

Eastern Regional Station of ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute promoted Rural Widows for Backyard Poultry Farming

The Bongaon block is located in North 24-Parganas district of West Bengal. As per the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the scheduled caste population of the block is 47%. The Eastern Regional Station (ERS) of the ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Kolkata and Nilkantha Self Help Group (SHG) jointly organized an Animal and Poultry Health Awareness and Chicks Distribution Program at Dighari village of Bongaon block on 13th November, 2024. The program was conducted under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC) scheme for the year 2024-25 to promote rural widows for backyard poultry farming (BYPF) for a better livelihood. Three villages named Dighari, Nischintopur and Satashi under Dighari Gram Panchyat were targeted for selection of beneficiaries and the percent scheduled caste population of those villages was 80.40%, 64.00% and 97.62%, respectively, according to the Population Census



2011.

Twenty widows (n=20) belonging to scheduled caste community from three different villages namely Dighari (n=5), Nischintopur (n=10) and Satashi (n=5) attended the programme. Dr B. Mondal and Dr. G. K. Das Principal Scientists from ICAR-IVRI-ERS, Kolkata were present in the programme and co-ordinated the program. Mrs Moumita Mallik, Mrs Dalia Biswas Mallik and Mrs Babita Mollik from Nilkantha SHG were present and organized the events. Dr. G. K. Das

described briefly about the DAPSC scheme and its objectives. He also highlighted about the programmes conducted by ICAR-ICAR-ERS in Dighari GP areas since 2019 and the impacts of those programmes among the beneficiaries and in the locality. The present program was the second attempt to support the livelihood of rural widows (n=20) after the first program held on 20th March, 2024. Dr. B. Mondal briefed about the history of ICAR-IVRI and its significant contribution made in the areas of animal and poultry vaccination and veterinary biological. He also explained the importance of brooding and the potential of BYPF for income generation and better livelihood.

Poultry and Animal Health Awareness Program:



All the beneficiaries received an awareness kit comprising scientific literature (n=15) on poultry/quail/duck farming, vaccination and deworming schedule as well as poultry and duck diseases, writing pad, pen within a plastic folder.

Besides, they also received kit comprising inputs like hand sanitizer, hand wash, mask and cap within a large carry bag.

Input Distribution Program: A total of four hundred (n=400) Kaveri chicks, 20 medicine/ feed



supplement Kits, chick feeders (n= 20) and chick drinkers (n= 20) were distributed among the widow beneficiaries. Each medicine / feed supplement kit is consisted of electrolytes powder, vitamins A, D₃, E

and B₁₂, anthelmintics, liver extracts, calcium preparation and anti-stress preparation etc.