the products of KVK was also organised on the occasion. Dr. Dey expressed his heartfelt gratitude to DG, ICAR for visiting the KVK.



On 06.05.2024, Dr. H. Pathak and his team visited pond-based farming system which included paddy, vegetables, poultry and duckery maintained by Shri. N. Sammadhar, village-Nimbutala, North & Middle Andaman. The farmer disclosed a net income of Rs. 11-12 lakhs/ year from 4.02 ha hilly and low land. The Director General interacted with Shri K. Muniyandi of Janakpur village practicing plantation based cropping system with fruits and backyard desi poultry and appreciated the way in which KVK was guiding the farmers in such distant place and urged the KVKs to intensify the efforts to increase agri-entrepreneurs in the country. Dr. V. B. Patel, ADG (Fruits & Plantation Crops) suggested for integrating spices as intercrop for additional income.



Training on LDS organized

The two-day training on Landscape Diagnostic Survey (LDS) was organized by ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata in collaboration with CSISA (CIMMYT) at KVK Nadia on 19.06.2024. The Chief Guest of the valedictory Session, Dr. G. Saha, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, BCKV, expressed his deep satisfaction with the timely organization of this event at Nadia KVK. He also stressed the importance of integrating climate change aspect in LDS. Dr. P. Dey, Director, ATARI, Kolkata, emphasized that LDS gathers data on crop cultivation to help researchers predict yields, targeting technologies and supplement on-farm research by identifying key factors affecting farmer yields across various environments and practices. Dr. R. K. Malik, Consultant, CIMMYT, emphasized the adoption patterns of agronomic practices in rice



and noted yield variations across states and districts. Dr. K. Brahmachari, DEE, BCKV also spoke on the occasion. Dr. P. P. Pal, PS-cum-Nodal Officer, CSISA, ATARI Kolkata coordinated the whole programme and delivered welcome address in the inaugural session.



CSISA's Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning specialist Dr. Madhulika Singh, CIMMYT-Patna explained LDS for its relevance, methods, digital tools, and sampling in an interactive manner. Dr. A. Samaddar, Scientist, IRRI-Delhi explained that LDS provided a representative prognosis for further



analysis and discussed its purpose, scope, and the methodology of random sampling. Farmers' field visit was also organized during the programme. A total of 10 SSHs and SMSs from KVKs of Odisha and West Bengal participated in the programme.



Events

New Year 2024 celebrated

ICAR-ATARI Kolkata celebrated New Year 2024 programme on 01.01.2024, 2024. A meeting was organized at the seminar hall of the office on this occasion. It started with a heart-warming speech from the Director, ATARI Kolkata acknowledging the team's achievements in the past year and expressing optimism for the year ahead. All staffs were present in this occasion.



Interaction programme of PM on 'Vikshit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' attended

The 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 15.11.2023 from Khunti, Jharkhand to saturate the benefits of central government schemes



across the nation. After that, several programmes were held, to follow up the progress of the yatra. On the eve of the Interaction Programme of PM all staff were gathered at the conference hall and attended the program in online mode on 08.01.2024. In this program, four benefitted persons from different parts of India were interviewed for their



experiences by the PM. The program was attended by the researchers and the scientists of the institute.

Again, all staff attended the same programme in online mode on



18.11.2024. Five benefitted women from different parts of India were interviewed for their experiences by the PM.



Director, Accounts & Finance, ICAR, New Delhi visited

Sh. G. P. Sharma, JS, Finance, ICAR, New Delhi visited this institute on 11.01.2024 and interacted with KVKs through online mode. He expressed his satisfaction with the ongoing works



and also gave an outline of technical tit bits through which financial matters are going to be implemented from next FY. Sh. Sharma also suggested the measures to be taken for faster financial resolutions. Dr. P. Dey, Director,



ATARI Kolkata; Dr. K. Dhara from WBUAFS; scientists, FAO, AAO and project staff of this institute were also present in the meeting.

Birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose celebrated

ICAR-ATARI Kolkata organized a heartfelt celebration to observe 'Parakram Diwas' on the 127th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on 23.01.2024. The program began with the employees paying floral tributes to Netaji's portrait. The



Director, Dr. Pradip Dey recalled Netaji's bravery, commitment, and patriotism, saying that while there are many leaders, Netaji is unique. He quoted Netaji's statement, 'National reconstruction is only possible with the help of science and our scientists' and emphasized the need to fulfil Netaji's expectations to make India a developed nation. Dr. P. P. Pal, PS shared his thoughts on the slogan 'Give me blood, and I'll give you freedom'. Several other employees highlighted Netaji's crucial role in the freedom struggle.



MoUs signed

A MoU was signed between ICAR-ATARI Kolkata and West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Limited (WEBEL), Kolkata on 09.01.2024 to execute Proof of Concept (POC) on plant disease detection and soil quality analysis using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) techniques to provide

momentum for developing farmer-friendly system. Dr. P. Dey, Director, ATARI Kolkata and Mr. S. K. Das, MD, WEBEL, Kolkata signed the MoU on behalf of their organisations. This focused partnership between ICAR-ATARI and WEBEL will help in co-operation of scientific research and academic activities, organizing of joint research projects under Intramural research (IMR)/Extramural research (EMR) and any other academic activities that of mutual benefits to both institutions.



Another MoU was signed between ICAR-ATARI Kolkata and AgroPreneurs Market Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (AMTPL), Ahmedabad on 24.01.2024 to execute POC on development of women entrepreneurs in agri-business and procurement of farm-produce directly from farmers under the brand Grains Global. Director of this institute and Mr. Prasun Dey, Director,



AMTPL, Ahmedabad signed the MoU on behalf of their organisations. The MoU focused partnership between ICAR-ATARI and AMTPL will help AgroPreneurs in finding ready market and to build their own network with farmers. Dr. P. Bandopadhyay, DEE, BCKV; Dr. A. Halder, PS, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata and Mr. S. Chatterjee, Co-Founder, AMTPL, Ahmedabad were also present.



The office has signed third MoU for advanced research on plant medicine research in Odisha and West Bengal with National Institute of Homeopathy (NIH), Kolkata on 01.02.2024 to promote the plant-based medicines. Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata and Dr. S. Singh, Director, NIH, Kolkata



signed the MoU on behalf of their organizations. The Director, ATARI Kolkata stated that this institute and NIH will be working together to improve food quality and cultivate more wholesome and nutritious crops, as well as to advance the agriculture and animal husbandry industries through the use of homoeopathic medicine. NIH will work to establish welfare medical camps in various KVKs and will gather data on health-related concerns in the area in order to develop future health management policies.



'Republic Day 2024' celebrated

The office proudly celebrated the 75th Republic Day of India on 26.01.2024.



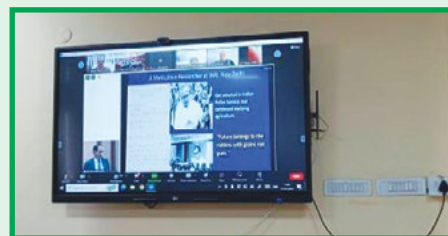
The day began with the ceremonial flag-hoisting by the Director in the office courtyard. As the tricolor fluttered against the morning sky, the melodious rendition of the national anthem resonated through the air. The Director, Dr. P. Dey remarked how the nation has achieved the great democracy and republic after its freedom struggle and how we need to uphold it for the next generation. The day was concluded by some refreshment at the conference hall.

Bharat Ratna award of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan celebrated

ICAR-IARI, New Delhi jointly with NAAS organized a special celebration on 13.02.2024 in recognition of the conferment of the prestigious Bharat Ratna Award to Prof. M. S. Swaminathan. The program was coordinated by Dr. H. Pathak,



President of NAAS and DG, ICAR and Dr. A. K. Singh, Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi. They emphasized how the agricultural landscape of India has been profoundly changed by Prof. Swaminathan's visionary leadership and inventive approach. Dr. T. Mohapatra, Dr. R. B. Singh, and Dr. R. S. Paroda, Founder of TAAS, were among the other dignitaries present on the event. Live telecast was attended by all the staff of this office. Attending the session, all of the staffs cherished the knowledge and experience that the distinguished scientists provided.



'International Women's Day 2024' celebrated

Invest in women-accelerate progress with this theme like each year,

on 08.03.2024, the world marks International Women's Day (IWD) to renew our collective commitment to achieving gender equality. The office of ICAR-ATARI Kolkata has also organized a program on this eve. Dr. (Mrs.) Lopamudra Halder, Professor, WBUAFS has chaired the occasion as chief guest. The program was attended by all the office staff.



Demonstration methodology for Natural Farming conducted

A strategic planning meeting to deliberate on the demonstration methodology for natural farming was convened on 28.03.2024 at ICAR-ATARI Kolkata. The programme involved 34 KVKs across the zone. Dr. P. Dey, Director, ATARI Kolkata, advocated for the integration of artificial intelligence to aid farmers in mitigating



risks and uncertainties inherent in natural farming across diverse agro-ecologies. Dr. A. Bandyopadhyay, Former National Coordinator, NASF, ICAR, emphasized the necessity of gathering comprehensive data on the agro-climate, crops cultivated, cropping sequences, and historical plant disease and pest infestations. Dr. A. Halder, Nodal Scientist of this office delineated the progress and achievements of the natural farming project, which engaged over 1.0 lakh farmers in this zone through demonstrations, training, and awareness programs.



Chairman, ZMC, NICRA visited

Dr. H. K. Senapati, Chairman, ZMC, NICRA visited the institute on 10.04.2024 to review the progress of ICAR-ATARI Kolkata in implementing the project NICRA. He was welcomed by Dr. P. P. Pal, PS of this office. He has stressed upon the judicious use of natural resources towards sustainability



in his lecture. Dr. S. K. Mondal, Nodal Officer of the project has briefly explained the action plan of the project for the coming financial year. Dr. K. S. Das concluded the event with a vote of thanks to all the participants and workers.



'World Intellectual Property Rights Day 2024' celebrated

A virtual meeting was held on 29.04.2024 on the occasion of 'World Intellectual Property Rights Day 2024' to celebrate and raise awareness about the importance of intellectual property (IP) rights at the seminar hall of ICAR-ATARI Kolkata. The program was chaired by Dr. P. Dey, Director of this institute. It featured a presentation by Dr. (Mrs.) Sanchita Ganguli, a patent attorney from S. Majumdar & Co., a renowned Intellectual Property firm. All the principal scientists and project staffs were physically present in the meeting. The meeting was attended by KVK scientists of this zone through virtual mode where the significance of IP in the field of agricultural research were highlighted. The program was concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr. P. P. Pal, PS, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata.



Former Vice-Chancellor, BCKV visited ATARI Kolkata

Prof. Chittaranjan Kole, Former VC, BCKV, Nadia visited ATARI Kolkata on 24.05.2024. Dr. P. Dey, Director of this office welcomed him and briefed about the significant contribution of Prof. C. Kole in agricultural research, teaching and extension. The Director highlighted various activities conducted by the KVKs under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata for the benefit of farming community. Prof. Kole showed his concern on the sustainability of farmers' income in today's scenario and emphasized



different ways to empower farmers for holistic development in state agriculture and allied sectors through Govt. of West Bengal and ICAR-ATARI Kolkata. The State Govt. officials, scientists and staff of this office were also present in that interaction meeting.

Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR visited

Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR visited ICAR-ATARI Kolkata on 03.06.2024. During his visit, he engaged with the scientists and staff of the institute, sharing valuable insights on strategic measures to strengthen the KVK system and extension landscape. Dr. Pathak praised the institute's scientific achievements and its crucial role in advancing agricultural practices. He encouraged



the team of scientists in ATARI Kolkata to envision transforming KVKs of this zone into business incubation and skill development centers. Director, ATARI Kolkata, briefed Dr. Pathak on the institute's recent activities and accomplishments. He highlighted the ongoing efforts to transform KVKs into

catalysts for change and convergence hubs for Indian agriculture, especially during the 'Amrit Kaal', to realize the aspirations of 'Vikshit Bharat'. He released publications of ATARI Kolkata. The event was attended by Dr. F. H. Rahman, Head, NBSS & LUP RC Kolkata and all the staff of this office.



'PM Kisan Samman Nidhi' programme' observed

The PM-KISAN scheme, launched by the Indian government on 24.02.2019, was designed to support Indian farmers financially. The Hon'ble PM of India

released the 17th instalment of PM-KISAN scheme on 18.06.2024 from Varanasi, UP. Under the Yojana, over ₹20,000 crore was transferred to the accounts of 9.26 crore farmers. The live telecast of the programme was viewed by all the Principal Scientists, project and administrative staffs of this office.



'International Yoga Day 2024' celebrated

On the eve of 'International Yoga Day 2024' a yoga practice program was organized in the Director's room of ICAR-ATARI Kolkata on 21.06.2024.

All scientists and project staff of the institute enthusiastically participated in the program and easily performed various yoga poses demonstrated by the yoga instructor- Ms. Kusumika Roy, project staff of the institute. Dr. P. Dey, Director of the institute, presided over the yoga practice program. He expounded this year's theme 'Yoga for Self and Society' and wished all the workers with a better mind-body unison and healthy living. The program concluded with a small luncheon containing fresh seasonal foods.



Meetings/ workshops/ training programmes organized/ conducted

Zonal Review Workshop of FFP organized

A one-day Zonal Review Workshop of the Farmer FIRST Programme (FFP) took place on 12.03.2024 at ATARI Kolkata. Director and Chairman, ZPMC, ATARI Kolkata presided over the event. Dr. K. S. Das, PS-cum-Member-Secretary, ZPMC welcomed the dignitaries and delegates. He provided a brief overview of the FFP programme and discussed the fund utilization for 2023-24 in this zone, coordinating the day's activities. In his inaugural address, Chief Guest Dr. A. Sarangi, Director, ICAR-IIWM, Bhubaneswar, emphasized the importance of reviewing stakeholder feedback before upscaling technologies. He urged scientists to concentrate on micro-irrigation-assisted cropping systems and divergent-based irrigation to make judicious use of available water. The Director, ATARI Kolkata, in his presidential address, highlighted the necessity of disseminating knowledge



and technologies from different FFP centers to benefit other farmers in the district and state. PIs and Co-PIs from the four FFP centers presented their physical and financial achievements for 2023-24, which were critically reviewed by the dignitaries and panelists during the technical session. There were total 48 participants in the workshop.



Strategic Planning Meeting of Natural Farming organized

A strategic planning meeting to deliberate on the demonstration methodology for natural farming was convened on 28.03.2024 at ICAR-ATARI Kolkata. This discussion was a part of the Government of India's flagship project, 'Out scaling of natural farming through KVKs' aiming to reach the grassroots of the farming community in states of Eastern India. The initiative involves 34 KVKs across the zone. The Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata, advocated for the integration of Artificial Intelligence to aid farmers



in mitigating risks and uncertainties inherent in natural farming across diverse agro-ecologies. He proposed the utilization of drones as well as *Jeevamrut*, *Neemastra*, *Brahmastra*, *Agnistra* and *Dashaparni Ark*. Dr. A. Bandyopadhyay, Former National Coordinator, NASF, ICAR, emphasized the necessity of gathering comprehensive data on the agro-climate, crops cultivated, cropping sequences, and historical plant disease and pest infestations. Dr. A. Halder, Nodal Scientist delineated the progress and achievements of the natural farming project.



Farmers' fields of FFP visited

Dr. K. S. Das, Nodal Scientist of FFP, ATARI Kolkata along with PIs/Co-PIs

of all four FFP centres of Odisha visited farmers' fields to monitor the progress of those projects. In the morning of 11.01.2024, Dr. P. K. Sahoo, Director, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar; Dr. Das and scientists from CIFA, Bhubaneswar interacted with the farmers of FFP adopted villages at CIFA campus and distributed agricultural farm



implements, centrifugal pumps etc. They visited vegetable farm at Purohitpur, Khordha who was the awardee of ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad and other farms at village- Barijanga, Khordha. One farmer-scientist interaction programme was also organized in those villages to discuss various problems of farmers related to agriculture. In the afternoon of the same day, the team visited the adopted village of ICAR-IIWM, Bhubaneswar. The oyster mushroom farm, kitchen gardening, vegetables farm at village-Haridamuda and poultry (*Vezaguda*) unit at Barapita village, Khordha, Odisha were also visited.



On 12.01.2024, scientists of 4 FFP centres and ATARI Kolkata visited farms of Mr. A. Pradhan, Mr. H. Pradhan and Mr. S. Patala Singh



at Gopalpur village; farm of Mr. B. Srichandran at Lokipur village; farms of Mr. N. Sundaray and Mr. R. Dash at Brahmapura-II village, Khordha.



Dr. K. S. Das and his team also visited farmers' fields of ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack on 23.02.2024. Various farms at Ganapur, Gopinathpur and Malihata village were visited to monitor the progress of their farming. One 'Farmer-



'Scientist Interaction Meet' was also conducted at village- Gopinathpur, Cuttack where more than 150 farmers were present and queries of farmers related to agriculture production, latest technology availability, input supply, marketing, crop and livestock/fish diseases etc. were resolved.



Farmers' field of Natural Farming (NF) visited

Dr. A. Haldar, Pr. Scientist-cum-Nodal Scientist of NF project, ATARI Kolkata along with scientists of KVK Coochbehar and Uttar Dinajpur visited different demonstration plots of Natural Farming and interacted with the farmers in Kumarganj block of



Alipurduar district and Chopra block of Uttar Dinajpur District of North Bengal on 06-07.03.2024. The farmers expressed immense interest on NF practices due to less cost of cultivation, less incidence of pest and disease infestation and production of organic, tasty and quality vegetables.



Annual Zonal Workshop of NICRA-TDC under ATARI Kolkata conducted

ICAR-ATARI Kolkata organized the Annual Zonal Workshop of NICRA-TDC for 17 selected KVKs of this zone on 19-20.06.2024 at N 24 Pgs KVK, Ashokenagar, West Bengal to review the progress of activities of the project in 2023-24 and finalization of the action plan for 2024-25. Prof. D. Basu, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, UBKV, Cooch Behar, in his inaugural address, shared his valuable experiences in conservation farming and requested the participants and farmers to propagate the knowledge to their fellow farmers. Dr. Pradip Dey, Director of this institute stated that conservation agriculture has a huge importance in the scenario of climate changes and advocated

to link production system to market intelligence for better profitability.

Dr. (Mrs.) G. Pratibha, PI, NICRA, ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad made the house concerned about the precededent gradual increase of global temperature and its related consequences. She exhorted her views towards the NICRA-KVKs of Zone V for an intensive care towards nurturing the interventions against climatic vulnerability and upscaling the climate resilient technologies in an integrated way. Directors of nearby ICAR institutes, Line Department officials/representatives and SSHs of 17 NICRA KVKs of the zone were present. Around 30 farmers including women

from NICRA and its adjacent villages of N 24 Pgs district were present in this workshop. Some progressive farmers were felicitated by the VC, UBKV. Earlier, Dr. S. K. Mondal, Pr. Scientist-



cum-Nodal Officer of the project appreciated the role of all 17 NICRA KVKs of this zone in disseminating the

climate resilient technologies in respect of different modules. Two technical bulletins on were released. All the KVKs presented their progress of activities of the project conducted during last year 2023-24 which were critically reviewed by the experts and panelists and action plan for 2024-25 of each KVK was finalized.



Some important meetings/workshops/symposia etc. attended by scientists/ staff

| Sl. No. | Name of the programme(s) | No. of scientist(s)/ staff attended |
|---------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Online and offline meeting of scientific advisory committee (SAC) of KVKs of this zone | 6 |
| 2 | Online and offline review meetings/ workshops of various schemes/projects of ICAR-ATARI Kolkata | 10 |
| 3 | NAAS strategy workshop on carbon farming Chaired by Hon'ble Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR | 1 |
| 4 | Online and offline meeting with DG/DDGs/ADGs/Pr. Scientists/Under Secretaries of AE (Ext.), ICAR, New Delhi and Director/ Pr. Scientists/ AAO/AFAO/others on fund utilization, progress of schemes/projects and other various issues | 10 |
| 5 | Online meeting with PIs/CO-PIs/SSHs of KVKs of different network projects | 6 |
| 6 | Review meeting with PIs/CO-PIs of different Institute projects | 4 |
| 7 | Online meeting on eHRMS 2.0 technical issues organized by ICAR, New Delhi | 5 |
| 8 | Screening committee/selection committee meeting of various posts of KVKs of this zone | 5 |
| 9 | Invited lectures by scientists of ICAR-ATARI Kolkata at different conferences/workshops/programmes | 5 |
| 10 | Online meeting on Vikshit Bharat @2047 with ICAR, New Delhi | 15 |
| 11 | Online review meeting on RKVY short term training and RPL training organized by the Council | 3 |
| 12 | Online meeting on 2 nd institute-ATARI-KVK interface meeting organized by ICAR-IVRI, Uttar Pradesh | 5 |
| 13 | Online meeting with JS (INM), Min. of DA&FW and JS (I &TB), Min. of Education & Literacy on soil health management in 1000 schools | 2 |
| 14 | Institute management committee meeting of ATARI Kolkata and other ICAR institutes | 4 |

| Sl. No. | Name of the programme(s) | No. of scientist(s)/ staff attended |
|---------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 15 | Online meeting for celebrating Bharat Ratna Award to Prof. M. S. Swaminathan organized by ICAR-IARI, Pusa, New Delhi | 15 |
| 16 | Selection committee meeting as Chairman/Member for selecting SRF/YP-I/Project Associates/Project Assistants of different projects at ICAR-ATARI Kolkata and other Institutes | 7 |
| 17 | Awareness-cum-capacity building programme on quality assurance of soil testing labs under soil health card scheme at ICAR-CRIJaf, Barrackpore | 1 |
| 18 | Meeting of PPVFRA and facilitating the submission of GI etc. by KVKs at ICAR-CISH, Malda | 1 |
| 31 | Other meetings on various issues | 10 |

Distinguished visitors

- Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Hon'ble Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR, New Delhi
- Prof. C. Kole, Former Vice-Chancellor, BCKV, Nadia
- Dr. A. Sarangi, Director, ICAR-IIWM, Bhubaneswar
- Dr. A. Bandyopadhyay, Former National Coordinator, NASF, ICAR, New Delhi
- Sh. G. P. Sharma, Joint Secretary, Finance, ICAR, New Delhi
- Dr. H. K. Senapati, Chairman, ZMC, NICRA-TDC, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
- Dr. S. Singh, Director, NIH, Kolkata
- Sh. S. K. Das, Managing Director, WEBEL, Kolkata
- Mr. P. Dey, Director, AMTPL, Ahmedabad

Publications

Research articles

Chandre G M, Rana K R, Dubey S K, Meena M S, Raut A A, Pal P P, Bhaskaran A., Kumar A, Bordoloi R and Rajesh T. 2024. Drivers of Functioning or Discontinuation of Small-Scale Agri Entrepreneurship in Rural India. *International Journal of Small Business and Entrepreneurship Research*, **12**(2), 25-58.

Das S, Ghosh B, Ghosh S, Pal P P, Dey P and Gautam U S 2024. Rabi groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea*) yield in different agro-ecologies of Eastern India: Factors analyses. *Indian Journal of Agricultural Sciences*, **94**(3-1): 095-101.

Meher S, Panda A, Mishra P J, Majhi T, Mondal S K and Phonglosa A. 2024. Performance of climate

smart rice (var. CR DHAN 801): A case study from western undulating zone of Odisha, India. *International Journal of Environment and Climate Change*, **14**(4): 80-85.

Meher S, Panda A, Mishra P J, Majhi T, Mondal S K and Phonglosa A. 2024. Effect of integrated nutrient management on growth and yield of aromatic rice (*Oryza sativa* L. var – Dubraj). *International Journal of Bioresource and Stress Management* (Submitted).

Technical articles

Begam A, Das K S, Dutta S, Ghosh S and Mondal S K. 2024. Fodder production - Importance in dairy farming and its scope in eastern India. *AgroScience Today*, **5**(3): 803-810.

Ghosh S, Das K S, Begam A and Mondal S K. 2024. Role of social media in transforming Indian agriculture. *AgroScience Today*, **5**(3): 814-819.

Technical bulletins

Mondal S K, Rahman F H, Bhattacharya R, Nandi S and Dey P. 2023. NICRA News: Towards climate resilient agriculture. Published by Director, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata, **IX**(1): 1- 12.

Mondal S K, Bhattacharya R, Nandi S, Das K S, Rahman F H and Dey P. 2024. NICRA News: Towards climate resilient agriculture. Published by Director, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata, **IX**(2): 1- 12.

Das K S, Mondal S K, Begam A, Haldar A, Pal P P and Dey P. 2024. ATARI Kolkata News. Published by Director, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata, **7**(2): 1- 16.

Books edited

Das K S, Mondal S, Pramanik A, Ghosh S and Mondal S K. 2024. Recent management practices for reducing expenditure of dairy cattle farming. *AgriTech Today*, 2 (Special Issue April): 101-104.

Mondal S K, Bhattacharya R, Nandi S, Rahman F H, Das K S and Dey P. 2024. Fostering climate resilient technologies for sustainability in eastern region. Published by the Director, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata, pp: 1-70.

Basak J, Pal P P, Das K S and Dey P. 2024. Promoting Protein Security in the Eastern Region through CFLD Pulses. ICAR-ATARI Kolkata, India, pp-1-44.

News items published in ICAR website

- 'Felicitation-cum-Exposure visit of ATL School'
- 'भाकृअनुप-अटारी, कोलकातामें अंतर्राष्ट्रीय योग दिवस का आयोजन'
- 'Annual Zonal Workshop of NICRA-TDC organized by ICAR-ATARI Kolkata'
- 'World Ocean Day 2024'

- 'World Environment Day 2024'
- 'Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR) visits ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata'
- 'Inauguration of Rural Outreach Odyssey for Amrit Interns'
- 'Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity 2024'
- 'Seminar organized on World Bee Day 2024'
- 'DG (ICAR) visits progressive farmers guided by Nimbudera ICAR-KVK'
- 'Dr. Himanshu Pathak visits ICAR-KVK, Port Blair'
- 'ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata organises a Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights'
- 'Zonal Workshop of the Farmer FIRST Programme'
- 'Secretary (DARE) and Director General (ICAR) inaugurate the voyage of the ICAR-KVK Golden Jubilee Torch in Zone-V'
- 'Workshop-cum-Capacity Building Programme on Natural Farming'
- 'Strategic Planning Meeting to Promote Natural Farming to Grassroots'

- 'Inauguration of Diploma in Agricultural Extension Services for Input Dealers'
- 'HRD programme on Emerging Crop Management Strategies in Weather Induced Stresses'
- 'Natural Farming: Rapidly getting accepted by the farmers in North Bengal'
- 'ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata Celebrates International Women's Day'
- 'Skill Development Workshop under SCSP'
- 'Input distribution programme under Cluster Frontline Demonstration on Oilseeds'
- 'Field day-cum- input distribution programme'
- 'ICAR-ATARI organises Zonal Workshop on Natural Farming Project in collaboration with Rathindra KVK and Visva-Bharati'
- 'ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata organises the Annual Review Workshop of Flagship ARYA Project'
- 'ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata, organises Krishi Mela'
- 'Mega Input/Kit Distribution-cum-Awareness Programme under SCSP'

Personalia

Awards/Recognitions

- Dr. S. K. Mondal, Pr. Scientist received 'Certificate of Appreciation/ Excellence Award' as reviewer for 'Uttar Pradesh Journal of Zoology', 'Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics

and Sociology', 'Asian Journal of Advances in Agricultural Research', 'Journal of Experimental Agriculture International', 'International Journal of Environment and Climate Change' and for peer-reviewing of journal articles during the period.

- Dr. K. S. Das, Pr. Scientist received 'Reviewer Excellence Award' from ARCC, Karnal, Haryana as reviewer for 'Indian Journal of Animal Research'. Dr. Das has been selected as Member, Editorial Board of 'Asian Journal of Dairy and Food Research'.

A PDF version of the Newsletter is also available at: <http://www.atarikolkata.org/publications>



ATARI Kolkata News
A Bi-annual Newsletter of ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute Kolkata
(An ISO 9001: 2015 Certified Institute)
An Institution of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
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Published by

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