

APART RICE WEEKLY

October 30- November 04, 2023

Published By: ARIAS Society

**Contributions from: KVKs, RARs, HRS,
District ATMs, IRRI Assam**

APART: RICE WEEKLY **(October 30 –November 4, 2023)**

Field Visit to *Sali* Paddy Demonstration

On November 3, 2023, field visits were undertaken for observing the present status of Minikit Demonstration and ICMD-STRVs under APART by KVK, Karbi Anglong at Langhin village, Karbi Anglong. The field visits were carried out by Dr. Lohit Kataki (SMS, Plant Protection), Miss. Prakhipta Boruah (SMS, Agronomy), Mr. Bishnu Jyoti Saikia (Project Associate, APART), and Mr. Gaurab Rajkhowa (Research Technician, APART) KVK, Karbi Anglong. The team visited the ICMD-STRV plot where Ranjit-Sub1 and Swarna-Sub1 has been cultivated. Both the varieties were in their flowering stage. In some parts of the field, incidence of brown spot disease and *Gundhi* bug was observed. However, most of the field area was in good condition. The team advised the farmer to hang dead frogs on a bamboo stick in the middle of the field and also to spread ropes dipped in kerosene oil across the field to prevent further spreading of *Gandhi* bug. Ranjit-Sub 1 grown in minikit demonstration was also in flowering stage. Farmers were very happy with the growth of the crop till date.



Bishnu Jyoti Saikia
PA, APART
KVK, KarbiAnglong



Renuwara
Parbin APS, APART
KVK, KarbiAnglong

Participatory Evaluation of Rice Variety Cafeteria and Multi Location Trial of *Sali* Paddy

On November 3-4, 2023, two-day participatory varietal evaluation on rice variety cafeteria and MLT of *Sali* paddy was organized by AAU-ZRS, Diphu. A total of 30 farmers including male and female attended the programme. The cafeteria was set up at Joihind Phonglosa's field by AAU-ZRS, Diphu to evaluate the farmers preferred variety from the 24 rice varieties in three replications at Dilaji Mithiphang. Simultaneously, MLT having 8 varieties in three replications at AAU-ZRS Diphu was also evaluated. The programme was graced by Dr. Kansam D. Singha (Chief Scientist, AAU-ZRS), Dr. Subal Maibangsa (Head, KVK, Karbi Anglong), Mr. Raju Deka (DAO, Karbi Anglong), Mr. Abdul M. Choudhury (Consultant, IRRI), Dr. M. Maibangsa (Scientist), Dr. Manha Bathari (Scientist), Krishna Bharadawaj (Scientist), Dr. Nithi Boruah (Scientist), Ms. Hunmili Terangpi (Scientist), Dr. Monjurima Gogoi (Scientist), AAU-ZRS, Diphu, Mr. Tadrup

Majumdar (DEC, APART, Karbi Anglong), Mr. Sannidiya S. Buragohain (ADO, Karbi Anglong), Dr. Bornali Borah (SMS, Soil Science), Mr. Shourov Dutta (SMS, Horticulture), Mr. Bishnu J. Saikia (Project Associate, APART), Miss Renuwara Parbin (Assistant Project Scientist, APART), Mr. Ankur Bora (Research Technician, APART), KVK, Karbi Anglong, and Mr. Partha P. Thakuria (RT, APART, AAU-ZRS, Diphu). The programme started with a welcome address by Dr. Singha who highlighted the main objective of the programme. Thereafter, Mr. Mannan Choudhury Consultant (Seed), IRRI explained on how to evaluate the preferred varieties based on their performance through voting

On November 3, 2023, the scientists from AAU-ZRS, Diphu, SMS (KVK, Karbi Anglong), officers of DoA, Karbi Anglong along with IRRI staff evaluated the rice varieties under MLT and Rice Variety Cafeteria plots. On November 4, 2023, the scientist guided the farmers on identifying the most preferred varieties using coloured tags. After twodays of successful interaction, the programme was concluded by a vote of thanks by Dr. Singha.



Dr. Kansam Dayamoy Singha,
Chief Scientist
AAU-ZRS, Diphu



Renuwara Parbin
APS APART
KVK, Karbi Anglong

Varietal Evaluation Expo of Multilocation Trial of Rice Varieties

Participatory varietal evaluation of multilocation trial of rice varieties during *Sali* season, 2023 was organized by Assam Agricultural University - Assam Rice Research Institute, Titabar under Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART) on November 1, 2023. The programme started with a welcome address by Dr. Rituraj Saikia, Lead-Scientist (APART), AAU-ARRI, Titabar where he highlighted the objective of the programme. Further, Mr. Bhaskar J. Mahanta, Project Coordinator, OPIU, APART, AAU briefly elaborated different activities under APART programme to the stakeholders.

At the very outset Dr. Virendar K. Yadav, Resident Consultant, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) explained the role of cafeteria in varietal advancement. The evaluation process was explained by Dr. Neeraj K. Tyagi, Senior Specialist, IRRI, Mr. Vivek Kumar, Associate Scientist, IRRI and Miss Ankita Sahu, Senior Researcher, IRRI. The programme was successfully conducted in the presence of 45 stakeholders from Jorhat, Golaghat and Sivasagar districts of Assam. Out of the 6 STRVs, 1 HYV and 1 PQR rice variety, the RNR 15048 and Ranjit-Sub were the most preferred varieties by the stakeholders. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Gitasree Goswami, Project Associate, APART, AAU-ARRI, Titabar. Mr. Jitendrajit Saikia, Accounts Manager, APART and Mrs. Munna Saikia, Research Technician, APART, AAU-ARRI, Titabar helped in smooth functioning of the programme.



**Address by Mr. Bhaskar J. Mahanta,
Project Coordinator, OPIU, APART, AAU**



**Address by Dr. Virendar Kumar Yadav,
Resident Coordinator, IRRI**



Evaluation by the stakeholders



Group photograph of resource persons and stakeholders

Contributor :
Dr. Gitasree Goswami
PA, APART
AAU-ARRI Titabar



Training on Quality Seed Production

Agricultural enthusiasts and experts gathered at the Majiya FPC in Bindukuri, Tezpur, for a training on Quality Seed Production (QSP) organized by DoA, Sonitpur with the support of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). The event was coordinated by Mr Pankaj Baruah, Research Technician, APART and welcome speech was given by Mr Mizanur R. Chowdhury, Asstt. Director of Agriculture cum Nodal officer APART. Mr. Vivek Kumar, Associate Scientist, IRRI, shared insights on quality seed production. Agriculture Specialist, Onasish Barthakur, emphasized the significance of double and triple cropping systems for increasing farmers' income. District Horticulture Coordinators, Mr Durlov Borah, and Mr Symanta Borah, advocated for expanding potato cultivation in rice fallow land area. The event also saw the participation of Nabajit Bora, OME APART, the CEO, Chairman of Majiya FPC, along with 40 women farmers.



One-day Training on the Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The District Agriculture Office, Sonitpur, with support from the International Rice Research Institute, conducted a one-day training program at the JDA office conference hall in Majgaon, Tezpur.

Pankaj Saikia, the District Agricultural Officer, extended a warm welcome to all participants following which, Mr. Rishikesh Phukan, IRRI, elaborated on rice systems, while Mr Onasish Barthakur, Agriculture Specialist discussed on *rabi* season crops. The program also featured discussions on the use of seed drills by Mr Durlove Borah, DHC, and Dr. Bandhan Subba, RA, alongside Mr Pankaj Baruah, Research Technician, engaging with farmers. The event saw the participation of 50 farmers along with the APART - ATMA team from Sonitpur District, Media Experts, and the ICOA team.



Contributor :
Pankaj Baruah
Research Technician
APART, Sonitpur



Rice Varietal Evaluation -cum- Rice Varietal Expo, 2023

A participatory rice varietal evaluation programme was organized by OPIU, AAU at ICR Farm, AAU Jorhat as part of the AAU-IRRI supported activities under the Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation (APART) Project on October 31, 2023. The programme was graced by Dr. Mrinal Saikia, Director of Agri., Dr. M. Neog, Director of Extension Education (Incharge), Dr. R. K. Saud, Associate Director of Extension Education, Dr. R. Borgohain, Pr. Scientist & Nodal Officer, Dr. V. K. Yadav, Resident Coordinator, IRRI, and Dr. D. Das, Pr. Scientist & Alt. Nodal Officer.

Mr Bhaskar J. Mahanta, Project Coordinator, APART welcomed all the participants to the event. Dr. Rupam Borgohain, Nodal Officer, APART gave a brief introduction of the evaluation, highlighted the importance of rice variety cafeteria and how this can help in introducing good notified rice varieties. Further, Dr. Saikia, highlighted the need for rice cafeterias for the improvement of overall agriculture. He stressed on the importance of systematic policies so that farmers can easily get access to the new paddy varieties developed by scientists. Dr. V. K. Yadav, highlighted the activities undertaken by AAU-IRRI partnership to the participants. Ms Jutika Das, Project Scientist (Seed) gave a brief description about the evaluation process to the farmers, and Dr. Neeraj Tyagi IRRI Specialist briefly described how to evaluate the score sheet.

During the evaluation process, farmers gave their votes after visual observation of all the three replications of 27 varieties as per their preference. One STRV, one hybrid and two PQR of medium duration and two additional short duration varieties were the preferred choice for the farmers. A total of 70 participants from AAU, IRRI, Department of Agriculture, ASOCA, and progressive farmers of Jorhat district actively participated and expressed their views on the varieties





Contributor:
Jutika Das
Project Scientist (Seed)
OPIU APART, AAU, Jorhat

Two-day Training on Seeding to Harvesting

The Department of Agriculture, Jorhat, hosted a two-day training program from November 2-3, 2023. This comprehensive workshop was designed to empower the farmers with cutting-edge techniques and practices in rice cultivation. The training covered a wide range of topics, spanning from the initial stages of sowing to the final step of harvesting and post-harvest management. Ms Ankita Sahu, Senior Researcher, IRRI, and Dr. Dilwar S. Parihar, Specialist, IRRI, conducted the session. Mr. Tanay J. Gogoi, DAO, Jorhat and Mr Rupam Kakoty, DNO, APART chaired the session and ADOs from different circles delivered the talks. Mr Arunjyoti Chetry, DPD ATMA, helped for successful conduction of the training. Farmers were provided in-depth knowledge on various rice crop establishment techniques, including Dry Direct Seeding (DSR), Wet Direct Seeding (DSR), manual transplanting, and mechanical transplanting. These techniques were explained in detail, ensuring that participants gained a thorough understanding of the benefits and best practices associated with each method.

A key highlight of the program was the introduction of rice value chain machinery employed in rice cultivation. The participants visited the Farmers Producer Company at Amtol village where a range of equipment, including drum seeder seed-cum-fertilizer drill, transplanter, reaper-cum-binder, mini combine harvester, axial flow thresher, and portable rice mill are available. Farmers were educated on operation and maintenance of these machinery during rice cultivation. This aspect of the training aimed to enhance participants' ability to optimize resource allocation, ensuring healthy and productive rice crops.

Overall, the two-day training by the Department of Agriculture, Jorhat provided a holistic learning experience for farmers equipping them with a comprehensive skillset ranging from crop establishment techniques to advanced machinery utilization. This knowledge is poised to significantly enhance the efficiency and productivity of rice cultivation in the region, thereby contributing to the overall prosperity of the farming community.



Dr Dilwar Singh Parihar
Specialist, Agriculture Research & Development
IARI, Jorhat, Assam



Ankita Sahu
Senior Researcher
IARI, Jorhat, Assam

Training on Postharvest Machineries

A "Training on Post-harvest Machineries" was organized by KVK Morigaon at Poohar FPC in the Morigaon district on October 31, 2023. The training aimed to enlighten the paddy farmers of the village about various harvest and postharvest machineries introduced in Assam through the APART program. Dr. Dipsikha Kaushik, PA, KVK Morigaon, initiated the program by welcoming the farmers and briefing them on the program's objectives. She also provided an overview of the APART project and the roles of KVK and IRRI in disseminating technologies for paddy cultivation. Dr. Kasturi Goswami, a researcher at IRRI, attended the training as a resource person and discussed in detail various machineries useful for paddy cultivation.

She explained the working principles, capacity, and approximate costs of machineries such as reapers, transplanter, and combine harvesters, among others. She also elucidate the role and importance of these devices in rice cultivation. Furthermore, she introduced the IRRI Super bag to the farmers, explaining its significance in the postharvest handling of rice grains, seeds, and other crop seeds. Similarly, she explained a step-by-step procedure for using the Super bag, discussed how long grains and seeds can be stored in it, and highlighted its advantages over conventional gunny bags or plastic bags.



Dr. Kasturi Goswami
Researcher,
IRRI, APART



Dr. Dipsikha Kaushik
PA (APART)
KVK, Morigaon

Field Visit to Goalpara District, Assam

Mr. Jugal Chandra Talukdar, Junior Researcher-Agriculture Extension, IRRI Assam, visited several farmers' fields in Goalpara district on October 19, 2023, to inspect the current status of various Stress Tolerant Rice Varieties (STRVs)

grown in the area as part of demonstrations under the APART project. These demonstrations are carried out by HRS Kahikuchi, and the DoA, Goalpara in collaboration with IRRI. Among all the demonstration fields, the MTR and Wet-DSR demonstration plots were successful despite flood damage. This ratifies the performance of climate-resilient STRVs such as Ranjit-Sub1, Bahadur-Sub1, Swarna-Sub1, etc., under flood conditions. The yield from some of the demonstration plots may be lower than expected due to the severe flooding that occurred in the area during the vegetative stage. However, by the end of November, a bountiful harvest is anticipated from these lush green rice fields in Goalpara District.



Contributor :
Jugal Chandra Talukdar,
Junior Researcher, IRRI



Exhibition of Agricultural Machineries by Bhairavchura Farmers Producer Company Ltd.

An exhibition was organized by the Bhairavchura Farmers Producer Company Ltd., located in the Boitamari block of Bongaigaon. They displayed various agricultural machineries provided under APART with the technical support from IRRI. The exhibition was held at Dhantola Bazar in the Boitamari block, considering the upcoming harvesting of Sali paddy along with the cultivation of Boro paddy. The exhibition aimed to promote the ongoing and upcoming activities under APART and to encourage farmers to hire these machineries. Machineries such as the Mini Combine Harvester, Reaper-cum-Binder, Transplanter, Reaper, and Axil Flow Thresher were showcased in the exhibition stall. Some of the latest agricultural technologies were demonstrated using audio-visual aids. A large number of farmers visited the exhibition and had the opportunity to interact with the officials and members of the FPC present. Additionally, various leaflets providing information on APART, along with other agriculture-related topics, were distributed among the farmers.



Akhoy Jyoti Bharadwaj
Junior Researcher, IRRI



Ashok Kamal Gogoi
Project Associate



Bonjuri Saikia
Assistant Project Scientist

Crop cutting of Bina Dhan11

As we approach the end of the cultivation cycle for Sali paddy, the harvesting of Bina Dhan 11 is currently underway at various locations, including Nalbari and Darrang. Bina Dhan 11 is a Stress Tolerant Rice Variety (STRV) primarily a submergence tolerant variety, its short growth duration makes it a widely grown cultivar in many regions of Darrang

and Nalbari. On November 2, 2023, APART-KVK, Nalbari, located in Chataimari village, organized a crop cutting program for Bina Dhan11. Crop cutting is an assessment method used to measure and estimate crop yields in a specific area during the harvest. Several farmers from the village participated in the program and observed the assessment process. The farmers were highly encouraged by the impressive yields obtained from this variety in their area. Since this variety allows for a second crop due to its short maturity period, especially during the Sali season, the farmers are planning to cultivate mustard as a second crop in that region. Conversely, in Bolopara village in Darrang, a farmer named Mr Moinul Haque mentioned that the early maturity of the crop provides him with ample time to plan for potato cultivation. The program was conducted by the APART team of KVK Nalbari, with Dr.Tarun Saikia, BTM, Darrang, Amlandeep Saikia, Junior Researcher, IRRI, and Sarat Partida, RT, IRRI.



Contributor :
Amlandeep Saikia
Junior Researcher, IRRI


