

Progress report of the residential training programme on:

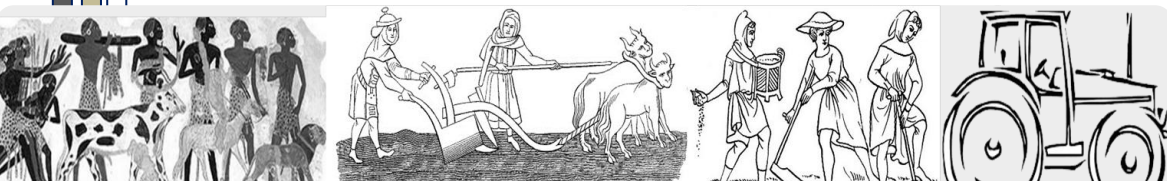
Economic Development and Empowerment of Farmers and Farm Women through Adopting Improved Agro-techniques



2017-18



FARMERS' ACADEMY & CONVENTION CENTRE
Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswabidyalaya
P.O. Kalyani, Dist. Nadia, West Bengal - 741235



Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV) as the leading full-fledged State Agricultural University (SAU) of West Bengal is committed to steer the state towards attaining sustainable food, nutritional, environmental and livelihood security through agricultural education, research and extension. Being one of the largest SAUs in India it aims at exploring natural resource base of the state and harnessing the power of science and innovation for increasing food production, promoting farmers' prosperity and achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development of the state as a whole. The university envisages playing a pivotal role in the development of the state and country by upholding the excellence in agricultural education by consistently modernizing the facilities, improving the course

curriculum in relevance with emerging needs and maintaining the learning ambience for the future generation of Agricultural Technocrats of the nation. The University is



continuing research with a human face for evolving, nurturing and improvising technologies towards securing livelihood of farmers and supports the development goal of the state through increasing agricultural and agro-based industrial growth in a sustainable way under changing climatic scenario.

Initially the BCKV was functioning only with two faculties – Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences offering UG, PG and Doctoral degrees in Agriculture, Veterinary Sciences and Diary Technology. Later on in 1996, following the establishment of the West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences, two new faculties - Faculty of Horticulture and Faculty of Agricultural Engineering came into existence under this



Viswavidyalaya. Recently two new colleges of Agriculture started functioning - one at Burdwan since 2014 and another at Bankura from 2015.

Highlights of Extension Education Activities

The extension education activities of the University are being conducted through Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) under the Directorate of Extension Education.

About 20 new technologies have been implemented in recent years through On-Farm Trials (OFT) and Front Line Demonstration (FLD) by the KVKs, about 19 new technological inventories have been published, improved planting materials are made available and plant diagnostics support is being extended to the farmers. Workshops were organized at the FACC on Advance Agriculture and Allied Technologies in Farm Sector and Skill Development programmers for capacity building of the KVK personnel.

Thousands of farmers are being benefitted through the On-Farm Trials (OFT), Front Line Demonstration (FLD) and various Training programmes conducted by the KVKs in Howrah, Hoogly and Nadia districts. Various programmes implemented by the KVKs include ASCI Programmes on Skill Development Training on different issues like entrepreneurship development, manufacture of jute handicrafts, leadership development etc., KRISHI PARBON programme, Krishak Mitra (under IFFCO), FOCT (Friends of Coconut Trees), Master Farmer Development programme etc. apart from Scientist-Farmer Interactions on regular basis.

The KVKs have observed various events like, International Year of Pulses (2016), *Swachh Bharat Pakhwara*, *Sankalp se Siddhi* Vigilance Awareness Week, *Vishwa Adiwasi Diwas*, National Science day, International Women day, International Soil Health Day, *Jai Kishan Jai Vigyan Week*, *Krishi Mela*, Machinery cum Engineering Technology Mela (in association with, ICAR-NIRJAFT) etc and played active role in implementing *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojona*, Tribal Sub Plan (TSP



by Nadia KVK). All the KVKs are also involved in seed production and distribution programmes of the university.

Apart from the mandated activities the Howrah KVK was instrumental in preparing Soil Health Card under Universal Soil Health Card scheme financed by the Government of India and executed by State Agriculture Department, GoWB. Under this scheme the KVK has analyzed hundreds of soil samples and simultaneously issued soil health cards to the concerned farmers.

The Hoogly and Howrah KVKs have initiated a one year Diploma Course on “Diploma in Agricultural Extension of Input Dealers (DAESI)” through MANAGE, Hyderabad for upgrading the licensed dealers with 40 participants.

Farmers’ Academy and Convention Centre (FACC)

The Lake Hall i.e. the Farmers’ Academy and Convention Centre (FACC) has been successfully retaining its glory since its inception and day by day it is becoming a centre of excellence across Eastern India in the domain of agricultural education and extension through capacity building



of the farmers and stakeholders. Farmers irrespective of gender and class come and stay here for days together during their training programmes. Round about 2000 farmers and farm women usually participate in and successfully complete various training programmes throughout the year. Apart from that, scientists, teachers, officers and students from different corners of the country and abroad every now and then come and board here round the year during seminar, symposium, meeting, workshop etc conducted by the BCKV. The



excellent food and lodging facilities as well as the ambience of its campus attract everybody. Moreover, different educational institutions other than BCKV also conduct their seminar, symposium, meeting, workshop etc. in the auditorium and seminar halls of the Academy.

Trainings: Background

The Farmers' Academy and Convention Centre (FACC) was assigned to carry out 25 residential training programmes for the Farmers (General and SC), Woman Farmers (General and ST) from the districts of South 24 Pgs., North 24 Pgs., Purulia, Bankura, Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Purba Medinipur, Paschim Medinipur, Murshidabad, Nadia, Birbhum, Hoogly, Dakshin Dinajpur, Uttar Dinajpur, Malda, Jalpuaiguri, Coochbihar and Alipurduar. The residential training programmes were held at FACC Campus, BCKV, Kalyani in the year of 2017-18. Each batch comprised of 30 farmers/farm women. The FACC conducted 25 such trainings; thus 750 farmers and farm women participated in these trainings.

Objectives

The focal objectives of the trainings were to develop the skills and knowledge of the farmers and farm women for achieving the following goals:

- ✚ To make the farmers acquainted with the scientific and modern agro-techniques for crop production;
- ✚ To develop their consciousness about the flaws and follies in the present intensive agricultural practices;
- ✚ To steer them towards adopting the best management practices to conserve soil, air, water, biodiversity i.e. the environment as whole;
- ✚ To make the farmers and farm women groomed in the integrated approach in all aspects of farming i.e. integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management integrated water management etc;



- ✚ To motivate them in developing a sustainable agricultural system through adopting Integrated Farming Practices for the sake of diversification in their livelihood options, better family income generation, food and nutritional security *vis-a-vis* environmental and biodiversity conservation.

Details of the trainings organized at the FACC

Sl. No.	Category	Number of Participants	Covering Districts
1.	Farmers (General)	120	South 24 Pgs., Purulia, Dakshin Dinajpur, Murshidabad, Malda, Nadia, Purba Burdwan, Jalpuaiguri, Coochbihar, North 24 Pgs., Purba Midnapur, Paschim Midnapur
2.	Woman Farmers (General)	300	Alipurduar, Malda, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur, Birbhum, Purulia, South 24 Pgs, North 24 Pgs., Murshidabad, Purba Burdwan, Purba Midnapur, Nadia
3.	Woman Farmers (ST)	120	Purba Burdwan, Paschim Burdwan, Hoogly, Bankura, Birbhum
4.	Farmers (SC)	210	North 24 Pgs., Birbhum, Dakshin Dianjpur, Purba Midnapur, South 24 Pgs., North Dinajpur, Alipurduar, Nadia



The topics covered in the training schedule

Topics (Theoretical and Practical aspects)	Experts
Role of organic manures, vermi-composts etc. on soil health management; Identification of various organic matters and judicious application of chemical fertilizers on the basis of soil test report.	Dr. Ranjan Kr. Basak, Dr. Partha Mukhopadhyay and Dr. Tapas Biswas
Preparation of organic manures, phospho-compost, vermi-compost; Indemnification of various species of earthworms, varied utilities of organic manures in agricultural crop production.	Dr. Ranjan Kr. Basak, Dr. Partha Mukhopadhyay and Dr. Tapas Biswas
Improved cultivation practices for <i>Kharif</i> and <i>Boro</i> rice	Dr. Pratit Bandyopadhyay, Dr. Hirak Banerjee and Mr. Sukamal Sarkar
Improved cultivation practices for Oilseed and Pulses	Dr. Pratit Bandyopadhyay, Dr. Hirak Banerjee, Dr. Kalyan Jana and Dr. Koushik Brahmachari
Improved package and practices for summer and winter vegetables; nutritional garden	Dr. Arup Chattopadhyay
Improved package and practices for mango, banana, jackfruit, guava, sapota and water apple (Jamrul)	Dr. Md. Abu Hasan
Crop pest management: the updated issues (Insects and Diseases of Agronomic and Horticultural Crops)	Dr. Pijush Kanti Sarkar, Dr. Kusal Roy, Dr. Arunava Samanta, Dr. Aniruddha Pramanik, Dr. Subrata Dutta and Asit Mondal
Integrated Farming System	Dr. Koushik Brahmachari
Seed bed preparation, seed treatment and seedling raising: improved practices; Methodology for vermi-compost and other organic manures preparations	Mr. Jiban Kr. Sarkar Mr. Tapan Murmu



Topics (Theoretical and Practical aspects)	Experts
Field visit (Adjoining villages)	Md. Jahangir Hossaina and Mr. Subrata Sarkar
Integrated Fish Farming	Dr. Tamal Prasad Murmu, Dr. Manas Dasgupta, Dr. Suwendu Dutta and Dr. Anindya Sundar Ghosh
Artificial Insemination: the related issues; The common diseases and their management in the domestic animals	Dr. Somnath Dutta, Dr. Samiran Banjerjee and Dr. Arun Kr. Das
Animals and birds rearing for rural economic uplift	Dr. Lalmohan Mondal and Dr. Shyamal Naskar
Field Visit (IVRI and NDRI Farms, Central Fodder Farm, GOI)	The Scientists of the IVRI, Kalyani farm
Feedback analysis and discussions	Dr. Koushik Brahmachari and Mr. Samar Kr. Mandal

A few snaps from the training programmes



An assembly of Women trainees in front of the lens at FACC, BCKV.....





Dr. D.D. Patra, Vice-Chancellor, BCKV addressing the participants in an inaugural programme



Mrs. Madhumita Choudhury, IAS, Additional Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal, Dept. of Agriculture and Mr. Amitava Ganguly, Deputy Director Agriculture (Training): Being felicitated by a participant in the valedictory session of a training programme



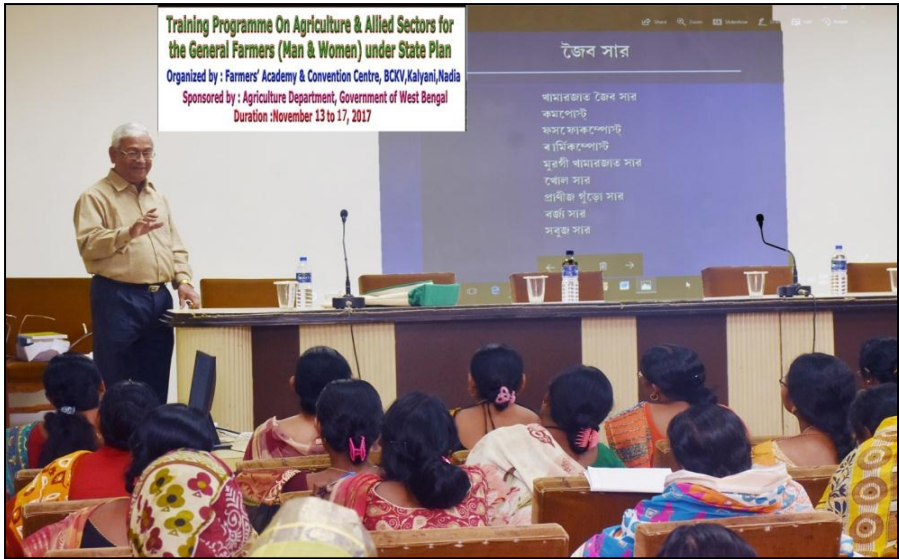


An overview of a training programme



Farmers converted into serious students in the university research cum teaching farm





Prof. Ranjan Kr. Basak: Sharing his long experience on plant nutrition and soil health management with the women trainees at FACC, BCKV



Mrs. Madhumita Choudhury, IAS, Additional Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal, Dept. of Agriculture and Mr. Amitava Ganguly, Deputy Director Agriculture (Training): Addressing the participants in the inaugural session of a training programme





Mrs. Madhumita Choudhury, IAS, Additional Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal, Dept. of Agriculture and Mr. Amitava Ganguly, Deputy Director Agriculture (Training): Surrounded by the trainees during the tea break of a training programme at the FACC, BCKV



Another overview of a training programme





Dr. Hirak Banerjee: Exchanging updated ideas and experiences with the trainee farmers at FACC, BCKV



Farmers: In a gregarious grasping mood to extract the field experiences from the trainer, Prof. Arup Chattopadhyay in the university research cum teaching farm





Prof. Koushik Brahmachari, In-charge and Course Director, FACC, BCKV: Inspiring the farmers and farm women towards integrated farming system for better income and sustainable rural development



Farm women in the university farm: Observing mulching practices





Trainer and trainees: All are in serious mood in teaching and learning



Dr. Tapas Biswas: Generating consciousness on soil health management amongst the farm women at FACC, BCKV





Prof. Pijush Kanti Sarkar: Sharing his long experience on plant protection with the women trainees at FACC, BCKV



Prof. Aniruddha Pramanik: Exchanging ideas and thoughts on insect pest management with the trainees at FACC, BCKV





Dr. Arunava Samanta: Exchanging ideas and experiences on insect pest management with the trainees at FACC, BCKV



Mr. Sukamal Sarkar: Bringing the ideas of contingent planning in rice growing to the trainees at FACC, BCKV





Mr. Jiban Sarkar: With the farm women during their hands on training; Mr. Tapan Murmu and Md. Jahangir Hossain are assisting them

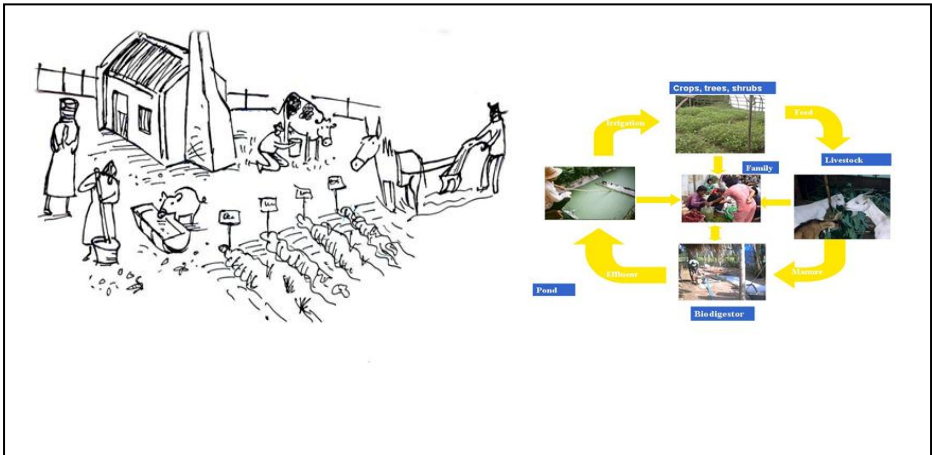


The newly developed rose garden at the FACC, BCKV





Farmers: In a vivid visit to acquire knowledge on diversified cropping in the BCKV farm



Conceptualizing integrated farming system and family farm





Dr. Shyamal Naskar in the piggery with the women trainees in a field visit



Farm women in a field visit discussing on goatery issues





Farm women in a field visit exchanging views on animal rearing



A Farmer: Sharing experience of the training programme during the feedback session in the FACC, BCKV





The Farmers' Academy and Convention Centre (FACC): Showing the look of 'Valley of Flowers' during the winter months



The creators with their smiling face amidst their creations in the Farmers' Academy and Convention Centre (FACC)





An incessant financial and administrative support from the Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal made the dream of the BCKV alumni with the FACC real and the challenge of the BCKV administration fulfilled.

The administration has many more planning with the FACC for making it more useful and meaningful to the farming community of the grass root level henceforward. So, continuity of such financial assistance of the State Government for maintenance of Lake Hall (FACC) is an urgent necessity. The university is obviously grateful to the Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal for such support and do hope for unremitting prop up in this regard in future.

- **Published by:** Dr. D.D. Patra, Vice-Chancellor, BCKV
- **Edited and compiled by:** Dr. Koushik Brahmachari, Professor, Dept. of Agronomy; In-charge & Course Director, FACC, BCKV and Mr. Samar Kr. Mondal, Assistant Manager, FACC, BCKV
- **Graphics and Layout design by:** Mr. Sukamal Sarkar, SRF, Dept. of Agronomy, BCKV

