

AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (ATMA) NEWSLETTER

ASSAM AGRIBUSINESS AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (APART)

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Being a main implementing & coordinating Agency at the district level for **Component C** of the project, ATMA staffs are actively implementing, coordinating and participating in various activities of APART to achieve the project objective. They are the main force to disseminate the different climate resilient technologies and varieties among farmers through different extension tools such as training, demonstrations, field day and exposure visit, etc. At the same time, from the project side, emphasis has been given to build the capacity of ATMA staffs mainly the Block Technology Managers (BTMs), Assistant Technology Managers (ATMs) and Deputy Project Directors (Dy. PDs). At the field level, ATMA staffs are closely working with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Potato Centre (CIP), World Vegetable Centre (WorldVeg), etc.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD) WITH DEMO, FARMERS AT BIHAGURI BLOCK OF SONITPUR

As a part of Value Chain Development (VCDP) on potato, a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was organized by BTM and ATM of Bihaguri block (potato cluster) in presence of experts from CIP to analyze the present Value Chain gap and opportunities in the potato value chain in that locality. The value chain analysis of different potato clusters will help in preparation of region-specific clear strategy and action plan for the potato crop.



Focus group discussion of farmers with CIP experts

IMPLEMENTATION OF DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES BY DIFFERENT ATMAs UNDER APART EXPOSURE VISIT WITHIN THE DISTRICT BY ATMA NAGAON

ATMA, Nagaon, organized a day-long exposure visit for officers and farmers within the district to show them the different cultivation technologies used by other progressive farmers and to show them the Mechanical Transplanting of Paddy through paddy transplanter. More than 30 farmers participated during the exposure visit. The paddy transplanter offers the advantage of timely transplanting of seedlings at the optimal age (14-18 days). It ensures uniform spacing and optimum plant density (30-35 hills/m² with 2-4 seedlings per hill), leading to higher productivity (5-6 t/ha) compared to traditional methods. This has emerged as a promising technology to address the problem of labor scarcity.



Exposure visit for officers and farmers within the district

EXPOSURE VISIT OF FARMERS TO BISWANATH COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE (BNCA)

A group of 30 farmers (both male and female farmers) from different parts of Lakhimpur district visited Biswanath College of Agriculture (BNCA). The visit was organized by ATMA Lakhimpur to have a hands-on experience on the different scientific practices and technologies, developed and used in the Agriculture sector. Exposure visit not only help to build the confidence and capacity of the farmers, it also helps in convincing the farmers about a new technology or innovation, but exposure visit is also one of the efficient extension tools in Agriculture.



Exposure visit of farmers to Biswanath College of Agriculture



Meeting at DC Office, Barpeta

VISIT OF APC, DIRECTOR AGRI. AND SPD TO BARPETA

The Agriculture Production Commissioner (APC) cum Principal Secretary, Agriculture, Govt of Assam, Shri Rajesh Prasad, IAS along with Director, Agriculture Shri M.S. Manivannan, IAS and State Project Director (SPD), ARIAS Society, Shri Vinod Seshan, IAS visited Barpeta district and reviewed the APART activities along with the other schemes of Agriculture department, on the 18th of March, 2019. They visited Kamdhenu Dugdh Utpadak Samabai Samiti (DUSS) and its Bulk Milk Cooling (BMC) and Kaberi Dugdh Utpadak Samabai Samiti (DUSS) at Nityananda-Bajali area supported by APART through WAMUL and interacted with the members of the DUSSs. The team visited a Farmers Producers Group (FPG) viz Pragati FPG at village Nagarjar under Bhawanipur Development Block. The total water area under this Group is 8.0 ha comprising of 20 (twenty) fish farmers (including five women) covering total water area (8.0 Ha) ranging from 0.30 ha to 0.75 Ha. The team also visited Binadhan-11 paddy plot of farmer Shri Kurban Ali Khan in Kadamgudi village, Bhawanipur Block, ADO Circle – Itervita, in Barpeta District. Good, uniform crop growth was observed. Line transplanting had been done. Binadhan-11 is a short duration variety of around 120 days period and contains the submergence tolerance gene. After the visits, a meeting was held with farmers and district officials/ATMA officials to take stock of the issues and resolving the same. In that meeting, APC has given different instructions to officers for resolving the problems of farmers. APC also interacted with the Assistant Technology Managers (ATMs) and Block Technology Managers (BTMs) under ATMA and encouraged them to perform their duties with dedication and commitment.



Visit to Kamdhenu DUSS and its BMC Unit having an installed capacity of 5000 liters



Visit to Binadhan-11 ICMD Plot at Kadamgudi village, Bhawanipur Block of Barpeta District

AWARENESS CAMP FOR STREAMLINING AGRICULTURE CREDIT AND INSURANCE

ATMA, Barpeta organized an awareness camp for streamlining Agri. credit including KCC and insurance etc. at Chenga Block on 20th March 2019. More than 20 farmers participated in the camp. This awareness camp is a part of the project component to create awareness among farmers for accessing and to responsible use of financial services. In Assam, credit linkage is a major problem in Agriculture, especially for poor farmers. Through this type of awareness camp, an emphasis has been given to link the farmers with banks and financial intuitions to avail the credit facilities and at the same time importance is given to make the farmers aware to responsible use of financial services.



Awareness camp on Agri Credit at Chenga Block

TRAINING OF BTMS/ATMS AND PROGRESSIVE FARMERS OF KOKRAJHAR DISTRICT

As a part of capacity building programme for BTMs/ATMs and progressive farmers of different ATMs, IRRI with the help KVK, Kokrajhar and District Agricultural Office(DAO), Kokrajhar organized a 3-day training programme for the BTMs, ATMs and progressive farmers of the district. The training was imparted on portable paddy harvester, fertilizer spreader and “Solar Bubble Dryer (SBD)”. The training was taken up by Dr. Suryakanta Khandai, Mechanization Specialist of IRRI along with his team. A battery operated sprayer cum fertilizer spreader economizes heavily on the labor requirement and is suitable for spraying of weedicide as well as the spread of fertilizer by using battery power (one labor required). Once charged, the battery will work for 6-8 hrs which helps in uniform pressure regulation during herbicide application and herbicide application efficacy is also increased. Solar Bubble Dryer (SBD) has an inflated solar tunnel, 2 solar powered blowers and is used to dry

paddy to optimum and uniform moisture levels at field level. The dryer comes in two capacities i.e. 0.5 t and 1 t. For one tonne capacity, the dimensions are the 25m length and 2m width. The greatest advantage of this dryer is that it uses solar power and involves no operating cost except for 2 labors. However, the grains can be dried in cloudy condition also. During sunny days, drying time is similar to sun drying while during cloudy days; it takes around 2 days to dry to optimum moisture levels.



Indoor training session



Solar bubble dryer



Fertilizer Spreader

TRAINING OF BTMS/ATMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF VALUE CHAIN SCHOOL (VCS)

BTMs and ATMs of 14 potato clusters (blocks) from 7 districts viz, Barpeta, Darrang, Nagaon, Morigaon, Jorhat, Golaghat, and Sonitpur have been trained by International Potato Centre (CIP) on implementation of Value Chain School (VCS) in their respective blocks. The trained BTMs and ATMs will act as Block Level Facilitator and will implement the whole cycles of VCS. The purpose of the training was to develop facilitators at the district, block and community level so that they can establish the Value Chain School (VCS) at the block level to run the business by the community. The one VCS cycle generally requires 6-9 months starting from the orientation of the participating farmers to product development and launching. For each stage, there is a structured course module which was explained by the Experts from CIP during the training programme. The different sessions of the training were taken over by Value chain experts from CIP

led by Dr. Diego Naziri, Value Chain Specialist, and CIP-APART team. Proposed target for VCS under APART:

District	Block	Remark
Nagaon	Pub Kaliabor and PachimKaliabor	One school in each block
Sonitpur	Baghmara and Bihaguri	One school in each block
Darrang	Sipajhar and Kalaigaon	One school in each block
Barpeta	Mandia and Bajali	One school in each block
Golaghat		
Jorhat	Bakchung and Dhekorgorah	One school in each block
Morigaon	Mayang	Both the schools will be in the same block



Value Chain School workshop

VISIT OF APART OFFICIALS TO DIFFERENT DEMONSTRATION PLOTS IN JORHAT DISTRICT

On 2nd and 3rd April 2019 APART officials visited the different blocks (clusters) of Jorhat district to see the demonstrations and interact with the farmers. On 2nd April 2019, Mr. H.C. Baishya, Agriculture Coordinator,



Visit of APART officials to ICMD demonstration plot

APART visited the Integrated Crop Management Demonstration (ICMD) plot on Binadhan-11 at Kaliapani block. Good and uniform crop growth was observed. On 3rd April, Mr. Baishya and Mr. P. K. Bharali, Cluster Coordinator, APART visited pumpkin demonstration plot at Ranagajan under Titabor Block

and ICMD on Binadhan-11 at Bhakatpamua gaon under Baghchung Block. During the visit, APART officials interacted with beneficiary farmers at both the locations. As per the information available from the farmers, farmers are getting Rs. 6-7 per kg of pumpkin at the farm gate.



Interaction with beneficiaries



Visit of APART officials to pumpkin demonstration plot

AWARENESS CUM TRAINING CAMP ON STREAMLINING AGRI. CREDIT INSURANCE ETC. BY ATMA SIVASAGAR

As part of the project component to create awareness among farmers for accessing and to responsible use of financial services, ATMA, Sivasagar has organized an awareness camp cum training for streamlining Agri. credit including KCC and insurance etc. at Bhuyanhat under Amguri Block (cluster). More than 20 farmers participated in the camp. In Assam, credit linkage is a major problem in Agriculture, especially for poor farmers. Through this

type of awareness camp, an emphasis has been given to link the farmers with banks and financial intuitions to avail the credit facilities and at the same time importance is given to make the farmers aware to responsible use of financial services. The training programme was attended by officials from, NABARD, Lead Bank Manager, KVK, etc.



Awareness cum training camp on streamlining Agri. Credit Insurance

MECHANIZATION DEMONSTRATION BY POTATO HARVESTER

Under APART, CIP, has introduced and demonstrated (with the help of ATMA), the Potato Harvester (tractor drawn) in 7 project districts viz. Barpeta, Darrang, Nagaon, Morigaon, Jorhat, Golaghat and Sonitpur. Total 35 nos. of demonstrations have been organized on potato harvester in 7 districts. This machine can be used for harvesting/digging of potato tubers in the field. It reduces the labor requirement as well as time for harvesting. This machine is suitable for all kinds of soil, such as sandy, clay soil, and loam, etc. It completes the operation without damaging the

potato tubers. It is a highly cost-effective machine with a capacity of harvesting 1 ha area within 2-3 hours. Power requirement is 45 hp and above (Tractor).



Harvesting of Potato using Potato Harvester (tractor drawn)

FIELD DAY ON PEA AND MUSTARD BY ATMA, DARRANG

As a part of one extension tool for disseminating the demonstrated technology, ATMA, Darrang has organized Field days on pea and mustard at Baruaajhar area under Bechimari Block (cluster) where nearby farmers were invited to attend both the field days. The purpose of the field day is to show the results of demonstrations to

other farmers and to explain the technology used in the demonstration. For this, crop cutting experiment is done by selecting 25 sqm. area (5X5 sqm.) and then the crop is harvested from that area and yield is compared with the farmers' practice. After that, generally demonstrated technology is explained in front of other farmers.



Field day organized by ATMA, Darrang

OPIU, Agriculture: Physical Progress as on 31.3.2019

Sl.	Key activities	Unit	Physical Target	Physical Achievement	Remarks
1	Paddy Minikit demo.	No	5000	5000	--
2	Integrated Crop Management Demo. (ICMD) on Paddy	No	400	400	--
3	ICMD on Premium Quality Rice (PQR)	No	50	50	--
4	Trainings	No	10	10	--
5	Exposure visits	No	16	12	In Process
6	Paddy Climate Resilient Demos	No	1550	823	--
7	Pulses WVC	No	36	20	--
8	Zonal Workshop	No	16	4	In process
9	GAP Training	No	80	5	In process
10	FGD for VCDP	Ls	5	5	--
11	Streamlining of KCC	No	296	53	In process


OPIU, Horticulture Physical Progress as on 31.3.2019

Sl.	Key Activities	Unit	Physical Target	Physical Achievement	Remarks
1	Demonstrations				
a)	Potato	Nos.	294	294	
b)	Tomato	Nos.	143	143	
c)	Cabbage	Nos.	139	139	
d)	Cauliflower	Nos.	140	140	
e)	Brinjal	Nos.	139	139	
f)	Pumpkin	Nos.	139	139	
2	CIP supported demo. {early maturing varieties, Zero tillage technology, Partial Root Drying (PRD) technology}				
a)	Potato	Nos.	210	210	
b)	Mechanization demos (potato planter & harvester)(7 dists)	Nos.	35	35	
3	WorldVeg supported demo.				
a)	Cabbage	Nos.	11	11	
b)	Cauliflower	Nos.	10	10	
c)	Tomato	Nos.	7	7	
d)	Brinjal	Nos.	11	11	
e)	Pumpkin	Nos.	11	11	

ADOPTION OF ZERO TILLAGE TECHNOLOGY BY FARMER IN THE SAME SEASON

The success of a particular demonstration is generally judged by the adoption of that demonstrated technology by the beneficiary farmers and other farmers and is generally observed in the next season. But, most interestingly, Zero Tillage Technology which was demonstrated in 7 districts by CIP with the help of ATMA has got a good response from the beneficiary farmers as well as non-beneficiary farmers and even adopted in the same season by one farmer Shri. Khirod Sarma from Sipajhar block (cluster) of Darrang. He has observed the Zero Tillage Technology in the nearby farmer's field and adopted the technology

in the same season in his field and cultivated the potato crop. According to him, as Zero Tillage Technology is done without land preparation after harvesting the paddy, hence the cost of cultivation is less than the normal potato cultivation which in turn helps the farmers to get a better income.

 **Khirod Sarma** 7 hrs • 👤
My zero tillage Potatto now prepar to harvest



Adoption of zero tillage technology by farmer Khirod Sarma for potato cultivation

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