

Interaction Meets with the Beneficiaries under DAPSC scheme at Eastern Regional Station, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata

The ICAR-IVRI-Eastern Regional Station (ERS) initiated a series of Scientist-Beneficiary Interaction Meets at ERS, Belgachia, Kolkata under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Caste (DAPSC) scheme. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss about the future plan pertaining to the activities to be undertaken at their respective villages. During the month of April to July 2024, six meetings were conducted on different days viz 17th April, 14th May, 29th May, 3rd June, 7th June and 29th July.

A total of 88 rural women belonging to scheduled caste community participated in the above programmes from 14 villages belonging to Bongaon, Canning-I and Sonarpur blocks of West Bengal. All the



beneficiaries have been associated with the DAPSC (SCSP) scheme of ICAR-IVRI, ERS either since implementation of the scheme (2019) at this centre or joined later between 2020 to 2023. Dr Arnab Sen



(HoRC), Dr D Mondal (PS), Dr Bimalendu Mondal (PS), Dr Sadhan Bag (PS), Dr G K Das (PS) and Dr A K Das (PS) of ERS-ICAR-IVRI were present in the programmes. In the beginning of the programme, participants registered their names and received an awareness kits comprising various printed literature of poultry farming practices. The interactive meets were initiated with the welcome address of Dr G K Das, Coordinator of DAPSC programme who explained the ideas behind organizing such interface meet at the premises of ERS, ICAR-IVRI of Kolkata. Dr Das expressed that above mentioned visits also provided an

opportunity to the rural women to have a glimpse of the ICAR-IVRI and its manifold activities for the improvement of rural livelihood through implementation of various national flagship programmes. Further, the women got a chance to interact with the scientists face to face to discuss about the



problems they are facing while practicing poultry and animal rearing. The brief note was followed by detailed deliberation by Dr Arnab Sen, the HoRC, ERS, ICAR-IVRI. Dr. Sen narrated the Indian scenario of poultry production system and importance of women participation in backyard poultry farming. He also narrated the glorious history of ICAR-IVRI

in national animal health care and production system and contribution of its Eastern Regional Station at Kolkata. Dr Sen emphasized the importance of creating facilities for poultry feed making, processing of poultry products, branding and exploration of marketing. Dr Sen also explained the importance of disease management including vaccinations in poultry as well as alternative poultry feeds required for reducing the cost of production. Dr D Mondal highlighted the importance of backyard poultry in rural income generation and household nutrition. Dr Mondal informed the participants

about various important poultry diseases, their diagnosis and prevention measures. Dr Bimalendu Mondal discussed about various viral diseases of poultry and their control measures. The awareness about diseases like Birdflu and precautionary measures against spreading these diseases were



discussed. Dr Mondal also discussed about small scale “egg incubator” at village level and demonstrated the functioning of the incubator in the laboratory. Dr Mondal opined that small size “Egg incubator” should be installed at village level for producing the chicks. Dr. Shyamal Naskar appraised the participants about

the importance of farmer’s producer organisation (FPO) in enhancing the marketability of poultry and



explained in details how to form the FPO. Dr Sadhan Bag appraised all the participants about the role of stress on livestock in general and poultry in particular. He also suggested the various ways to improve the productivity by reducing the stressful conditions to the birds. Dr A K Das discussed that



high profits can be earned by making various poultry products by the farmers themselves as there are high demands of poultry products amongst the people. Dr Das assured that hands on training on poultry products making will be provided at the laboratory in coming days. Even the poultry beneficiaries can

bring their raw materials and make products free of cost at our facility for marketing. All efforts will be made to install a small scale meat processing laboratory through DAPSC programme. Following the discussions, all the women participants were asked to express their views and difficulties in rearing poultry and their marketing. There was unanimous expression about higher feed cost, unavailability of medicines and vaccines, marketing of whole bird and eggs at lower price etc.