

# Krishi Rupantar

Assam Agribusiness and Rural  
Transformation Project



16<sup>th</sup> Issue

SEPTEMBER 2020

## Custom Hiring Centre Heralds The Mechanization Movement In The State

Mechanization of agricultural operations increases the resource use efficiency reduces drudgery as well as the cost of cultivation. Most of the farmers in the State (86%) fall under small and marginal category. Their fragmented and small land holding often pushes them back before taking any decision on purchasing machines. The much needed mechanization of agriculture in Assam has taken a leap under the initiative of the World Bank funded Govt of Assam Project, the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART).

Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs) for farm implements is the best suited model for the small and marginal farmers to make the access of machineries at their door step. It is a model to popularize farm mechanization with cutting edge technology among resource-poor farmers at a minimal affordable cost. Assam Agricultural University with the technical support of International Rice Research Institute under APART has identified few farmer producer organizations/farmer producer companies/farmers group in different districts and handed over the machineries purchased by AAU and placed at the KVKs/RARSs. These machines are handed over for a specific period to the CHCs with the expectation to increase the accessibility of machines to the farmers who are unable to purchase the machines on their own. Presently, ten CHCs have been established under APART. Out of ten CHCs as of now, three Custom Hiring Centers have been inaugurated in September 2020.

## Inauguration of custom hiring centre at Sorbhog, Barpeta

Shri Ranjeet Kumar Dass, MLA, Sorbhog LAC & Ex Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly inaugurated the Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) on 2nd September, 2020 at Meda, a village under Chakchaka Development Block, Barpeta. Sorbhog Agricultural Producers' Organization has been entrusted with the responsibility to run the center, which at present has ten different agricultural implements. Dr. A. K. Deka, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK, Barpeta in his speech highlighted the necessity of mechanization in agricultural sector in the changing crop production strategies.



Machinery at the Custom Hiring Centre, Sorbhog

Shri Munindra Sharma, Deputy Commissioner, Barpeta also attended the programme as the Guest of Honour. He called upon the farmers to derive benefits out of the centre as it would lessen the cost of production and thereby enhance the income of farmers. Addressing the members present, Shri Ranjeet Kumar Dass, MLA, Sorbhog highlighted the different farmer-friendly schemes of the Government of India and expressed his satisfaction over the way that the dreams of the Hon'ble Prime Minister have come to reality. He proudly mentioned that the farm products of Sorbhog area are well known across the State, being organic by default. He hoped that the small and marginal farmers will benefit from the CHC, and it would help the doubling of farmers' income by 2022. He added that he is sure that the CHC will prove as a milestone towards revolutionizing farm mechanization in agriculture in the entire district of Barpeta.



**Shri Ranjeet Kumar Dass, MLA, Sorbhog LAC inaugurating the Custom Hiring Centre, Sorbhog**

The District Development Manager, NABARD and the District Agricultural Officer, Barpeta also expressed their views on the occasion.

## Inauguration of custom hiring centre at Kharupetia, Darrang

The custom hiring centre (CHC) promoted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Darrang under APART was inaugurated at Bihudia village of Kharupetia in Darrang on September 10, 2020, by the Superintendent of Police, Darrang Mr Amrit Bhuyan. Inaugurating the CHC he appealed all the farmers to avail the opportunity of the machines for agricultural operations in their field at a reasonable hiring rate. He thanked APART for the timely initiative made for supporting the farmers.



**Mr. Amrit Bhuyan, Superintendent of Police, Darrang Inaugurating the CHC at Kharupetia, Darrang**

The centre will be run by local farmer's group 'Annandata' for two years. Dr Abdul Hafiz, Principal Scientist and Head, KVK, Darrang; Sri Uddhab Chandra Deka, District Agriculture Officer (in-charge), Darrang, Dr Kanwar Singh, Resident Consultant IRRI, Sri Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta, Program Coordinator, APART-AAU and Sri Amarendra Sarma, President BJP Darrang graced the occasion.

## Inauguration of custom hiring centre at Saidpur-iii, Cachar

The first Custom Hiring Centre of Cachar promoted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Cachar under APART was inaugurated at Saidpur-III village of Sonai block by Aminul Haque Laskar the Deputy Speaker of Assam Assembly. In his inaugural speech, he mentioned that the farmers are the backbone of society. He reiterated the initiatives taken by the honourable Prime Minister in agriculture to double farmer's income. The Speaker appealed to all the farmers to go for multiple cropping approaches by reaping the benefit of modern technologies. Dr. P. K. Choudhury, Principal Scientist and Head, KVK while addressing the farmers explained the purpose of the CHC and how the farmers could avail the benefit of the machines at affordable rentals. Different types of agricultural machinery available in the CHC are thresher, rice transplanter, reaper, seed-cum-fertilizer drill, drum seeder, zero-till seed drill, power weeder. The CHC will be run by the Adarsha Agriculture Self Help Group.



Shri Aminul Haque Laskar, Deputy Speaker of Assam Assembly inaugurating the CHC at Saipur III village, Cachar

## One cell, one seed

### Farmers use seed trays to raise healthy seedlings, which lead to better crops and higher incomes

At the onset of the rabi season when the flood-ravaged fields dry up, the farmers in Khanar Pub Par village in Lakhipur Block, Goalpara district, Assam, India eagerly take up vegetable cultivation. Yet disappointing crop yields in recent years as a result of poor seedling production practices and haphazard application of agrochemicals has left many farmers wondering if they should continue producing vegetables at all.



Matured seedling from seedling tray

With interventions from the APART Project, solutions to these issues have been introduced. The project aims to help farmers raise safe, healthy, high-quality vegetable crops.

Three farmers in Khanar Pub Par came forward to take up the demonstration plantation of cauliflower in their fields. Each received seed trays, vermicompost, biological pest control agents like *Trichoderma* and *Beauveria*, and biofertilizers such as PSB, *Azotobacter* and *Azospirillum*, along with sticky traps and pheromone traps. World Vegetable Center staff provided training for the three farmers and other village farmers, as none had ever used any of these items.

The seed trays attracted a lot of attention from the curious farmers. Previously, they raised seedlings on raised beds, which exposed the seedlings to soil-borne diseases and root damage. Some farmers scattered seed and then thinned the seedlings later, which wastes a lot of seed.

The individual cells in seed trays allow the farmers to closely monitor seed use. The cells, filled with sterile medium, foster healthy growth and prevent root damage when seedlings are transplanted.

Seedlings raised in seed trays were ready for transplanting 4-5 days before those raised in the

traditional nursery beds. These seedlings were healthier and had no instances of damping off. “Instead of working and preparing seedbeds under the hot sun, I can now do the same work in the comfort of my courtyard with much less labour,” said farmer Abdul Wahid, expressing his satisfaction with the seed trays.

Farmer Atowar Rahman took an interest in the technology from the start. “This method of raising seedlings requires much less labour,” he said “It is very suitable for women to raise seedlings using trays, which they can sell to others locally. We will keep using trays as it is much more convenient for all of us.”



Preparation of seedling trays by women in Khanar Pub Par village



Training for better nursery practices

Positive feedback like this is a clear indication that the seed trays have been well accepted by the farming community in Khonar Pub Par. Farmers are more willing to adopting new practices when the methods are accompanied by sound advice and guidance from WorldVeg staff and the district agriculture officers.

*Prepared by: Raj Kumar Goswami, Technical Officer, World Vegetable Center, APART*

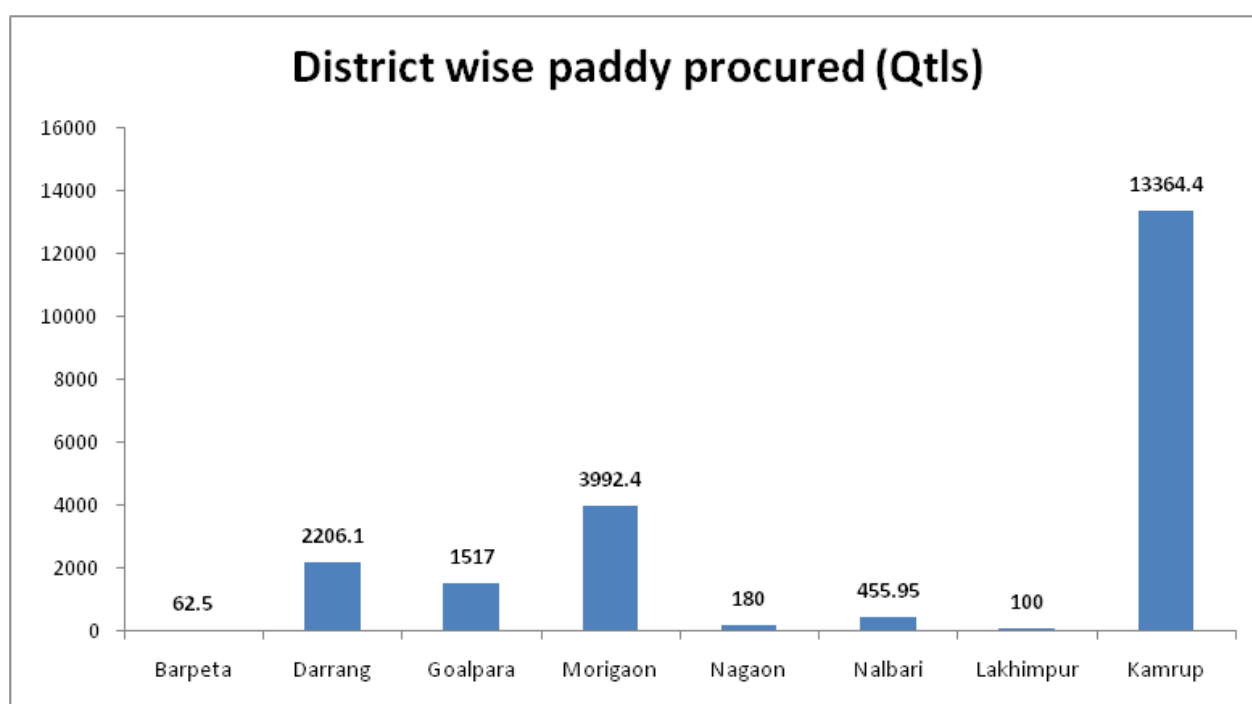
## APART facilitates paddy procurement from farmers at MSP: Boro 2019-20 harvest

As a part of the Price Support Scheme (PSS) of Government of India (GOI), APART has facilitated the paddy procurement of Rabi crop in Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2019-2020 from the Project farmers. The paddy procurement notification was published by the Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Govt. of Assam on 30th May 2020. As per the notification, the paddy procurement window allowed was from 1st June 2020 to 31st August 2020 which was later extended to 15th September 2020. The MSP announced by the Govt. of India is Rs. 1815 per quintal which is around Rs 2-3 per Kg higher than the prevailing market price, aiming at safeguarding farmers by providing fair profit to them. The number of Paddy Procurement Centres (PPCs) notified was 75 nos, thus ensuring the easy reach of the farmers to the procurement agencies. The list of notified Paddy Procurement Centres set up by various agencies is provided below:

Sl	Agency	No. of PPCs	Proc. Target (MT)
1	Food Corporation of India (FCI)	16	50,000
2	Assam State Agricultural Marketing Board (ASAMB)	18	20,000
3	National Federation of Farmers Procurement Processing and Retailing Cooperatives of India Limited (NACOF)	18	8500
4	National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Limited (NCCF)	5	4000
5	National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited (NAFED)	9	5000
6	Assam Food & Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (AFCSCL)	9	20,000
	Total	75	1,07,500

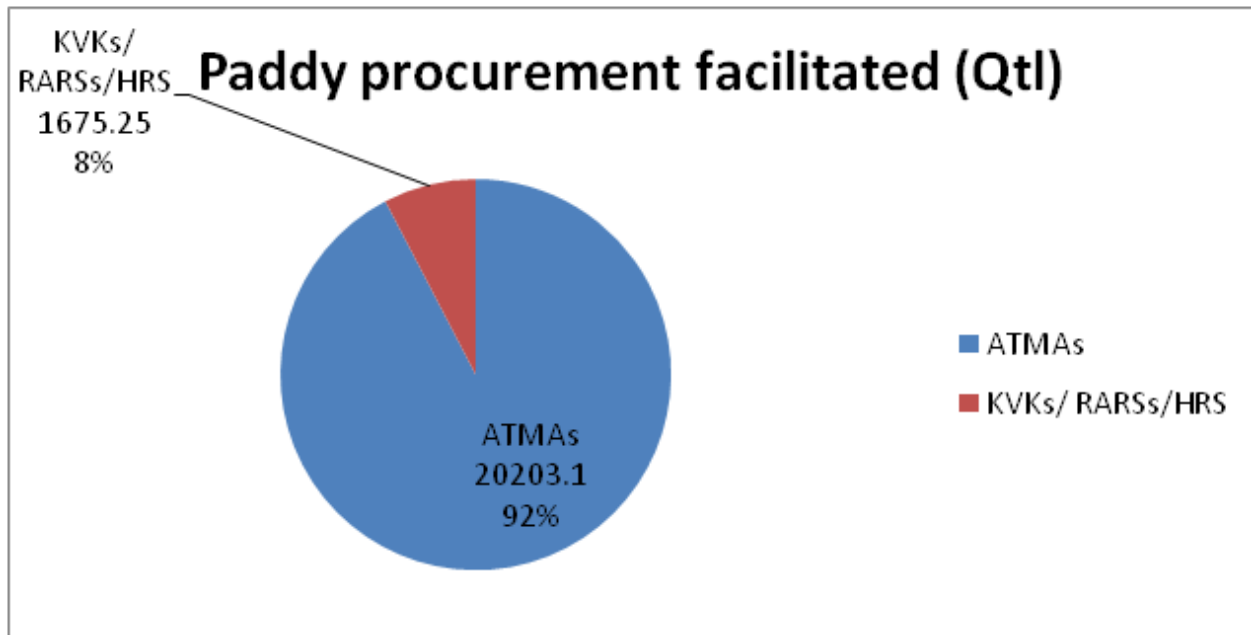
Paddy Procurement from APART farmers has commenced from around 2nd week of August 2020 as the initial week was spent in outreach efforts, team mobilization and facilitating farmer certificates. Till 15th September 2020, a total of 21878.35 QTLs of paddy from farmers had been procured which was facilitated by APART. At the district level, Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)/ Regional Agricultural Research Stations (RARs)/ Horticultural Research Station (HRS) has facilitated the paddy procurement from APART farmers. The district-wise paddy procured from APART farmers is shown below:

Sl	District	Paddy procured (QTL)	Amount (Rs.)
1	Barpeta	62.5	113438
3	Darrang	2206.1	4004072
4	Goalpara	1517	2753355
7	Morigaon	3992.4	7246206
8	Nagaon	180	326700
9	Nalbari	455.95	831179
11	Lakhimpur	100	181500
12	Kamrup	13364.4	24256386
	<b>Total</b>	<b>21878.35</b>	<b>39712836</b>



### ATMA/KVK/ RARS/ HRS wise paddy procurement facilitated:

A total of 20203.10 Qtls paddy procurement was facilitated by District ATMA's while 1213.25 Qtls were facilitated through KVKs. 282 Qtls were facilitated through HRS, Kahikuchi, and 180 Qtls were facilitated through RARS, Shillongoni. These are shown in the visual form below.



However, it is worth mentioning here that as compared to the last season procurement which was 14855.44 Qtls, the paddy procured in this season has increased to 21878.35 Qtls (2187.84 MT). Project headquarter and district teams deserve to be congratulated on this achievement.

## Training for dairy farmers

The Dairy Development Department (DDD) has taken an initiative to provide a 3 Days long online training to the interested dairy farmers of Bharaliparia Kanyaka Bahumukhi pam, Jamugurihat, District- Sonitpur, Assam, which started from 5th September 2020. The training was delivered by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the Knowledge partner of World-Bank aided Project Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project (APART) and based on the customised training manuals developed by ILRI, for Dairy Producers under APART. The training emphasized on different breeds of Dairy animals, Feeds & Feeding of Dairy animals, care & management, housing system, clean & hygienic milk production, marketing, reproductive health management & diseases of dairy animals.

A total of 158 Dairy farmers (including 30 women farmers) attended the training programme which was organised through a big screen projection by Bharaliparia Kanyaka Bahumukhi Pam, Sonitpur District.



Participants attending the Virtual Training organized by Dairy Development Department

## Soil-less extension of greenery: a bestowal to farmers

In a prospering country like India, Agriculture epitomizes a remarkable wing in the country's economic state of affairs. It is the major source of food, income and employment for rural livelihood. Farmers are regarded as the backbone of the Agriculture community and thus sustainability will depend upon their well-being. Majority of the farmers are traditional growers and therefore cannot utilize the full potential of the available resources. Therefore, a good deal of research activities is being implemented to assist the farmers to increase their productivity as well as the value of their produce through hard and soft interventions along with forward and backward linkages.



Technical training on soil-less culture of vegetables

In Assam, the Agriculture system is mainly rice-based and the majority of the farmers are small and marginal; relying upon the seasonal monsoons. Under the “Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)”, World Vegetable Center is extending technical advisory for the vegetable value chains by providing climate-resilient technical demonstrations, technology intervention, good and safe agricultural practices, extension services, etc.

The intervention of technology plays a holistic role in transforming Agriculture from its roots. Under the guidance of World Veg and support from the APART team, a modern technique of seedling production of vegetables in soil-less media is introduced to the farmers. The researches prove that raising seedling through this method induces

great benefits like prevention from soil-borne diseases, uniform germination, high germination percentage, ease of transportation, etc. ultimately leading to healthy and quality seedling production. A crucial component of this media is 'enriched vermicompost' which plays a substantial role in enhancing the nutrient content in association with the bioagents.



Technology adaption by beneficiaries

Following the principle, during 14- 21 September 2020, hands-on training on this practice has been provided to the farmers for an early variety of cabbage and cauliflower at Doomdomia village under Batadrava block and early variety of cauliflower at Lailuri village under Laakhowa block at Nagaon district. In Morigaon district, a total of three technical pieces of training have been completed on the cultivation of Brinjal at Raja Mayong, Jajigaon and Ahatguri Village under Mayong block.



Good germination of individual seedlings in protrays

All the pieces of training were conducted in collaboration with ATMA and APART officials following strict COVID-19 protocols. A handful of farmers are habituated to the recently developed approach and engrossed to adopt this new way of the farming procedure. A good proportion of women farmer participants were observed

during the training session. The selected beneficiaries were provided with the inputs like- Seedling trays, Vermicompost, Coco-pit bricks, Azospirillum, Pseudomonas, Trichoderma, etc. and were instructed to motivate their fellow farmers to adopt the method for resilience improvement and increased productivity.

## Bina dhan 11 carries a glimmer of hope for potato growers in Gingia

The team from ATMA and IRRI team spent almost two hours waiting to meet Swapam Das in his ICMD demonstration field in Gingia, Sonitpur district. A progressive farmer, Swapam Das had taken up cultivation of Bina Dhan 11, under APART. After a long wait, when Swapam Das arrived, it amazed the team

to learn that the delay was caused due to submission of tax related issue for the purchase of potato seeds of Rs. 2 crores for cultivation in their field in the rabi season. Das is leading the procurement of potato seeds for all the potato growers of Gingia. Farmers from Assam purchased potato seed of Rs. 2 crore! Quite inspiring!!



ATMA and IRRI team interacting with the farmers in Gingia



Farmers with their Bina Dhan 11 paddy ready for harvest

Gingia, a gaon panchayat about 10 kms from Biswanath Chariali, is associated with agriculture development in Assam for its wide-scale commercial cultivation of potato. An exception to most of the farmers in Assam, who have traditionally remained content with a single crop per year, Gingia farmers have been growing two or

more crops per year. Traditionally, majority of the farmers follow Sali paddy-potato crop sequence in their fields.

They generally grow Ranjit or Joy Bangla paddy varieties which are of long (145 -150 days) duration.

Swapan Das expressed that he was happy with the performance of the BINA Dhan11.



Swapan Das in his Bina Dhan demonstration plot

In his own words *“We like this variety. It’s short duration (around 120 days) is our advantage. Our target crops are potato and paddy in a sequence. So paddy and potato harvesting must be on time or before time. Otherwise, the sequential crop will be affected. There is also a possibility that we can have three crops in a year in a sequence like Sali (BINA Dhan 11) – Potato– Boro (BINA Dhan 11) or Sali (BINA Dhan 11)– Potato– Potato. If the Sali paddy variety is early maturing than we can plan for any one of the crop sequences that is suited for the farmers. Since this is for the first time we have tried this BINA Dhan 11, farmers have experienced it’s quality and yield potentiality. The most interesting point is that the produce is already booked to be used as seed for the next Sali season. I thank APART, ATMA officials and IRRI for providing us with such a wonderful variety that addresses our needs. We are open to any kind of suggestions/recommendations from scientists /experts to double or triple our income in future”.*

In Gingia, potato sowing time, according to the farmers is from 1-15th Oct. So, early maturing variety with high yielding capacity is an added advantage for them to maintain the sowing time of the next crop. Though the farmers cultivated many paddy varieties during the last few years, they are still in search of a variety that is short-duration and high-yielding. In this Sali season, few farmers tried BINA Dhan 11 as they got demonstration under APART.

One interested farmer even grows the variety at his own. Harvesting is still to be carried out; they are yet to get the actual yield from the field. No doubt, the spectrum of opinion will be for the unprecedented work, but the farmer's experience is paramount for planning the development activities in the area. A combined

effort from all line departments and organizations can help the Gingia farmers to plan for 3 crops around the year.



ICMD-STRV demo of Sali paddy in Gingia

*"If the rice is harvested in October, we can go for the 1st batch of potato cultivation in November. Early harvesting and selling of potato are economically profitable. The 2nd potato crop, though we tried earlier was indeed successful but at the same time, there are a lot of challenges too. There are biotic and abiotic challenges. The potato size becomes smaller, thus the market value decreases. But we can go for the 2nd crop for the seed purpose. If we practice zero tillage technology for potato, we have some hope that we can have good result in the 2nd crop too. The zero-tillage technology with surface retained residue confers sufficient moisture in the field. BINA Dhan 11 can take a major role in the crop sequence"* a progressive, energetic farmer Tapash Bikash Dutta said.

Perseverance, hard work and punctuality of the Gingia farmers will not only be an example of a successful commercial potato farmer but also set an example on how a technology-savvy farmer can multiply their income within a stipulated period!!

## Bina dhan 11 brings smile to the flood affected Jorhat farmers

Nakul Hazarika is a very energetic and enthusiastic farmer from Juganiati village, West Development block of Golaghat district. This year he cultivated a new short duration variety BINA Dhan 11. He had received this variety seed under the ICMD demonstration from SDAO, Bokakhat, Department of Agriculture, Golaghat under



Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART). Due to its short duration, Mr. Hazarika was keen to test the variety in his field.

The seeds were sown in nursery on 8th June, and he transplanted 25-day old seedlings on 2nd July this year. But the field got submerged by flood for the 1st time just after 10 days of transplanting. It is worth mentioning that the field faced flood thrice. In the first phase of flood, the field was submerged for 8 days, during second phase the submergence duration was for 6 days, and the third flush of flood submerged the crop for 4 days. The farmer lost all hope and thought that he will not receive any production from his fields this year. But to his surprise, BINA Dhan 11 started tillering after the flood water subsided. It was a great relief for him. Since this variety is a short duration variety, the panicle initiation started earlier in his field as compared to other varieties in nearby fields, so the farmer faced the problem from birds, but he managed it with by using indigenous technology. The field is now ready to be harvested within next 7-10 days, and he is expecting bumper harvest from his field.

Nakul is happy with the variety for its ability to tolerate flood for around 2 weeks and its high yield potential. Moreover, the duration matters a lot to him. Due to its short duration (120–125 days) the farmers can have an early harvest which will allow him for raising the second crop on time. The farmer said “I am very happy with this variety and the help which I have received from DoA and IRRI under APART. I have cultivated this variety for the first time and I am surprised to see its performance even though the crop faced the flood thrice. My fellow farmers from this village have already started asking me for the seed of this variety, as they have seen its performance by themselves.”

## Three-day capacity building program on Improved post harvest technologies

To reduce the post-harvest losses of rice, mechanization of different post-harvest operations is the need of the hour. Losses are attributed to a combination of factors during production and post-production operations. As of today, postharvest management is a big concern in Assam agriculture for different crops. So, Assam Agricultural University (AAU) with the technical support from International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) under APART conducted a series of ToTs to inculcate postharvest technologies across the State.



Participants attending the Capacity Building Programme on improved post harvest technologies during their field visit

A 3-day training programme was held at Dhubri wherein, 30 participants (27 female, 3 male), had participated as trainees. A pre-evaluation test was conducted before the start of the technical session to evaluate the awareness level of the farmers about the post-harvest technologies, which were planned to be discussed during the 3-day training event.



A presentation along with videos on various postharvest and different rice value chain machinery like reaper, combine harvester, thresher, portable rice mill, solar bubble dryer, rice flake machine, indented cylinder separator, rice puffing machine, was shared among the participants etc. The training was conducted in a participatory approach. One-to-one discussion of knowledge on different machines, their repair and maintenance were also made thoroughly.

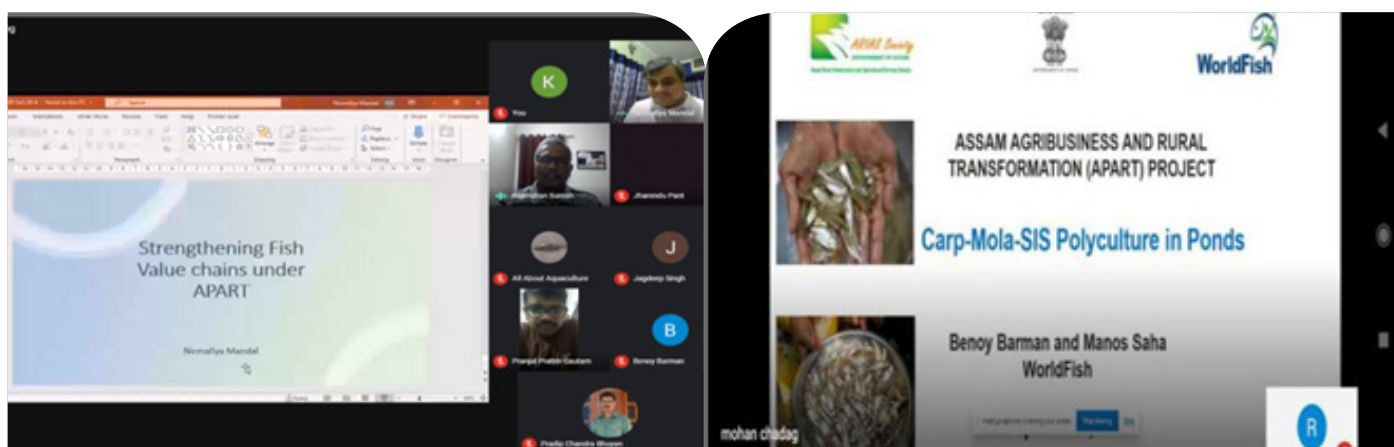
Hands-on training on IRRI Super bag which is a hermetic storage system was also conducted, and the participants were briefed how it can be beneficial to check the losses during storage.

Demonstration of the Grain Quality kit was done on the second day and the participants were asked to measure the moisture content of paddy grains and were explained how proper moisture content is important for storage and milling. The use of Portable Rice Mill, Solar Bubble dryer, and maintenance of various machinery parts was discussed during the program. A small activity on rice characteristics, considered during the grading of milled rice as well as paddy, was conducted. Accordingly, milling quality of rice was also analysed based on broken percentage, defectives, foreign matter presence, and presence of paddy, whiteness, chalkiness and moisture content.

A discussion on the business model of various post-harvest machines was also done and the participants were taught how the machine can also be a supplementary earning source for their family. The participants also had a field visit to one of the IRRI supported demonstration of Ranjit-Sub1 at Paschim Medhipara village.

## Virtual Programmes organised by WorldFish

During the recent COVID-19 pandemic situation due to travel restrictions, WorldFish experts and Resident consultant provided virtual support for the implementation of project interventions by providing necessary technical support to ARIAS, DOF and COF. A series of virtual meetings, discussions, trainings and Workshops were arranged for the benefit of DOF officials, APART Project staff and COF faculty which included Virtual discussion on Work plan for 2020-21, Virtual training on Beel fisheries management, Virtual workshop on fish value chain in Assam, Virtual discussion on Gender recommendations for fisheries component of APART, Virtual lecture on fish feed, feed formulations and feeding practices, Virtual discussion on quality seed production and Virtual training on Polyculture of carps with mola and SIS. During these virtual programmes DOF officials, APART Project staff, ARIAS Specialists and COF faculty members actively participated and interacted with the WorldFish experts.



Sl no.	Date	Topic for the Virtual meeting	Lead Speaker
1	7-08-2020	Work Plan for the intervention during 2020-21 under apart.	Dr.R.Suresh, WorldFish, Assam
2	21-08-2020	Virtual Training on Beel Fisheries Management	Dr.Benoy Kumar Barman, WorldFish, Bangladesh
3	28-08-2020	Virtual Workshop on Fish Value Chain in Assam	Mr.Nirmallya Mandal, Value Chain Expert, India
4	5-09-2020	Implementation of interventions during 2020-21 in Fisheries component of APART	Dr.R.Suresh, WorldFish, Assam
5	8-09-2020	Virtual Discussion on the Gender recommendation under APART	Dr.Surendran Rajaratnam, WorldFish, Malaysia
6	11-09-2020	Virtual Lecture on fish feed, feed formulation, and feeding practices	Dr.Yossa Rodrigue, WorldFish, Malaysia
7	18-09-2020	Virtual Discussion on the progress of up-gradation of hatcheries and SMCs for quality seed production	Dr. Trinh Trong, WorldFish, Malaysia
8	25-09-2020	Virtual Training on Polyculture of Carps with Mola and SIS	Dr.Benoy Kumar Barman, Dr.Manos Kumar Saha, WorldFish, Bangladesh

## FPG level focus group discussions on better management practices for carp polyculture and mola-sis farming along with carps

To create awareness among the farmers for adoption of Better Management Practices of Polyculture of Carps and Carp-Mola-SIS farming under APART, a series of Focus Group Discussions (FGD) at Farmer Producer Group (FPG) level were taken up by WorldFish in collaboration with College of Fisheries, Assam Agricultural University, Raha and Department of Fisheries, Government of Assam,. Six FGDs were conducted at Madang in Goalpara district, Hatkhotora in Nalbari district, Korchung in Nagaon District and Dharampur & Borgoea Gendali in Lakhimpur District.

The main objective of the FGD training was to provide the technical support to the farmers on better management of the farming practices to reduce the losses and increase the benefits as well as for sustainability and environmental safety. 120 participants attended the 6 FDGs conducted, including both the beneficiaries as well as the non-beneficiaries of APART from the selected clusters. During the Focus Group Discussion, Technical Experts from WorldFish introduced the BMP guidelines for Polyculture of carps, the importance of Mola-SIS farming along with carps and its nutritional value, the need for gender integration in aquaculture and also the importance of the role of women in fisheries and aquaculture followed by participants' interaction. After the completion of the Focus Group Discussion, the Technical Experts also visited the beneficiaries' ponds to provide technical advice and explained to them about the importance of pond record bookkeeping.



Fish Farmers attending the focus group discussion at the block level

## Community management beel fisheries development under APART

Beel fisheries development is planned to increase the benefit of the beel for increasing the productivity and sustainability of the beels, without any environmental impact. Beel fisheries development is planned under APART in the 15 Project Districts. The major approaches for beel fisheries development include

- » Stock enhancement
- » Stock improvement
- » Conservation of natural resources
- » Nutritional security of local communities and
- » Better governance mechanism

A total of 16 beels covering an area of 304.85 ha are been developed in Dhubri, Golaghat, Lakhimpur, Kokrajhar, Jorhat, Majuli, Sivasagar, Nalbari and Goalpara districts following the APART selection criteria with the approval of the District Level Coordination Committees (DLCC). For the year 2020-21, the selection of beels is in progress and so far 20 beels, covering an area of 400 ha have been identified and have got approved by DLCC for implementation.



Communities developing the area for taking up beel fisheries



# Vinod Seshan, IAS, joins as State Project Director of ARIAS society

Shri Vinod Seshan, IAS joined as the new State Project Director, ARIAS Society and took over the charges of the State Project Director (SPD). Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agriculture Services (ARIAS) Society from Smt Laya Madduri, IAS on 28th September 2020, who is transferred and posted as Secretary, Dept of Finance, Govt of Assam.



## Handing and taking over of the charge of SPD, ARIAS Society

# Krishi Rupantar

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