

**Review Meeting on “Identification of major QTL’s for Grain Yield under Drought Stress in Jhum Rice Varieties of North Eastern Region for Use in Marker Assisted Breeding to Improve Yield under Drought.”**

**ICAR, Lembucherra, May 9, 2012**

The meeting was chaired by Dr. M. Datta , Joint Director, ICAR Research complex for NEH region, Tripura centre with Dr R.C. Samui ,Principal ,College Of Agriculture as Co-Chairman.

The meeting began with the warm welcome address by Dr M. Datta. He introduced the topic for which the meeting was held and he also briefly explained the importance of Jhum varieties and the need for identification of the new QTLs for the improvement of the Tripura lines for drought resistance.

Dr. S.P.Das, Senior Scientist (Plant Breeding) and the Principal Investigator of the project briefly described the progress of the project during the first year. The detailed data on the different parameters were recorded on the field. He also explained about the activities which will be undertaken during the second year of the project.

Dr. N. P. Mandal, PI, CRURRS, Hazaribagh, highlighted the research activities of the first year of the project. In Hazaribagh research station 83 Jhum lines were screened in the rain out shelter for different parameters related to drought stress. Infrared gun was used to measure the canopy temperature during the stress conditions.

Dr. Arvind Kumar, PI, IRRI, Philippines provided guidelines for further progress of the work, suggested that at least 2 best jhum lines should be selected for making crosses with most popular varieties to make the mapping populations. All the jhum lines should be screened with drought related SSR markers.

Dr. Amelia Henry Scientist, Drought Physiology, IRRI, special invitee, told the Jhum lines are unexplored lines so they have to be molecularly characterized and reverse physiology has to be studied for such Jhum lines identified with the new QTLs for drought tolerance.

Dr. K. Majumdar, Prof and Head Department of Molecular Biology And Biotechnology, Tripura University, emphasised the need to increase the manpower for carrying out such a huge labour oriented project. He also expressed his opinion to have more accurate data of soil moisture by using the instruments like Tensiometer. He also emphasised to have studies on root parameters of these lines.

Dr. M. Datta gave the concluding remarks by adding that the identification of the drought QTLs from and introgressing such QTLs in the popular or mega varieties can make a

considerable changes in Tripura and thereby increase the productivity close to the national average.

The meeting was concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr. B. L. Meena, Scientist, Plant Breeder.

### Hands on Training on Pig Farming for Tribal Community



Valedictory programme of hands  
on training on pig farming

A three (3) days hands on training on “Capacity Building on Pig Farming” was organized from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Complex, Lembucherra, West Tripura. The training programme aims to build up the capacity of tribal community through the promotion of pig farming which has a special significance with the tribal community who traditionally raise pigs in the entire state. Besides, livestock farming may be one of the promising options for year round employment and source of income for livelihoods. A total 53 trainees, especially tribal farmers from North Tripura, Dhalai, South Tripura and West Tripura actively participated in the training programme. In the valedictory function, the Hon’ble Minister for Agriculture and Animal Resource Development, Govt. of Tripura, Shri. Aghore Debbarma was present as chief guest. The minister appreciated the scientists of ICAR and staff for organizing such type of hands on training, particularly on pig farming. He stressed that the knowledge gained by the farmers be spread to other farmers. He also suggested taking up pig farming as self-employment venture and earning money and saving money for future or utilizing in crisis or any calamity. He added that the training should pave a way towards the economic growth of Tripura. The Joint Director, ICAR, Tripura Centre, Dr. M. Datta explained the objectives of the training programme. He gave emphasis on sustainable pig farming system by

breeding practice which is essential for production of more and more piglets and makes the availability of piglets for the farmers in the state. Shri Haricharan Sarkar, local MLA was overwhelmed with such initiative of ICAR and congratulated ICAR for conducting such training programme on pig farming. The most significant feedback came from the farmers who were very happy with the training as it provided a more scientific approach how to care and manage a pig farm and prevent diseases and also how to reduce the cost of production for pig rearing. At the end of training programme, certificate and piglets were distributed to the trainees. The training programme has brought a huge encouragement and confidence among the participants.