

Eastern Regional Station-ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Kolkata organized an Animal Health Awareness Program in Sonarpur block of West Bengal

Under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC), Eastern Regional Station (ERS) of ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Kolkata in collaboration with Janani Self Help Group (SHG) jointly organized an Animal Health Awareness Program in Balarampur village, South 24-Paragana district of West Bengal on 28th October, 2024. The program was planned under DAPSC scheme of ERS-ICAR-IVRI for the year 2024-25 in order to upscale the knowledge of scheduled caste women on backyard poultry farming using the scientific interventions. The village was selected based on the block (i.e Sonarpur) that has high percentage of scheduled caste population (58%) according to the Official Web site of the Department of Social Justice, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India (<https://socialjustice.gov.in>).



Fifty (n=50) rural women belonging to scheduled caste community joined the program from Chiyari (South Bonhooghli) village under Sonarpur block. Majority of the beneficiaries belong to Rajbanshi (n=42) and Tiyar (n=8) sub-castes/ types etc. Dr. B. Mondal and Dr. G. K. Das were present from ERS-ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata and co-ordinated the programme. Smt Mamata Naru, Mrs Pratima Kayal, Mrs. Nibha Naru, Mrs. Baisakhi Bag, Mrs. Astami Naru, Mrs. Purnima Mondal, Mrs. Rakhi Mondal and Smt Chhaya Mondal from five different SHG groups were also took active role in organizing the event. In the beginning, Dr G. K. Das welcome and extend thanks to all the beneficiaries who attended the program. He briefed about the objectives of DAPSC scheme and the purpose of the awareness program. Dr B. Mondal, in his talk communicated the history of the

premier Institute ICAR-IVRI and the significant contribution made by the Institute for production of different poultry, duck and animal vaccines and also biological production to cater the need of the country time to time.

He also emphasized the critical role of women especially rural women in the Indian agriculture



and allied sectors and in forming the growing rural economy of the country. He categorically mentioned the scopes of animal husbandry and poultry farming practices among the newcomers belonging to scheduled caste community. And also to motivate to

continue the practices among those who are already engaged in animal husbandry practices over decades. The lectures also encompassed the knowledge of scientific rearing of goats, pigs, chicks, ducks, turkey and quail to the beneficiaries attended the program and also challenges



lying with the practises and the ways to overcome those. Scientists from ERS-IVRI also highlighted the benefits of backyard poultry and quail rearing, precautions to be taken while poultry rearing, market opportunities and the ways to get rid of losses

due to various poultry diseases. All the beneficiaries also made aware about the importance of poultry vaccination and feed supplements in backyard poultry farming. Speech was also oriented towards brooding of chicks and time table of poultry vaccinations to reduce the mortality of chicks, growers and layer birds. The beneficiaries received an awareness kit comprising printed literature on poultry (turkey, chicks, ducks, and quail etc.), writing pad, pen, masks in a customized printed folder along with a large printed bag with hand sanitizer and masks.