

Eastern Regional Station-ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Kolkata organized an Animal cum Poultry Health Awareness Program in Kulpi 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 Pranavananda Vidyamandir, Bharat Sevashram Sangha (PV-BSS), Belpukur, Kulpi jointly organized an Animal cum Poultry Health Awareness Program at Belpukur village under Belpukur Gram Panchayat, Kulpi block of South 24-Paragana district, West Bengal on 20th January, 2025. 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 recent knowledge on scientific development in the area. The villages were



selected based on the basis of high percentage of scheduled caste population (>40.0%) according to the 2011 population census.

Eighty two (n=82) rural women belonging to scheduled caste community joined the program from Arunnagar (n=6), Belpukur (n=31), Jamtala (n=19), Kachuberia (n=1), Nischintapur (n=1) and Rangafala (n=12) villages of Belpukur Gram Panchayat, Dayarampur (n=1) village of Kulpi Gram Panchayat and Krishnachandrapur (n=11) village of Karanjali Gram



Panchayat. Majority of the beneficiaries belong to sub-castes/ types Poundra followed by Bagdi, Tiyaar, Dhoba, Rajbanshi, Kandra and Kaora. Dr. B. Mondal Principal Scientist and Dr. G. K. Das, Principal Scientist from ERS-

ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata, Sri Sujit Mondal, Secretary, Pranavananda Vidyamandir, Daria and Sri Swapan Talukdar, Marketing Manager, Credence Remedies Private Limited, Thane, M.S. were present in the program. In the beginning, Dr G. K. Das welcomed and extended 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 communicated briefly 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 to cater the need of the Indian farmers over past few decades. He also emphasized the critical role 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. Sri Sujit Mondal explained the critical role of women in the family and also to contribute in Indian agriculture. He further emphasised the importance brooding of chicks and in time vaccination as well as record keeping in profitable backyard poultry farming. He told that there is huze scope of poultry farming for cash earning even from the local market because of the existing demand. Sri Swapan Talukdar told about the role vaccination and supplementation of medicines for successful poultry farming. 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.