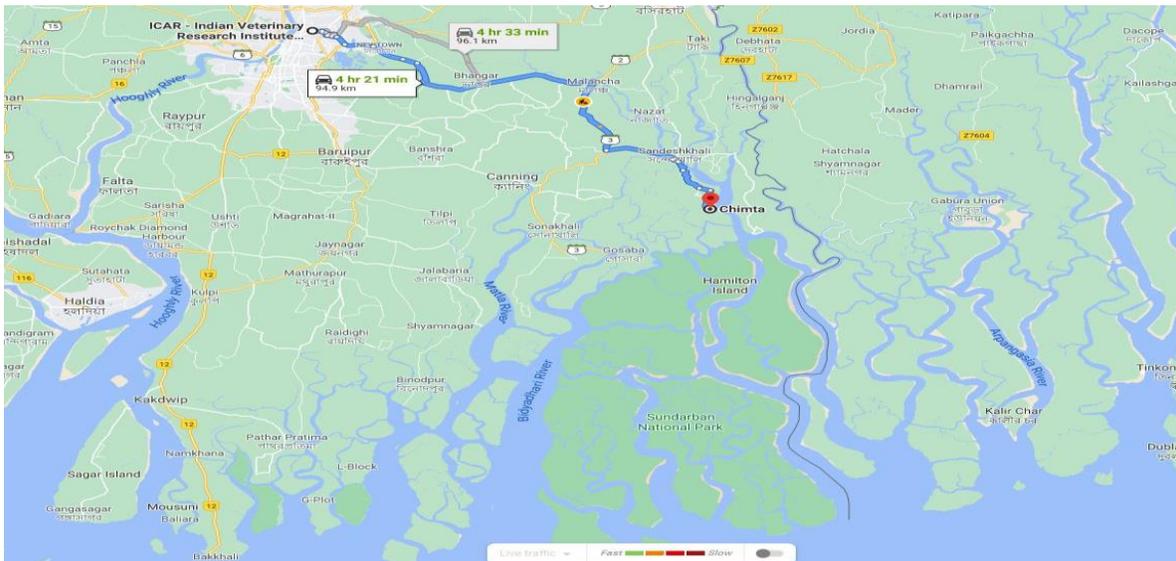


## Animal Health Awareness and Chick Distribution Programme at Chimta, a remotest village in Sunderban

Sunderban, a UNESCO heritage site is the coastal area of West Bengal and is the toughest from communication point of view and remotest area of the state. Gosaba is an important area under Sunderban costal region of South 24 Paraganas. According to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment reports, the scheduled caste population of the Gosaba block is 64 percent.



The Eastern Regional Station (ERS), ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Kolkata in collaboration with Sasya Shyamala Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Arapanch, Sonarpur and Joy Gopalpur Youth Development Centre (JGYDC), Sandeshkhali II, North 24 Paraganas organized a chick (Kadakhnath) distribution and animal health awareness programme in Chimta village of Gosaba block on 17th February, 2021 under Development Action plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC).The village is situated 30km away from sub-district headquarter Gosaba and 100km away from district headquarter Alipore.





Sixty six (n=66) women beneficiaries belonging to scheduled caste communities attended the programme from 3 different villages of Amtali G. P. viz., Chimta (n=36), Amtali (n=12), and Pujjali (n=18). As per 2011 census, the scheduled caste population of those villages is 80.3%, 93.9% and 76.6%, respectively.

Dr. Subhasish Bandyopadhyaya, Principal

Scientist, Dr. G. K. Das, Principal Scientist and Dr A. K. Das, Senior Scientist, from ICAR-IVRI-ERS, Kolkata and Sri Dinabandhu Das, Secretary and Sri Goutam Mondal, Treasurer of JGYDC, Sandeshkhali II were present in the programme.



Dr. Subhasish Bandyopadhyaya delivered his talk, highlighting the contribution of ICAR-IVRI in the vaccine and diagnostics production, veterinary drugs development and many societal developmental programmes in order to uplift the rural people of the country since its inception. He also communicated the beneficiaries about the training programmes routinely conducted by ERS, ICAR-IVRI for rural farmers on scientific goat and pig rearing.



Dr. G. K. Das discussed about the DAPSC scheme in general and the activities IVRI-ERS conducted in last year under the scheme and also about the ongoing programmes highlighting about the criteria for selecting the block as well as the area. He also explained the role of women in animal-agriculture in general and backyard poultry farming in particular, for income

generation and maintenance of livelihood specially for tough and disadvantages areas likes Sundarban.



Dr A. K. Das narrated the scope of poultry in relation to meat and egg production for income generation, house hold nutrition and medicinal value of meat from Kadaknath. He further

highlighted the characteristics of kadaknath birds and detailed about the rearing management of birds at different age, the vaccination schedule and disease management. He also stressed on importance of hygienic processing of poultry meat considering the food safety and present Covid-19 pandemic point of view.

Sri Dinabandhu Das talked about the different livelihood activities run by their society for women empowerment and appreciated the efforts of ICAR-IVRI to conduct the program.



One thousand (n=1000) Kadaknath chicks (day old), 900 Kg starter feed, chick feeder (n=120), chick drinker (n=120), supplements like vitamins, immuno modulators, antioxidants, liver extracts and anthelmintics etc. were distributed. Besides, each beneficiary also received an awareness kit comprising of a writing pad, pen, printed materials (n=11) and leaflets (n=1) on poultry in Bengali language in folder and one sanitation kit consisting hand sanitizer, hand wash and masks.

