

The Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at the district level, is the main workforce for implementing the field level activities under Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART). The ATMAs have been organizing different activities, such as demonstrations, training, field days, and exposure visits, etc. to disseminate the technology among the farmers to give better income and livelihood to the farmers. The Block Technology Team (BTT) which is a Block level team of different officers of Agriculture and allied departments including Block Technology Manager (BTM) and Assistant Technology Manager (ATM) has been actively participating in the different activities of APART plotted 148 Blocks in undivided 16 districts of Assam. The different activities implemented by ATMA during the month of April 2019, are highlighted below.

IMPLEMENTATION OF DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES BY DIFFERENT ATMA UNDER APART

FIELD VISIT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR, ATMA CUM DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL OFFICER (DAO), NAGAON TO DIFFERENT DEMO SITES OF BATADRAVA BLOCK (CLUSTER)

As a part of the inspection and monitoring of APART field level activities implemented by ATMA at Block (cluster) level, Project Director (PD), ATMA cum District Agricultural Officer (DAO), Nagaon, Mr. Ashok Sharma Khound visited the different demonstration sites of Batadrava Block (cluster) of Nagaon district on 5th April, 2019. He was accompanied by Deputy Project Director, ATMA, Nagaon and Block Technology Manager (BTM) of Batadrava Block. The team visited the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) supported Bina Dhan-11 demonstration plot of Habibur Rahman and WorldVeg supported Brinjal demonstration plot of Matiur Rahman of Batadrava Block. During the visit, he interacted with the farmers, officers and the field staff of WorldVeg and IRRI. At both the demonstration plots, good crop growth

was observed by the team. The PD cum DAO expressed satisfaction and requested the officers to provide necessary support and guidance to the farmers so that they can earn a good income from their produces.



Field visit by PD cum DAO, Nagaon along with his team to demo sites under Batadrava Block (cluster)

TRAINING AT KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA (KVK), HOWLY, BARPETA

As a part of the capacity building programme of extension functionaries under APART, a season-long training programme was organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Howly, Barpeta in collaboration with IRRI on 10th April 2018 at KVK campus. In that training, Block Technology Managers (BTMs) and Assistant Technology Managers (ATMs) from different blocks of Barpeta district participated along with the other officers

from the department. The training was conducted by the resource persons from KVK and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). The purpose of the training was to train the participants regarding the different aspects of the cultivation of crops for the Kharif season, mainly Kharif season paddy. This type of training is very much essential for the extension functionaries to upgrade their knowledge on different new cultivation practices/ technologies, which in turn builds their capacity on new technologies and practices. Nowadays, due to advancement in Agriculture sector, new technologies and practices have been introduced in each crop, by different organizations, and without proper training on these new technologies and practices, extension functionaries will not be able to pass down the knowledge and information, and moreover, cannot convince the farmers to adopt these new methods and practices.

TRAINING CUM AWARENESS CAMP FOR STREAMLINING AGRICULTURAL CREDIT AND INSURANCE AT DHARAPUR IN KAMRUP AND PUB- NALBARI IN NALBARI

To enhance the awareness among farmers for availing Agricultural credit and other financial products, such as crop insurance etc., a day-long training cum awareness camp was organized by ATMA, Kamrup at Dharapur Gaon Panchayat Office on 10th April, 2019 and by ATMA, Nalbari on 25th April, 2019 at the Block Resource Centre (BRC), Pub- Nalbari. This is part of the project component to create awareness among farmers for accessing and to the responsible use of financial services. In Kamrup, the training programme was attended by Agri. Credit Manager, Punjab National Bank, Fancy Bazar Branch, and Area Credit Manager, Axis Bank, Maligaon Branch as Resource persons. In Nalbari, officers from different Banks and Financial Institutions participated as Resource persons during the programme. More than 20 farmers participated in each of these camps. In Assam, credit linkage is a major problem in Agriculture, especially for poor farmers. Through this type of training and awareness camp, the emphasis has been given to link the farmers with banks and financial intuitions to avail the credit facilities and at the same time importance has also been given to make the farmers aware of the responsible use of financial services.



Training at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Howly, Barpeta

Agricultural Credit and Insurance training cum awareness camp at Dharapur GP under Kamrup district



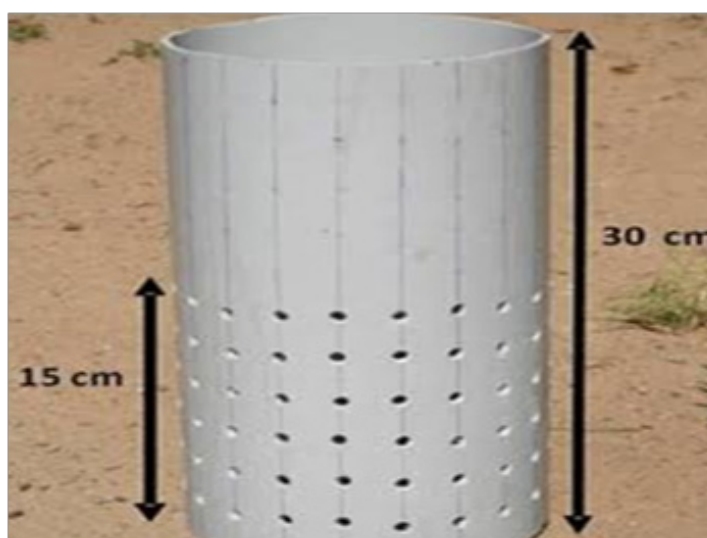
Agricultural Credit and Insurance training cum awareness camp at Pub-Nalbari in Nalbari district

ALTERNATE WETTING AND DRYING (AWD) - A TECHNIQUE FOR PRECISION MANAGEMENT OF IRRIGATION WATER

Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) technique was developed by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for precision use of irrigation water. In this technique, farmers can reduce the irrigation requirement in their paddy field. A PVC pipe of 30 cm long and 10-15 cm diameter is used so that the water level can be monitored by the farmer himself. Holes are made on all sides of the pipe up to 15 cm at a gap of 2 cm and it is placed on part of the paddy field which can represent the whole field. When water is applied on the field the water enters the pipe through the holes and gradually it goes down when the field dries up. When the water table reaches the last row of holes, it indicates that there is a

need to irrigate the field again. Thus farmers can maintain an alternate wetting and drying condition on their field.

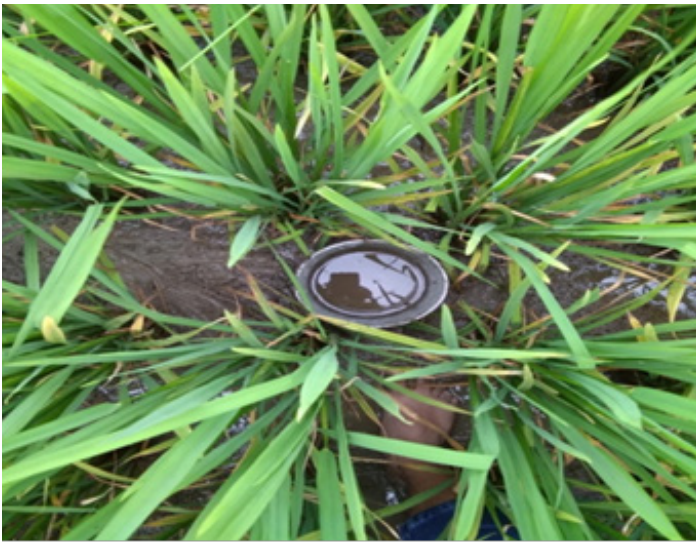
After getting the knowledge from IRRI, the technique was adopted at Gabharu Block (cluster) Sonitpur district. It was established at the plot of Jaher Ali, a farmer from Koroini Bengali Gaon on Boro paddy Bina Dhan-11 Plot. This process was observed to help in irrigation management by farmers and thereby reduce the total cost of irrigation, besides reducing the fuel cost without affecting the yield. Several studies also indicate that AWD reduces methane emission at the rice field.



PVC pipe of 30 cm long and 10-15 cm diameter



No water in the pipe means need to irrigate the field



A pipe filled with water



Inspection of the Field by BTM, Gabharu Block

SITE VISIT OF ATMA, KAMRUP AND IRRI OFFICIALS TO INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION (ICMD)

Officers of ATMA, Kamrup namely, Mr. Yusuf Ali, Nodal Officer, APART, Kamrup district along with the Deputy Project Director (DPD), ATMA, Kamrup visited the Integrated Crop Management Demonstration (ICMD) site on Boro paddy, variety-Bina Dhan-11 of Sona Ali under Bihdia-Jajikona Block (cluster) on 26th April 2019. The team was also accompanied by Mr. Bipin Kumar; officer from IRRI. This was as part of the

regular inspection and monitoring of APART field level activities implemented by ATMA at Block (cluster) level. The demonstration is technically supported by IRRI. The sowing of the crop was done on 25th January 2019 and transplanting was done on 24th February 2019. During the visit, the team interacted with farmers, field staff, etc. Good crop growth was observed by the team.



Field Visit by ATMA, Kamrup team to ICMD Demonstration site at Bihdia-Jajikona Block (cluster)



TECHNICAL TRAINING ON GINGER CULTIVATION DEMONSTRATION AT LUMBAJONG UNDER KARBI-ANGLONG DISTRICT

A day-long Technical Training programme on scientific Ginger cultivation was organized by ATMA, Karbi-Anglong on 25th April 2019 at Donka Bey Gaon of Lumbajong Block (cluster) of Karbi-Anglong district. The training was organized as per the demonstration programme under APART. More than 20 farmers participated in the training. The training was given by

the officers from the District Agricultural Office, Block Technology Manager (BTM) and Assistant Technology Manager (ATM) of the Block. During the training programme, detail cultivation methods, including rhizome treatment, planting method, pest and disease management, etc. were explained by the officers.



Training on Ginger cultivation at Lumbajong Block (cluster) of Karbi-Anglong District

TECHNICAL TRAINING ON MAIZE DEMONSTRATION AT SIPHAJHAR BLOCK (CLUSTER) UNDER DARRANG

On 27th April 2019, ATMA Darrang organized a day-long technical training programme at Debananda village under Siphajhar Block (cluster) of Darrang district in connection with the Maize demonstration. The day-long training programme was attended by more than 30 farmers. The training was taken up by Mr. Sankar Nath, Block Technology Manager (BTM) and Assistant Technology Manager (ATM) of Siphajhar Block. Earlier, farmers of Debananda village had cultivated mustard in their land, but from last 3 years, they have been cultivating maize

without proper scientific method and the variety was also not good. So, during the training programme, farmers were trained on scientific cultivation of Maize covering all aspects such as land preparation, fertility management, disease, and pest management and scientific shelling of Maize. ATMA, Darrang has planned to introduce F-1 Hybrid variety NMH-737 for demonstration in that area, which has good yield potential and also a good demand in the market.



Technical Training on Maize Demonstration at Siphajhar Block (cluster) of Darrang district

LAYING OUT OF GINGER DEMONSTRATION AT KARUNABARI BLOCK (CLUSTER) OF LAKHIMPUR DISTRICT

As part of the ongoing demonstration programme on different crops under APART, ATMA Lakhimpur has started demonstrations on Ginger (variety- Nadia) in three different villages viz. Joriguri, Bishnupur, and Dhekiajuli under Karunabari Block (cluster). The demonstration

was organized under the supervision and monitoring of Block Technology Manager (BTM), Assistant Technology Manager (ATM) and other officers from the District Agricultural Office. Before laying out the demonstration in the field, farmers were trained by the officers regarding

the scientific method of Ginger cultivation, rhizome treatment, disease, and pest management, etc. Women

farmers also participated in the demonstrations, which is a good sign for the Agriculture sector in Assam.



Laying out of Ginger Demonstration and distribution of planting material (Rhizome) at Karunabari Block (cluster) of Lakhimpur district

CUMULATIVE PHYSICAL PROGRESS OF OPIU, AGRICULTURE: AS ON 30TH APRIL, 2019

Sl. No.	Activities	Physical Target	Cumulative Physical Achievement
A.	Demonstration on climate resilient and market-led production technology (0.25ha)	Physical	Physical
i	Paddy	1550	1366
ii	Maize	570	409
iii	Black Gram	220	
iv	Lentil	142	101
v	Pea	142	104
vi	Mustard	570	339
vii	Fodder Demo to Support WAMUL	528	86
viii	Manual Chaff Cutter	264	
ix	Input Dealer cum farmers Interactive meet	48	
x	Zonal level workshop	16	6
xi	Streamlining Agri credit including KCC and Insurance	296	
xii	District level Buyer seller meet	16	
xii	Post Harvest Management Demo	54	
xiii	Training on GAP	80	60
xiv	Preparation of VCDP	29	5 FGDs held
B	IRRI Supported Activities		
1	Supervision management and monitoring of Minikit based on STRV demos by ATMA	5000	5000
2	Integrated crop management Demos ICMD (Area 0.25 ha)		
a	Winter paddy	200	200

b	Summer Paddy	200	200
c	Premium Quality Rice (PQR)	50	50
3	Capacity Building Training and development of Outreach Material		
a	One day training for farmers by ATMA	10	10
b	Exposure Visit		
1	Within District	6	6
2	Within Assam	1	1
3	Outside Assam	2	2
4	Training and Visits at Institutes of National and International Importance		
i	Within Country	25	25
5	Number of participants for training /visits at national and Inst.		
i	Within Country	5	5
6	Training capacity building and dissemination and communication materials for awareness creation for scale appropriate mechanization		
i	Exposure visit of farmers outside state	2	1
C	WorldVeg Supported Activities		
I	Climate resilient Production Demonstration		
i	Black Gram	16	0
ii	Lentil	10	10
III	Pea	10	10
2	Application of IPM Systems for reduced pesticide usage		
a	IPM demonstration On pulses		
i	Black gram	5	0
ii	Lentil	5	0
III	Pea	5	0
E	OPIUs(Agri.)		
III	Exposure visit of Farmers (inside State) batch	4	
iv	Exposure visit of farmers (outside State) persons	18	

CUMULATIVE PHYSICAL PROGRESS OF OPIU-HORTICULTURE AS ON 30TH APRIL, 2019

Sl.	Key Activities	Unit	Physical Target	Physical Achievement
1	Demonstration on climate resilient and market-led production technology (0.25ha)			
i)	Potato	Nos.	294	294
ii)	Tomato	Nos.	143	143
iii)	Cabbage	Nos.	139	139
iv)	Cauliflower	Nos.	140	140
v)	Brinjal	Nos.	139	139
vi)	Pumpkin	Nos.	139	139
2	CIP supported demo.{early maturing varieties, Zero tillage technology, Partial Root Drying(PRD) technology}			
i)	Potato	Nos.	210	210
ii)	Mechanization demos(potato planter & harvester)(7 districts)	Nos.	35	35
3	CIP supported some other activities			
i)	3 workshops organized by ATMAs in 3 districts (1 workshop/district) to analyze the potato value chain	Workshop	3	3
ii)	Workshop to review potato value chain constraints and finalize district level value chain development plan (VCDP)	Workshop	1	1
iii)	Workshops inviting the public and private sector involved in seed systems and farmers	Workshop	1	1
iv)	Exposure visits for ATMAs, AAU, DoH and private sector partners to understand seed multiplication system in temporary net houses (North Bangladesh-BRAC, DoA, TCRC) (10 persons)	Nos.	1	1
v)	Training of national partners (15-20) in potato pest and disease identification and survey work (3-days workshop with field activities)	Nos.	1	1
vi)	Training of trainers and field staff to conduct demonstrations and collect SI indicator metrics	Training	1	1
vii)	Training on establishment of field demonstrations by master trainer, ATMA (7 districts x 20 farmers for early maturing potato; 7 districts x 10 farmers for PRD)	Nos.	7	7
4	WorldVeg supported demonstration			
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

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