



APART RICE WEEKLY

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Awareness Training on Different Harvest and Postharvest Machinery, Hands-on Demonstration and Rice Value Chain at AAU-ZRS, Gossaigaon

Three trainings-cum-demonstration program on various rice value chain machinery was conducted under the Assam Agri-business and Rural Transformation Project demonstration program on various rice value chain machinery, Rice value chain, awareness training on different harvest and post harvest machinery were conducted under APART in collaboration with the International Rice Research Institute, at AAU-ZRS, Gossaigaon on 20, 21 and 22 Feb 2024. The program was started by a welcome address by Mrs Amlanika Kalita (Project Associate, APART). Dr. Kameswar Das (Principal Scientist, AAU-ZRS, Gossaigaon) gave an overview on different machinery used in postharvest processes. IRRI Junior researcher Mr. Akhoy Jyoti Bharadwaj was present on all three days as resource person along with IRRI RT Mr. Pradyumna Kumar Mahapatra. Mr. Bharadwaj provided a comprehensive overview of different rice value chain machinery, including rice transplanter, reaper, and harvester with video aids. He explained the working principles and advantages of operation for efficient use of these technologies.

Mr. Pradyumna Kumar Mahapatra, RT, explained about solar bubble dryer, super bags and brush cutter. The participants gained valuable insights on the principles of grain storage which enriched their knowledge on the scientific demonstration program on various rice value chain machinery, including drum seeder, seed-cum-fertilizer drill, reaper, reaper-binder, axial flow thresher, combine harvester, and portable rice mill. Machines demonstration were done by both RTs Mr. Pradyumna Kumar Mahapatra and Mr. Monjit Das. Mr. Akhoy Bharadwaj explained the working principles and method of operation for efficient use of these technologies. At the end of the program, super bags were distributed among farmers for storage of grain. The attendance records were maintained by Mr. Monjit Das, RT.



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Stakeholders' Workshop-cum-Seed dialogue

A two-day stakeholders' workshop-cum-seed dialogue was organized by Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat under objective III of IRRI-supported activities under APART at Board Room, AAU, Jorhat on 20-21 February, 2024. The meeting was attended by 61 participants from AAU, IRRI, ASOCA, DoA officials, private seed companies and seed producing FPO/FPCs from different districts of Assam. The meeting was graced by Dr. S. K. Chetia, DR (Agri) along with Dr. P. K. Pathak, Dean, College of Agriculture, Mr. M. Patiri, Director, ASOCA, Mr. A. Gogoi, Nodal Officer, OPIU (Agri),

Govt. of Assam, Dr. V. K. Yadav, Resident Co-ordinator, IRRI, Dr. R. Borgohain, Principal Scientist & Nodal Officer APART, Dr. R. K. Saod, ADEE, Dr. P. Bora, Principal Scientist and Incharge NSP, and Dr. K. Pathak, Head, Dept. of Agronomy, AAU, Jorhat. The objective of the meeting was "Strengthening rice seed system for sustainable and resilient agriculture in Assam".

Mr. Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, Project Coordinator, OPIU-APART welcomed all the participants followed by a self introductory session. Dr. R. Borgohain, Principal Scientist & Nodal Officer, OPIU-AAU briefed about the meeting and mentioned that quality seed production in state is very poor which need to be improved by creating awareness to the seed producing FPCs and also all the FPCs should come to one platform for marketing purpose which will be helpful for fulfilling the new varieties' seed requirement of the entire Assam. Dr. V. K. Yadav, Resident Coordinator, IRRI said that FPC should have own business plans, develop self strength and reduce dependence on govt./govt. agencies for financial support. Thereafter, Mr. A. Gogoi, Nodal Officer, OPIU_Agri expressed his experience on seed supply problem in field level. He asked the seed growers/ FPO/FPCs to go for marketing and streamline seed production instead of relying on state govt. policies. Dr. P. K. Pathak, Dean, CoA, AAU advised the FPCs to go for new varieties of seeds which can also increase the variety replacement rate of the state. Dr. S. K. Chetia, DR (Agri) mentioned that we have the sufficient technologies and new varieties for our region. He said that the Breeder seed requirement for the entire state can fulfilled by AAU, but in case of fulfilling the requirement of Foundation & Certified seeds for the entire state, we still need to improvise. He urged the FPOs/FPCs for new varieties' seed production by themselves and also to maintain the proper guidelines for availing the good quality seeds. He also gave an example of success story of Chowdang Pathar FPC, Merapani, Golaghat, where they have been producing seeds since 2018 without any financial support from govt. and with only the technical guidance of seed production given by AAU-ARRI, Titabor.

The technical session started with a presentation by Dr. N. K. Tyagi, Senior Seed Specialist, IRRI on "Scenario of Rice Seed System in Assam". Dr. R. Borgohain briefly described on "Strategies for seed systems development with special reference to small-holder farmers in Assam". After this a brief presentation was delivered by Mr. M. Chaudhary, IRRI, where he elaborated about the "community-based paddy seed production in Assam switching towards stress tolerant rice varieties". Second day started with a brief recap by Dr. R. Borgohain followed by a brief account on role of ASOCA in seed production by M. Patiri, Director, ASOCA. Mr. S. Mahanta, SCO, ASOCA gave a presentation on "Seed production & certification guidelines for FPCs/FPOs". This was followed by an online presentation by Mr. A. Wagh, Pinnacle International, where he shared information about the improved seed storage for quality seed production. Following this, Dr. V.K Yadav, delivered his presentation on 'Innovative practices for intensive rice-based system in Assam' and emphasised the role of short and medium duration varieties, mechanisation and agronomic management to achieve this. Thereafter, Mr. Gyandip, IRRI elaborated on the role of seed entrepreneurship in developing seed ecosystem of Assam. Mr. Dipnarayan Borah, Aryan Biogenetics, mentioned about the constraints in seed production, and ways to tackle them with branding, awareness and the quality product. In the group discussion session, Dr. R. Borgohain, Nodal officer, APART, M. Patiri, Director, ASOCA and Dr. V. K. Yadav, RC, IRRI gave the probable suggestions for the issues raised by the FPO/FPC's. Lastly, the participants visited the seed processing unit of Assam Agricultural University funded under APART.





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Focus Group Discussion at Bakaitari, Goalpara by AAU-HRS, Kahikuchi

On 21 February, 2024, a Focus Group Discussion Programme under Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART) was organized by AAU-HRS, Kahikuchi at Bakaitari of Goalpara with the technical support of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). The program commenced with the introduction and objective of the programme by Mr. Madhuja Bikash Borah (PA, APART). The programme was attended with a total of 30 female farmers and 20 male farmers. Dr. Lisa Mariam Varkey (Sr. Specialist, IRRI) briefed about the programme and circulated sets of questionnaires to the participating male farmers for their assessment. Miss. Puja Rajkhowa (Jr. Researcher, IRRI) also briefed on the objective of the programme to female farmers and circulated sets of questionnaires for the assessment. The programme was set to proper discussion with the male and female farmers, respectively, briefly querying about the benefits they're being provided from any kind of schemes and usage of any machineries for proper cultivation of paddy along with hindrances felt during crop production and the cropping sequences. The whole program was successfully completed along the presence of Mr. Bolin Rajkhowa (Research Technician, APART), Mr. Bitu Borah (Research Technician, APART) and Mr. Sonjyoti Borah (Research Technician, IRRI). An effective discussion concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Prerna Deka (Assistant Project Scientist, APART) concluding the program.



Hands-on Demonstration of Different Rice Value Chain Technologies in Solmari, Goalpara conducted by AAU-HRS, Kahikuchi

A hands on demonstration of different rice value chain technologies under Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART) was organized by AAU-HRS, Kahikuchi at Solmari, Goalpara in collaboration with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). The training program was conducted on 22 February, 2024 where a total of 30 farmers including male and female, participated in the program. Mr. Madhujya Bikash Borah (Project Associate, APART), welcomed the participating farmers and briefed on APART and its activities along with the objective of the programme. Mr. Pallabjyoti Dutta (FDE, APART) emphasized on the markets and different marketing channels of Goalpara and demonstrated on app developed by AMIU, AAU as well as correlating the value chains especially for rice. Mr. Sonjyoti Borah (RT, IRRI) further demonstrated different RVC technologies and its applicability for better farming. The programme was conducted successfully with the help and presence of Mr. Bolin Rajkhowa (Research Technician, APART) and Mr. Bitu Borah (Research Technician, APART) under AAU-HRS, Kahikuchi and ended with vote of thanks by Ms. Prerna Deka (Assistant Project Scientist, APART).



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