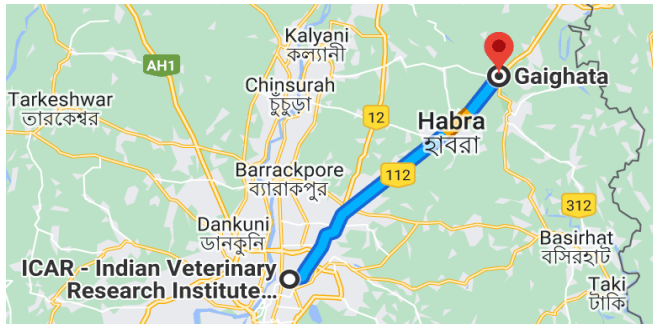


## The ICAR-IVRI-Eastern Regional Station, Kolkata organized an Animal Health Awareness Program in Gaighata Block of West Bengal

The Eastern Regional Station (ERS), ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Kolkata in collaboration with North 24 Paraganas Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Ashokenagar and Gobardanga Seba Farmers Samity (GSFS), Gobardanga organized an ‘Animal Health Awareness Program’ for rural women belonging to scheduled caste community on 29<sup>th</sup> of January, 2024 at Amankandia-Tarangahati village of Gaighat block. The Gaighata block is a community development block under North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, situated on the banks of



the river Jamuna. As per 2011 Census of India, the total population of the Gaighata block was 3,30,287 of which 2,65,526 were rural and scheduled castes constituted about 49.13% (162,28/330,287) of the total population of

the block. The present program was planned under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC) scheme for the year 2023-24.

One hundred and fifty (n=150) rural women belonging to scheduled caste community from four different villages namely Shripur (n=30), Amankandia (n=61), Kuljhuti (n=35) and Maraldanga

(n=24) of Gaighata block joined in the animal health awareness program. The scheduled caste



population percentage of those villages were 98.0% (Shripur), 86.1% (Amankandia), Kuljhuti (50.9%) and 35.7% (Maraldanga) out of the total population of the villages. Majority (99.0%) of the participants belongs to Poundra sub-caste, with a few of

Namasudra and Rajbanshi sub-castes. Following the verification of the documents and registration



process, distribution of awareness kits was done among the beneficiaries. Each awareness kit comprised of scientific literature in the areas of poultry/duck /turkey /quail farming, vaccination and de-worming schedule of poultry and ducks, poultry

and duck diseases, pen, customized writing pad, caps and plastic folder. Dr. Dayamoy Mondal and

Dr. G K Das, Principal Scientists from ERS, ICAR-IVRI, Dr. Kaushik Pal, SMS (Animal



Science), KVK, Ashokenagar and Sri Subroto Mukherjee, Project Leader, GSFS were present in the occasion. Dr. Dayamoy Mondal told about a brief 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.

Dr G K Das, in the beginning of his lecture talked about the DAPSC scheme and its major objectives, the types programs that the ICAR-IVRI implemented for socially weaker sections of the rural community, including DAPSC scheme and the reason for conducting the program in

Gaighata block. Dr G K Das also emphasised on the contribution of rural women forming rural economy through their involvement in animal husbandry and backyard poultry farming practices. The scopes for enhancing the women empowerment through animal husbandry and poultry rearing



practices also made a mention. Dr. Kaushik made the beneficiaries known about the new improved varieties of chicken, their management and production performances in the district. He also elaborated about the importance and process of brooding of chicks for first one month. He



explained the participants about how to prepare low cost feed for poultry at home with locally available ingredients. He also made the farmers aware about how to protect the birds from the predators for maximum

profit. Lastly, he mentioned about the role of calcium and light for continuous egg production. Sri Subroto Mukhopadhyay at first introduced all the experts to the participant’s beneficiaries, then briefed about various income generating projects ongoing in those villages with the help of various ICAR Institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, State Agriculture and Rural Development Departments and NABARD.