

Animal Health Awareness Programme in Bongaon Block of West Bengal under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes

Bongaon block is located in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. As per the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the scheduled caste population of the block is 47%. The ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Eastern Regional Station (ERS), Kolkata and Nilkantha Self Help Group (SHG) jointly organized an 'Animal cum Poultry Health Awareness Programme' at Dighari village of Bongaon block on 6th November, 2023. The programme was



planned under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC) scheme for the year 2023-24. Five villages named Kaikhali, Satashi, Dighari, Nischintopur and Mathurapur under Dighari Gram Panchyat were targeted for selection of beneficiaries and the percent scheduled caste population of those villages was 83.80%, 97.62%, 80.40%, 64.00% and 55.71%,



respectively, according to the Population Census 2011. Two hundred (n=200) women beneficiaries belonging to scheduled caste community from Kaikhali (n=11), Satashi (n=30), Mathurapur (n=35), Nischintapur (n=50) and Dighari (n=74) attended the



programme. Dr D. Mondal and Dr. G. K. Das Principal Scientists from ICAR-IVRI-ERS, Kolkata were present in the programme and co-

ordinated the events. Mrs Moumita Mallik, Mrs Dalia Biswas Mallik and Mrs Babita from



Nilkantha SHG were present and organized the programme. All the beneficiaries, at the beginning of the programme received awareness kits, each consisting of printed literature on various poultry breeds, quail, duck and turkey, diseases of poultry and ducks, poultry vaccination and deworming schedules, writing pad, pen and mask within a customized printed folder placed in large bag. Dr G. K. Das in his interaction speech told about the DAPSC scheme as well as the objectives of the

scheme. He further, explained the purpose of the awareness programme, the importance and the role of women playing in agriculture activities particularly in animal husbandry and poultry farming sector. The scopes to improve the family income as well as women empowerment



through animal husbandry and backyard poultry farming are also elaborated in his lecture. Dr. Dayamoy Mondal told about the history of ICAR-IVRI and contribution of the Institute to bring the societal changes through conducting various types of developmental activities like TSP, NEH and SC SP etc. He also emphasized about the importance on routine vaccination of poultry birds to reduce the morbidity and mortality. Mrs Dalia told about various types of programme that ICAR-IVRI so far organized in Dighari areas and the impact of those programmes among the villagers in the Dighari Gram Panchayat.