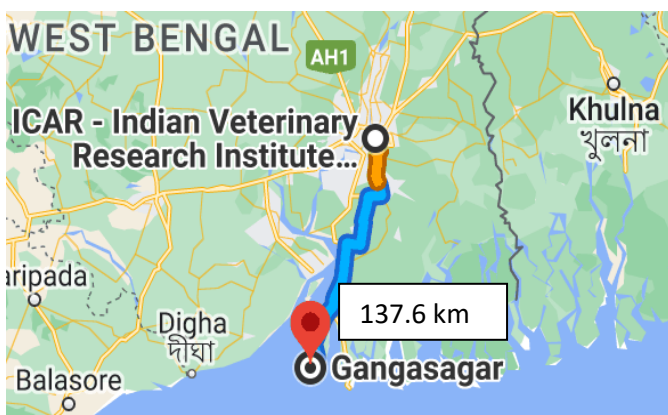


The ERS-ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata organized a Poultry Health Awareness Camp and RIR Chicks Distribution Program among the rural women in Gangasagar Island under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes

Gangasagar, is part of the Sundarbans delta and famous place of Hindu pilgrimage. As an ancient ritual, the **Gangasagar Mela** is celebrated at the tip of the Sagar Island on the eve of Makar Sankranti every year.



The Eastern Regional Station (ERS) of ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Kolkata and Bharat Sevashram Sangha (BSS), Mahendraganj, Sagar Block jointly organized an ‘Animal cum Poultry



Health Awareness Camp’ and ‘Input Distribution Programme’ at the Rural Development Centre, BSS in Mahendraganj village under Sagar block of West Bengal on 15th of March, 2024. Gangasagar is located



about 137.6 Kilometers far away from the ICAR-IVRI-ERS, Kolkata. A two-phase journey, i.e. initially by road for around 4 hrs and 30 minutes followed by ferry through motorised boat crossing the Ganga river was made to reach the venue of the programme..

Seventy (n=70) rural women belonging to the

scheduled caste communities were the beneficiaries. They came from 20 different villages under 4 different Gram Panchayat namely Muriganga-2 G. P. (Companichar, Bamankhali, Chakfuldubi, Mandirtala



villages), Dhaspara Sumatinagar-1 G. P. (Mahendraganj, Nagendraganj, Dhaspara, Gobindapur,



Debimathurapur and Kaylapara villages), Ramkarchar G. P. (Naraharipur, Harinbari, Krisnanagar, Khasramkar, khansahebabad villages) and Rudranagar (Manshadwip, Kirtankhali, Rudranagar, Kamalpur, RadhaKrishnapur villages) of Sagar Island and joined in animal health cum poultry

awareness followed by input distribution program. Dr. S. Bag and Dr. G.K. Das from ERS-ICAR-IVRI, Sri



Paresh Das, Secretary, BSS, Mahendraganj, Sagar and Secretary, BSS, Daria, Canning-I block were present in the program. At the beginning of the program, registrations of all the beneficiaries were done which was followed by distribution of awareness kits consisting of printed literatures on different

breeds of poultry chickens, role and schedule of vaccinations, deworming, various common diseases of



poultry birds and ducks, quail and turkey farming etc. Sri Paresh Das gave a brief introduction about ERS, ICAR-IVRI and he introduced Dr Bag and Dr. Das to all the participants. Dr. G. K. Das delivered lecture stating a brief detail about DAPSC scheme and major objectives of the scheme. He also mentioned the main purpose of inclusion of

rural women belonging to scheduled caste community to this program. He appreciated the active and the silent role that the rural women are playing to improve family as well as rural economy through their participation in agriculture and allied areas especially animal husbandry and poultry farming practices.

Dr. Bag welcomed the participants and appraises them about the long history, scientific achievements and



farmer's friendly technologies of ICAR-IVRI including its eastern regional station of Kolkata. Dr Bag emphasized on various measures like housing, nutrition, health care cum vaccination, stress management etc in relation to poultry management. To encourage and motivate the participants, Dr Bag narrated the



success stories of several women farmers who have received training and other scientific inputs from ERS, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata and now have become successful entrepreneurs. In his lecture, Sri Sujit Mondal

briefed about the importance of selection of variety of poultry birds, brooding during first two weeks, proper feeding of chicks and scopes of income generation through farming practices.



Following awareness program, all the beneficiaries received the live inputs as Rhode Island Red chicks (n=1400) and other inputs like feeder, drinker, chick plate, steel gamla and feed supplements like vitamins, minerals, liver extracts, medicine like anthelmintics, electrolytes and anti-stress immune modulator preparations etc. A print out describing the methods of use of the supplied medicines was also provided to the beneficiaries.