

Training on climate-resilient livestock and fish farming

Fish, Chicken, and Pork are the main sources of animal protein in Tripura. However, its regular supply is on the brink of climate-induced perturbations. Fish being poikilothermic animals and pig and poultry being less on sweat glands succumb more to effect of warming. Therefore, to cope up with those perturbations and to enhance the adaptive capacity of farmers, the ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Tripura Centre, Lembucherra organized a three-day Training programme on “climate-resilient livestock and fish farming” on February 26-28, 2020 under the National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (SCSP). In this programme, major emphasis was laid on Animal and Fishery sector because both are ‘Cash crops’. Thirty Schedule Caste (SC) farmers from Bishalgarh, Jirania and Lembucherra area of the State were participated in the programme. The inaugural session of the Training was held on 26 February 2020. Along with farmers, there were Dr. SP Das, Principal Scientist (Plant breeding), Dr. Anup Das, Principal Scientist (Agronomy) and Dr. Lopamudra Sahoo, Senior Scientist (Aquaculture) and other Scientists, Technical Officers, and Project Staff. On the very first Day, aspects of Climate change and importance of climate-resilient farming were oriented towards the farmers. Dr. Anup Das spoke about the adaptation to climate anomaly through integrated farming and Dr. Rekha Das, Scientist (Fish Genetics and Breeding) talked about low-cost fish breeding and transportation of fingerlings during the extreme weather events. On the 2nd day of Training, the issue of fodder in livestock farming was addressed by Dr. Gulab Singh Yadav, Scientist (Agronomy). Farmers were taught about Agronomical package of practices for cultivation and year-round production of Hybrid Napier, Berseem, As fodder crops. The role of Maize was emphasized as a flex crop. In the recent years, inundations and flood-like situations are increased in Tripura due to sudden heavy rainfall. To cope up with that kind of situations, farmers were taught about low-cost cage culture through on-farm and off-farm demonstration by Dr. C. Debnath, Scientist (FRM). Hands-on training was provided on heat stress management in poultry by Dr. Vinay Singh, Scientist (Poultry Science) and on scientific piggery by Dr. RS Godara, Scientist (LPM). Mrs. H. Bharati, Scientist (FRM) helped the farmers to identify candidate fish species for culturing in cage. On 3rd Day, fish health management aspect with emphasis to management of Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrom (EUS) during winter months and infestation of Fish lice during rainy season was taught by Dr. Lopamudra Sahoo. Dr. Vinay Singh taught about climate-resilient poultry farming with emphasis to proper housing facility and vaccination. Er. Dhiman Das Chaudhuri, Technical Officer, Agro-Met Advisory Unit of

the Centre delivered a talk about the role of Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) in climate-resilient agriculture. He urged the farmers for registering their Mobile numbers under the SMS service of the GKMS and synchronizing day to day farm activities with real-time weather information. He further sensitized the house with “Meghdoot app” recently launched weather application by the Govt. of India. The Valedictory function of the Training was held on 28 February 2020. Shri Dilip Kumar Chakma, Director, ARDD and Department of Fisheries, Govt. of Tripura was graced the programme as ‘Chief Guest’. He appreciated such initiative of ICAR in the way of doubling farmers’ income by 2022. Dr. Biswajit Das, PS (Horticulture) and I/C Joint Director, on this occasion, appreciated the farmers for their active participation. He further added both Fish and Poultry are very important sectors in economy and rural upliftment; hence, to safeguard its production and supply, climatic issues need to be accounted in the existing farming protocols of Tripura. Dr. Anup Das urged the farmers for diversified agriculture so that chances of loss get minimized. At the end of the training, 200 chicks, 50 kg poultry feed, 100 kg fish feed, 50 kg paddy seed (var. Gomati) and 150 hybrid-Napier cuttings were distributed among the farmers. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Vinay Singh, Dr. C. Debnath, Dr. GS Yadav and Dr. Anup Das. Overall, the responses were overwhelming and it will definitely help our farmers in safe and sustainable Agriculture in the era of global warming and climate change.



A glimpse of participants



Lecture on fodder cultivation



Lecture on climate-resilient poultry farming



Exposure to scientific piggery and dairy



Awareness on low-cost cage culture



Fabrication and installation of low-cost cages for pisciculture



Emphasis on fish health management



Awareness on GKMS of ICAR



Emphasis on drought-tolerant paddy



Distribution of certificates



Distribution of Napier cuttings



Distribution of fish feed



Distitribution of chicks



Distribution of Paddy var. Gomati