

Eastern Regional Station-ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Kolkata organized an Animal Health Awareness Programme at Balarampur village in Sonarpur under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes

Under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC), Eastern Regional Station (ERS) of ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Kolkata in collaboration with Janani Self Help Group (S.H.G) jointly organized an Animal Health Awareness Programme cum Gosthi at Balarampur village of Bonhooghly Gram Panchyat in South 24 Paragana district of West Bengal on October 30th 2023. The programme was planned under DAPSC activity of ERS-IVRI for scheduled caste community for the year 2023-24. The villages are selected based on the high scheduled caste population in the Sonapur block i.e.58 per cent as per the Department of Social Justice, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India (<https://socialjustice.gov.in>).

A total of fifty (n=50) women beneficiaries belonging to scheduled caste community were participated in the programme from 4 different villages i.e. Bonhooghly, Danga, Joyenpur and



Bagharkhol under Sonarpur block of South 24 Paragana district of West Bengal. Most of the beneficiaries belong to Rajbanshi sub-castes followed by Poundra, Tiyar and Jalia Kaibartta sub-castes/ types etc. Dr. G. K. Das and Dr. A. K. Das were present from ERS-

ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata and co-ordinated the programme. Smt Mamata Naru, Mrs. Nibha Naru and

Mrs. Baisakhi Bag from the SHG were also took active role in organizing the event. The purpose of the awareness programme was to brief about the objectives of DAPSC/SC SP programme and to popularize the 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 programme 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 occurs due to various poultry diseases. All the beneficiaries also made aware about importance of poultry vaccination. 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.