

Establishment of “Veterinary Medicine Bank” at Dighari village of Bongaon Block under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes

The Eastern Regional Centre (ERC) of ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata established a “Veterinary Medicine Bank (VMB)”, at the Dighari village under Bongaon block of West Bengal on 18th of October, 2024. The purpose of establishing the VMB to make all time availability of feed supplements and emergency medicines in access to the DAPSC beneficiaries in achieving proper growth, egg and meat production and also to combat the sudden occurrence of the diseases of the chicken, duck, turkey, goats and cattle belonging to them. The program was planned under the ongoing DAPSC scheme of the Centre for the year 2024-2025.

Fifty (n=50) rural women belonging to scheduled caste community from Dighari (n=21),



Kaikhali (n=5),
Mathurapur (n=7),
Nischintopur (n=5) and
Satashi (n=12) were
present in the program.
The beneficiaries
represented 3 groups



from Dighari, 2 groups
from Satashi, 1 each
from Kaikhali,
Mathurapur and
Nishchintopur villages
and remained associated
with ERS-ICAR-IVRI
since 2019 till 2023. Dr.

Arnab Sen, Principal Scientist & HoRC, ERS-ICAR-IVRI, Dr. S. Naskar and Dr. G. K. Das, Principal Scientists were present in the program. The program was co-ordinated by Dr. G. K. Das, first welcomed all the beneficiaries and conveyed special thanks for cent per cent participation. He briefly stated the purpose of opening the bank. Sharing his experience in past,

he told that many a times a sizeable population of the beneficiaries did not use feed supplementation with vitamins and minerals during the growth and peak laying stage, not following deworming schedule and medication during some disease condition. The reason of this discontinuance was due to either the non-availability of the medicines in the local medicine store, stores are far from their home and also due to high cost of medicine which is beyond their limit. This reduces the performance of the inputs, mortality of birds and resulting in lowering the income.

The HoRC, Dr Arnab Sen emphasized on the scopes of backyard livestock/poultry farming for



elevating the livelihood status of the weaker section of the society. He also highlighted the importance of Community Block Approach to achieve the goal in a better way. He expressed his view on the practice of maintaining a vaccine and medicine bank will



help the farmers in being self reliant and make the inputs available at their location. An important aspect was to maintain the medicine bank and record the usage

details as and when required. The overall thrust and emphasis was to create a production cluster of backyard poultry with sustainability and profitability features. Other aspects of self reliant poultry production system were also discussed.

Dr Naskar expressed his views on establishing the veterinary medicine bank and how it will be benefitted the beneficiaries in long run, had spoken about the methodology of brooding of chicks



and the special care to be undertaken during brooding. He also highlighted the specific care to be undertaken during the early part of life in relation to watering and food and also care during winter season to avoid the cold stress. While interaction, beneficiaries shared their experience of working with ERS, ICAR-IVRI for last 4-5 years and the major constraints they are facing during rearing the poultry birds, most importantly high



cost of poultry feed available locally, non-availability of vaccines, high cost of medicines and low rates of eggs and poultry meat at the local places. Literature on the usage of the medicines and time of administration was distributed to the beneficiaries and instructed to consult with the concerned scientists of ERS, ICAR-IVRI before using any medicines and feed supplements before issue and use.

The anthelmintics, sulpha drug, cephalaxin, enrofloxacin, anti-stress vitamins (A, E, C); Biotin, B-complex (B1, B2, B6 and Niacin); D3; amino acids; mineral mixture (vital vitamins, chelated minerals, amino acids, major minerals and trace elements, prebiotics, probiotics, enzymes, herbal galactagogue); microcrystalline hydroxyapatite complex consisting of calcium, phosphorus, trace minerals; anti-stress and immune stimulant /modulator preparations; electrolytes etc. were handed over to the beneficiaries to cater the regular need and during illness of the chickens, duck, turkeys, quail, goats and cattle . A register was also provided to record the use of the medicines, date of issue, name of beneficiaries, type of medicines taken and signature with date.