

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

The Eastern Regional Station (ERS)-ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Kolkata in collaboration with Ramkrishnapur Upasana Charitable Trust, Basanti and Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Daria, Canning-I jointly organized an Animal cum Poultry Health Awareness Program



in Ramkrishnapur village under Basanti block of South 24-Paragana district of West Bengal on 18th February, 2025. The program was planned under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Caste (DAPSC) Scheme of ERS-ICAR-IVRI for the year 2024-25 to upscale the knowledge of scheduled caste women on backyard poultry farming using the scientific interventions. All the villages (n=5) were selected based on high percentage of scheduled caste population percent (more than 40%).



One hundred and fifty (n=150) rural women belonging to scheduled caste community joined in the program from five villages i.e. Dakshin Battala, Mazidbari, Ramkrishnapur,

Harekrishnapur, and Dakshin Mokamberia under Basanti block. The percentage of scheduled caste population is 79.8% (Dakshin BatTala), Mazidbari (75.3%), Ramkrishnapur (74.4%),



Harekrishnapur (63.5%) and Dakshin Mokamberia (43.8%). Majority of the beneficiaries belong to Poundra and Namasudra followed by Bagdi, Kaora, Jalia Kaibartta, Dhoba, Malo and Keot sub-types.

Dr G. K. Das, Principal Scientist from ERS-ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata, Sri Ajay Naskar and Sri Sujoy Naskar from Ramkrishnapur Upasana Charitable Trust, Basati and Sri Sujit Mondal, Secretary, Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Daria were present in the program. In the beginning of the program, all the beneficiaries registered their

names after verification of the documents (xerox copies of aadhar card, voter card, scheduled caste certificate and ration card) received awareness kit comprising printed literature on poultry



(turkey, chicks, ducks, and quail etc.), writing pad and pen in a customized printed folder along with a large printed bag with hand sanitizer and masks. Dr G. K. Das welcomed and extended thanks to all the beneficiaries who attended the program. He briefed about

the history about the premier Institute ICAR-IVRI and the significant contribution made by the Institute for production of different poultry, duck, goat and cattle vaccines and also biological production as per need of the country time to time. He further briefed the objectives of DAPSC

scheme and the purpose of inclusion of the awareness program under the scheme. He also emphasized the critical role of women especially rural women played in the Indian agriculture and allied sectors and in forming the growing rural economy of the country. He



categorically mentioned the scopes of poultry farming and animal husbandry 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 the decades.

Sri Sujit Mondal extended his ideas with the societal activities carried out by the Bharat



Sevashram Sangha for weaker sections of the society. He also highlighted the critical role to play by rural women for family as well as societal development. The importance of poultry vaccination and use of feed supplements in backyard poultry farming, brooding of chicks and time table of poultry

vaccinations to reduce the mortality of chicks, growers and layer birds also made many mentions in the program.