

The ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, ERS, Kolkata organized an Animal Health Awareness Programme at Khurigochhi village under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes

Eastern Regional Station (ERS) of ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Kolkata in collaboration with Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Sonarpur jointly organized an Animal Health Awareness Programme cum Gosthi at Khurigochhi village under Sonarpur block in South 24 Paragana district of West Bengal on October 30th 2023. The programme was planned as societal activities of ERS-IVRI under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC) scheme



for the year 2023-24 benefitting scheduled caste community. The villages are selected based on the high scheduled caste population in the Sonarpur 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>) and also the scheduled caste population per cent in the selected villages (ranged between 60 to 90 per cent) as per the population census, 2011.

Sixty (n=60) women beneficiaries belonging to scheduled caste community were participated in



the programme from 3 different villages namely Khurigachhi (n=22), Gangajowara (n=18) and Nayabad (n=20) under Sonarpur block of West Bengal. The scheduled caste population per cent of those villages were 54.9%, 60.7%

and 90.9%, respectively. Beneficiaries are dominated mostly from Poundra sub-caste and also



from Kaora, Tiyar and Namasudra sub-castes. From ERS-ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata, Dr. G. K. Das and Dr. A. K. Das were present and co-ordinated the programme. Sri Sujit Mondal and Mr. Dibakar Kayal represented the Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Sonarpur

and took active role in organizing the event. In the beginning of the programme each of the



beneficiary 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. Dr. G. K. Das briefed about the objectives of

DAPSC/SC SP programme and also the reason for selection of the Khurogochhi, Gangajowara

and Nayabad villages for the programme. He emphasized the scopes of animal husbandry and poultry farming practices for income generation and women empowerment among participants belonging to scheduled caste community and also motivated those who are already involved with above activities. Dr Arun highlighted the role of women in the family and participation in Indian agriculture and animal husbandry practices. Sri Sujit told about various societal activities of Bharat Sevashram Sangha and the importance of brooding of day old chicks and rearing of



improved variety of chicks.

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 of the importance of poultry vaccination and deworming during rearing of poultry birds in backyard..