

Eastern Regional Station of the ICAR-IVRI established a Village Level “Veterinary Medicine Bank” in Canning-I block under DAPSC/ SCSP Scheme

The Eastern Regional Station (ERS) of ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata, under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Caste (DAPSC) Scheme, established a “Veterinary Medicine Bank (VMB)” in the Daria village in Canning-I block of West Bengal on 26th of December 2024. The program was organized jointly by the ERS, ICAR-IVRI and Pranabananda Vidya Mandir (PVM, Bharat



Sewashram Sangha, BSS), Daria, Canning-I (South 24-Paraganas). The purpose of establishing the village level VMB was to ensure timely availability and accessibility of feed supplements and emergency medicines to the DAPSC

beneficiaries to extend health coverage of their livestock and poultry. Ultimate goal of this effort was to combat the sudden occurrence of the diseases of the chicken, duck, turkey, goats and cattle belonging to the weaker section of the society. This would help in achieving their targets of egg, meat and milk production for household need and income generation in a sustainable manner and thereby support livelihood in a better way.



Twenty one (n=21) women belonging to scheduled caste community from Dakshin, Paschim and



Purba Daria, Gobramari, Ronia and Shibnagar villages were present in the program. The beneficiaries represented 4 groups from Canning-I block of West Bengal and remained associated with ERS-ICAR-IVRI since 2020. Dr. B. Mondal and Dr. G. K. Das, Principal Scientists from ERS-

ICAR-IVRI and Sri Sujit Mondal, Secretary, PVM, Daria were present in the program. The program was co-ordinated by Dr. G. K. Das briefly stated the purpose of opening the bank. Sharing his past observations, he told that most of the beneficiaries had little practices of

schedule de-worming, using feed supplementation with vitamins and minerals during the growth and peak laying stage and proper medication for ailing birds and livestock. The major limitation to adopt such practices were either due to the non-availability of the medicines in the local medicine stores, or the location of the medicines stores are far from their home and also due to economic limitation being high cost of medicines and feed supplements. This reduces the performance of the inputs, mortality of birds and resulting in lowering the income. Dr B. Mondal emphasized on the scope of backyard livestock/poultry farming for elevating the livelihood status of the weaker section of the society. He expressed his view on the practice of maintaining



a vaccine and medicine bank will help the farmers in being self reliant and make the inputs available at their location. An important aspect was to maintain the medicine bank and record the usage details as and when required. Sri Sujit Mondal suggested the beneficiaries to learn the utility of the medicines and feed supplements from the Scientists of ICAR-IVRI, emphasized on judicious use of the valuable inputs and cautioned to use the antibiotics only after consultation with the ICAR-IVRI professionals.

The anthelmintics, sulpha drug, cephalaxin, enrofloxacin, anti-stress vitamins (A, C, E); Biotin, B-complex (B1, B2, B6 and Niacin); D3; amino acids; mineral mixture (vitamins, chelated



minerals, amino acids, major minerals and trace elements, prebiotics, probiotics, enzymes, herbal galactagogue); anti-stress and immune-stimulant/modulator preparations; electrolytes etc. were handed over to the beneficiaries to cater the regular need and

use during illness of their chickens, duck, turkeys, quail, goats and cattle. A register was also provided to record the use of the medicines, date of issue, name of beneficiaries, type of medicines taken and signature with date. And each occasion of obtaining the medicines they have to mention the number poultry (chicks, turkey, quail birds) and livestock (goats, sheep and cattle etc.).