

Animal cum Poultry Health Awareness Program in Bongaon block of West Bengal under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes

Eastern Regional Station (ERS) of ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Kolkata in collaboration with Nilkantha Self Help Group (SHG) jointly organized an Animal cum Poultry Health Awareness Program in Dighari village of North 24-Paragana district of West Bengal on 30th October, 2024. The program was planned and executed under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC) scheme of ERS-ICAR-IVRI for the year 2024-25 for transferring the traditional knowledge of scheduled caste women on backyard poultry farming (BYPF) to modern BYPF using the latest knowledge in the area with scientific interventions. Selection of village (s) was/ were done based on the high percentage (>40.0 per cent) of scheduled caste population in the block in which the village (s) was/were located.

A total of thirty (n=30) rural women belonging to scheduled caste community participated in the awareness program from Dighari (n=25), Nischintapur (n=4) and Huda Bishnupur (n=1) village of Bongaon block. All the beneficiaries belong to



Namasudra (n=30) sub-castes/ types etc. Dr. S. Naskar and Dr. G. K. Das were present from ERS-ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata and co-ordinated the programme. Mrs Moumita Mallick, Mrs. Dalia Biswas Mallick and Mrs. Babita Mallick from

two SHG groups were also took active role in organizing the event and field visit. Dr G. K. Das welcomed all the beneficiaries and briefed about the objectives of DAPSC scheme and the purpose of the awareness program. Dr S. Naskar communicated briefly about the history of the premier Institute ICAR-IVRI and the significant contribution made by



the Institute for production of different poultry, duck and veterinary vaccines as well as other biological to cater the need of the country since many decades. He detailed about the special care and management of day-old chicks to reduce the early mortality and better growth at first few days of their early life in new environment without their mother. Selection of good quality eggs, care and preservation of eggs for hatching and finally care and management during hatching, was thoroughly discussed for better hatchability. 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.

Gosthi : After the awareness programme, two Gosthis; one group consisting 10-12 women those who are having goats at home and other consisting 8-10 those who have dairy cattle at their home joined in the gosthis. At the beginning, few questions were placed before them about the

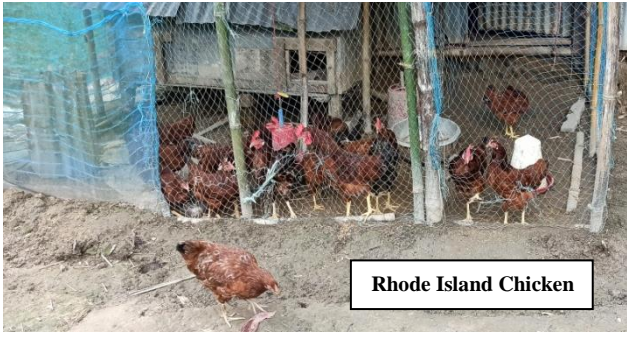


goats and cattle rearing practices they are adopted at home. Following those, discussion was made on the questions raised by the farmers and addressed the issues.

Visit to Farmers Doors: At the end of the program, a visit was made to few farmers doors to assess the poultry, ducks, goats and cattle they are rearing and the practices they adopted. The



physical health status of those animals and poultry birds as well as ducks have shown below.



Rhode Island Chicken



Khaki Campbell Duck

