



Farmer
FIRST



Proceedings

Zonal Review Workshop

Farmer **FIRST** Programme
under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata

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भाकृअनुप - कृषि तकनीकी अनुप्रयोग अनुसंधान संस्थान कोलकाता

ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Kolkata
Bhumi Vihar Complex, Block- GB, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700097

Zonal Review Workshop of the Farmer FIRST Programme Organised on 21.02.2025 at ICAR-ATARI Kolkata

Under a shared vision for transformative agricultural development, Zonal Review Workshop of the Farmer FIRST Programme (FFP) under ICAR-ATARI Kolkata unfolded in a symphony of ideas and aspirations. It was hosted in hybrid mode under the chairmanship of Dr. Pradip Dey, Director-cum-Chairman, Zonal Programme Management Committee (ZPMC), FFP, bringing together five centres i.e., ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar, ICAR-IIWM, Bhubaneswar and ICAR-CRRI, Cuttack, Two SAUs i.e., OUAT, Bhubaneswar and WBUAFS, Belgachia, Kolkata on 21st February, 2025 in the Conference Hall of ICAR-ATARI Kolkata. The objective of the workshop was to review the salient achievements of FFP during the year 2024-25 and to finalize the Action Plan for the year 2025-26.

Dr. T. K. Datta, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences (WBUAFS), Kolkata was the Chief Guest in the workshop. Dr. K. S. Das, Pr. Scientist-cum-Member-Secretary, ZPMC, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata coordinated the workshop. A total of 50 participants including Principal Scientists as well as all project/administrative staff from ICAR-ATARI Kolkata and PIs/Co-PIs/SRFs of the FFP implementing institutes physically and online attended the workshop, which are given below.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Designation</i>
Dr. Pradip Dey	Director and Chairman, ZPMC, FFP, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Dr. T. K. Datta	Chief Guest and Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, WBUAFS, Kolkata, West Bengal
Dr. B. K. Sil	DREF, WBUAFS, Kolkata
Dr. A. Halder	Pr. Scientist, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Dr. S. K. Mondal	Pr. Scientist, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Dr. K. S. Das	Pr. Scientist-cum-Member-Secretary, ZPMC, FFP, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Dr. S. Biswas	PI, FFP, WBUAFS, Kolkata
Dr. I. Kar	Co-PI, FFP, WBUAFS, Kolkata
Dr. R. Roy Burman	ADG (AE), ICAR, New Delhi (Online)
Dr. P. J. Mishra	Dean, Extension Education, OUAT, Bhubaneswar (Online)
Dr. B. K. Mahapatra	Head(Agronomy) and PI, FFP, OUAT, Bhubaneswar (Online)
Dr. B. Mondal	Pr. Scientist and PI, FFP, ICAR-CRRI, Cuttack (Online)
Dr. S. Lenka	Pr. Scientist and Co-PI, FFP, ICAR-CRRI, Cuttack (Online)
Dr. S. Paul	Sr. Scientist and Co-PI, FFP, ICAR-CRRI, Cuttack (Online)
Dr. S. K. Mishra	Pr. Scientist and PI, FFP, ICAR-IIWM, Bhubaneswar (Online)
Dr. B. S. Satapathy	Pr. Scientist and Co-PI, FFP, ICAR-IIWM, Bhubaneswar (Online)
Dr. S. Sarkar	Sr. Scientist and Co-PI, FFP, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar (Online)
Dr. I. Shivaraman	Sr. Scientist and Co-PI, FFP, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar (Online)
Mr. S. Mukherjee	AF&AO, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Mr. S. Saha	UDC, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Mr. A. D. Banik	Assistant, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Dr. A. Begam	SRF, FFP, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Dr. S. Das	SRF, ARYA, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Mrs. J. Basak	SRF, CFLD Pulses, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Mrs. R. Bhattacharya	SRF, NICRA, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Mrs. B. Ghosh	SRF, CFLD-Oilseed, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Mr. S. Ghosh	SRF, NEMA, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Mr. S. Khutia	YP-II, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Mr. S. Paul	DEO, CSISA, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Ms. K. Roy	YP-I, Natural Farming, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Ms. Payel Pal	YP-II, Model Village, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Mr. A. K. Dewani	YP-II, ERP, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
Mr. Tanmoy Das	Computer Operator, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata and many others

Inaugural Session:

The inaugural session commenced with the ICAR song. Dr. K.S. Das extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries and delegates, facilitating a seamless exchange of insights while presenting an overview of the Farmer FIRST Programme (FFP). He elaborated on the programme's objectives and outlined its physical achievements for the period 2024-25, detailing the number of villages, modules, and farm families covered, funds sanctioned for each centre, and publications released by ICAR-ATARI Kolkata under FFP. He urged all PIs and Co-PIs to specify the details of interventions implemented under different modules, compare their economic feasibility, and verify data sets before reporting.

In his presidential address, Dr. Pradip Dey envisioned a collaborative evolution of FFP centres, advocating for an analytical approach beyond the conventional benefit-cost ratio. He emphasized ranking modules based on carbon and water footprints, integrating mobile applications, and incorporating farmer feedback loops to guide impactful agricultural innovations. Stressing the programme's core theme, he called for a collaborative approach where farmers and experts work together, leveraging the latest technological interventions to enhance agricultural productivity. He underscored the need for sustainability, ensuring that productivity and farmers' incomes remain stable even after the project's withdrawal. Additionally, he encouraged the exploration of multi-tier farming systems to optimize profits and advocated for impact assessment studies to evaluate the effectiveness of FFP centres while documenting institutional learnings.

Chief Guest Dr. T.K. Datta highlighted the importance of farmer-centric, data-driven interventions, stressing the need for in-depth need and perception analyses to pave the way for sustainable and nutritionally secure agriculture. He introduced the 'KIMI' framework—Knowledge, Intent, Money, and Innovation—as key factors for the success of agricultural projects. He also emphasized the significance of impact analysis and systematic data creation to assess the effectiveness of initiatives.

Dr. R. Roy Burman, ADG (AE), ICAR, elevated the discussion by emphasizing the national significance of FFP. He advocated for micro-level agro-ecosystem analysis and the horizontal scaling of viable technological modules to ensure sustainability beyond the project's tenure. He encouraged the wider adoption of effective technology modules among target beneficiaries to maximize the programme's impact. Furthermore, he recommended developing a business-oriented model for FFP to establish a self-sustaining and scalable framework for agricultural development. He also stressed the importance of mobilizing content and disseminating best practices among farmers and other stakeholders, drawing insights from FFP projects.

Dr. P.J. Mishra emphasized the need for convergence between the FFP project and relevant State Government departments and agencies to enhance effectiveness and sustainability. Dr. B. K. Sil called for dedicated efforts to bridge the gap between farmers and researchers, fostering a more collaborative approach toward holistic agricultural development in villages.

Technical Session:

The technical session featured presentations by the PIs and Co-PIs of the four existing FFP centres—ICAR-CRRI, Cuttack; ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar; ICAR-IIWM, Bhubaneswar; and OUAT, Bhubaneswar—who outlined the physical and financial achievements of their respective programmes for the year 2024-25. Meanwhile, the newly approved centre, WBUAFS, Kolkata, presented its Action Plan for 2024-25. These presentations were critically reviewed by a panel of experts, who provided recommendations for necessary revisions and modifications.

<i>Chairman:</i>	Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
<i>Co-Chairman:</i>	Dr. T.K. Datta, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, WBUAFS, Kolkata
<i>Panelists:</i>	Dr. P.J. Mishra, Dean, Ext. Edu., OUAT, Bhubaneswar Prof. B.K. Sil, DREF, WBUAFS, Kolkata Dr. A. Halder, Pr. Scientist, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata Dr. S.K. Mondal, Pr. Scientist, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata
<i>Rapporteurs:</i>	Dr. (Ms.) Ankita Begam, SRF, FFP; Mrs. Jhumur Basak, SRF, CFLD on Pulses and Dr. (Mrs.) Shreya Das, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata

The Centre-wise salient comments/action points are given below:

ICAR-IIWM, Bhubaneswar (Presented by Dr. S. K. Mishra, PI):

- ☞ Dr. P. Dey emphasized ranking modules based on their carbon and water footprints and incorporating water budgeting for each module. He proposed the development of mobile applications to enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of interventions under the Farmer FIRST Programme.
- ☞ Dr. A. Halder recommended integrating precision farming or other successful technologies developed by IIWM into different modules. He also suggested conducting a cost-benefit analysis before and after interventions to assess economic changes, providing valuable insights for policymakers.
- ☞ Dr. K.S. Das stressed the importance of proper statistical analysis when comparing the results and efficacy of different interventions within each FFP module to identify the most effective approaches.

WBUAFS, Belgachia Kolkata (Presented by Dr. S. Biswas, PI):

- ☞ The newly approved centre, WBUAFS, Belgachia, Kolkata, was sanctioned by ICAR, New Delhi, in January 2025 (for the financial year 2024-25). The PI presented the centre's action plan for 2024-25, detailing the survey of adopted villages. He also sought the committee's consideration for submitting a detailed action plan for 2025-26 at the earliest.
- ☞ The Chairman of the workshop advised the PI to request only the minimum required funds for survey activities to ensure optimal utilization of allocated funds within the 2024-25 financial year.
- ☞ Dr. A. Halder suggested formulating a concise and impactful project title for better communication of objectives. He also recommended the inclusion of a dairy module in the project.

ICAR-CRRI, Cuttack (Presented by Dr. S. Paul, PI):

- ☞ Dr. P.J. Mishra emphasized the need to select viable interventions that ensure long-term sustainability and self-sufficiency.
- ☞ Dr. K.S. Das proposed incorporating area-wise feasibility studies of pond-based horticultural models into future FFP action plans to explore crop diversification potential.
- ☞ Dr. A. Halder recommended identifying and prioritizing lucrative components within the Integrated Farming System (IFS) model to maximize income generation. He advised determining the ideal percentage of integration for these components to achieve optimal results and urged incorporating bio-circularity measures to enhance sustainability and reduce environmental impact.
- ☞ Dr. S.K. Mondal suggested utilizing collected data for economic analysis and disseminating findings to promote entrepreneurship development among agricultural stakeholders.
- ☞ Dr. S.K. Mishra proposed integrating climate-resilient crop varieties into the Farmer FIRST Programme to enhance productivity and resilience to environmental changes. Additionally, he recommended using mechanized methods for bori (dried lentil dumplings) making to improve efficiency and reduce labor costs.

ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar (Presented by Dr. I. Sivaraman, Co-PI):

- ☞ Dr. S.K. Mondal emphasized the role of farmer inputs and economic viability in selecting programme modules.
- ☞ Dr. S.K. Mishra suggested that presentations should include specific units of measurement to provide a clear understanding of financial benefits associated with each module.
- ☞ Prof. P.J. Mishra advocated for convergence with line departments and rigorous impact assessments to facilitate the scaling-up of successful technologies from the Farmer FIRST Programme across villages.

OUAT, Bhubaneswar (Presented by Prof. B.K. Mahapatra):

- ☞ Dr. K.S. Das called for uniformity in presentations, proper installation of banners/plates at demonstration sites, and ensuring media coverage in local and English languages. He also stressed the need to credit scientists, host institutes, and ICAR-ATARI Kolkata in all project-related publications.
- ☞ Dr. A. Halder recommended adopting new analytical approaches to identify and address potential areas for improvement.
- ☞ The Chairman underscored the importance of capturing and disseminating knowledge gained through the project via extension activities.

Concluding Remarks by Chairman

- ☞ PIs and Co-PIs of FFP centres were urged to gather comprehensive data from each intervention and module for multi-dimensional analysis to produce high-quality research publications. He emphasized collaboration with other institutes and multi-disciplinary experts to maximize the impact of research findings.
- ☞ Farmer FIRST centres were instructed to maintain an up-to-date record of achievements and progress on the designated FFP Portal to ensure transparent and accessible information-sharing.

The workshop facilitated a comprehensive review of interventions, impact assessments, and strategic enhancements. Discussions emphasized data-driven decision-making, integration of innovative technologies, and sustainability measures to ensure the long-term success of the programme. The collaborative forum reinforced the shared vision of transforming agriculture through participatory research, technological advancements, and policy-driven action plans, aiming to enhance farmers' resilience and productivity in the upcoming years.

A moment of recognition illuminated the event as ICAR-IIWM, Bhubaneswar was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for its outstanding presentation, setting a benchmark in excellence.

The deliberations concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. S.K. Mondal, Principal Scientist, marking the end of a workshop that was not just a meeting of minds but a collective commitment to the successful implementation of the Farmer FIRST Programme and the prosperity of farmers.

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FIRST PROGRAMME UNDER ICAR-ATARI KOLKATA

Sl	NAME	DESIGNATION	ADDRESS	CONTACT NO.	E-mail id	SIGNATURE
01.	Dr. Pradip Dey	Director, ATARI-kol	ATARI-kolkata	9425608210	pradipdey@yahoo.com	
02.	Dr. T. K. Datta	V.C, WBVAFS	WBVAFS, Kolkata	-	-	
03.	Dr. B. K. Sil	DREF, WBVAFS	WBVAFS, Kolkata	-	-	
04.	Dr. A. Halder	Pr. Sc, ATARI-kolkata	ICAR, ATARI-kolkata	8017325546	vetasigat@gmail.com	
05.	Dr. S. K. Mondal	Pr. Sc, ATARI Kolkata	ICAR-ATARI-kolkata	9836488588	sk-mondal@yahoo.com	
06.	Dr. K. S. Das	Pr. Sc, ATARI Kolkata	ICAR-ATARI-kolkata	9432581103	kalyanlpm@gmail.com	
07.	Dr. Sukanta Biswas	Associate Professor	Dept. of VETERINARY	945676784	Sbicusnovek@gmail.com	
08.	Dr. Indrajit Kar	Assistant Professor, WBVAFS	WBVAFS, Kolkata	954102266	indrajitkar78@gmail.com	
09.	Mn. Somnath Mukherjee	AFA AO, ATARI, kol.	ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata	-	somnath.mukherjee@icar.gov.in	
10.	Mn. A. D. Banik	Asst.	ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata	9830677093	A.D. Banik@gmail.com	
11.	Mn. Sekhar Saha	UDC	ICAR, ATARI, Kolkata	9432189916	-	
12.	Dr. Ankita Begam	SRF, FFP	ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata	9832446636	b.ankita.01995@gmail.com	
13.	Dr. Shreya Das	SRF, ARYA	ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata	8768306865	shreya.silbckv@gmail.com	
14.	Ms. Jhumsu Banik	SRF, CFLD-Pulse	ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata	8910759856	banikjhumsu@gmail.com	
15.	Ms. Bani Ghosh	SRF, CFLD Oilseed	ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata	9903048990	banighosh100@gmail.com	
16.	Ms. Ria Bhattacharya	SRF, NICRA-TDC	ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata	8282911731	riyabhattacharyass@gmail.com	
17.	Dr. Sreyambhush Ghosh	SRF, NEMA	ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata	9836797979	sreyambhush@gmail.com	
18.	Mn. Sudipta Paul	DEO, CSISA	ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata	9874831071	sudiptapaulbary@gmail.com	

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Sl	NAME	DESIGNATION	ADDRESS	CONTACT NO.	EMAIL-ID	SIGNATURE
19.	Ms. Kuntika Roy	YP-I, Natural Farming	ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata	7063246316	Kuntikaroy100@gmail.com	
20.	Mr. Payal Pal	YP-II, OMV	ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata	7443405806	Payal231054@gmail.com	
21.	Mr. Anik K. Dewangi	YP-I, LQR-ERP	ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata	9038918052	anikdewangi@gmail.com	
22.	Mn. Satyajit Khutia	YP-II	"	9177936270	S.Khutta@gmail.com	
23.	Mn. Deepak Debnath	Driver	ICAR-ATARI-kol.	-	-	
24.	Mns. Anoty Roy	SSS	"	-	-	
25.	Mn. Susanta Sanhar	SSS	"	8420557029	-	
26.	Mn. Nijam Sander	SSS	"	-	-	
27.	Mn. Nepal Mondal	SSS	ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata	-	-	
28.	Sriji Baidya	Driver	Director, ICAR-ATARI	-	-	
29.	Dr. Anik Banerjee	Doctor	ICAR-ATARI-kol	-	-	
30.	Maheswar Shao	Driver	-	-	-	
31.	Siddendu Mondal	Security guard	ICAR-ATARI-kolkata	9804929961	-	
32.	Tanmay Das	Computer operator	ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata	9143227112	-	
33.	Polash Mondal	S.G.	ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata	9051041346	-	
34.	Prananta Dey	SG	"	-	-	
35.	Siddhartha Das	DEO	"	9750487223	-	

Glimpses of FFP Zonal Review Workshop held on 21.02.2025 at ICAR-ATARI Kolkata


