

Eastern Regional Station-ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Kolkata organized an Animal Health Awareness, Farm Visit and Input Distribution Program at Kalyani

Under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC), Eastern Regional Station (ERS) of ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Kolkata organized a Farm Visit, Animal and Duck Health Awareness and Duckling Distribution Program at Kalyani Farm of ICAR-IVRI, Kalyani, West Bengal on 10th of April, 2025. The village was selected based on the block (located in Chakdah and Ranaghat-II blocks) that has high percentage of scheduled caste population (40%) according to the Official Web site of the Department of Social Justice, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India (<https://socialjustice.gov.in>).

Fifty (n=50) rural women belonging to scheduled caste community joined the program from Chakdah (n=26) and Ranaghat-II (n=24) blocks of Nadia district. The scheduled caste population



of the blocks are 44% and 46%, respectively. Majority of the beneficiaries belong to Namasudra (n=34) followed by Bagdi (n=9), Rajbanshi (n=2), Jaliakaibartta (n=2), Hari

(n=1), Dhoba (n=1) and Duley (n=1) sub-castes/ types etc. Dr. G. K. Das was present from ERS-ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata and co-ordinated the programme. All the participants are engaged in animal husbandry and backyard poultry and duck farming at home.

Animal cum Duck Health Awareness Program: In the beginning, all the beneficiaries



registered for the program and received an awareness kit, comprising printed literature on ducks (Khaki Campbell Duck), duck farming (feeding, health etc) and duck diseases (Duck Plague, Duck Cholera), writing pad, pen in a

customized printed folder along with a large printed bag with hand sanitizer, masks and cap. Dr

G. K. Das welcomed all the beneficiaries and extend thanks for their participation from a far distance. He first briefed about the history of the premier Institute ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute and the significant contribution made by the Institute for production of different poultry, duck and animal vaccines and also biological production to meet the need of the country. He then highlighted the objectives of DAPSC scheme and the purpose of inclusion of rural women in the program. He also emphasized the critical role of women especially rural women playing in the Indian agriculture and allied sectors. And, their silent contribution made in forming the growing rural economy of the country. In his lecture Dr. Das drew attention of the beneficiaries regarding the brooding management for first two weeks and the type thermoregulation of day old ducklings and effect of heat stress during transport from one place to other place and precautions to be taken during transport. All the beneficiaries also made aware about the importance of vaccination especially for duck plague and duck cholera to prevent the duck mortality.

Farm Visit: After the awareness program, all the beneficiaries made a round in the Kalyani farm



of ICAR-

IVRI, ERS. The Black Bengal and Ghungroo unit are shown to them. During the round, the benefits of rearing the Black Bengal goats and the Ghungroo pigs are discussed in detail.

Also motivated the beneficiaries those who have such goats at home.

Input (Duckling) Distribution Program:

At the end, one thousand (n=1000) Khaki Campbell ducklings were distributed among the beneficiaries along with chick plates (n=50), drinkers (n=50) and medicine kits comprising



vitamins (Vit-A, D₃, B₁₂, E, B-vitamins), anti-stress, liver extract, digestive tonic, calcium preparation and electrolytes.