

Kisan Goshti cum Input distribution organized by ICAR-IVRI, Mukteswar campus under North-Eastern Hill (NEH) component on 05.02.2026

ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Mukteswar campus in collaboration with ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Ri Bhoi, Meghalaya organized Kisan Goshti on the theme “Care and Management of Poultry and Piggery during winter” on 05.02.2026 under the North-Eastern Hill (NEH) component for the farmers and livestock owners of Ri Bhoi district of Meghalaya at KVK, Umiam. The convenor of the program was Dr. Y. P. S. Malik, Joint Director, ICAR-IVRI, Mukteswar campus who gave message regarding adoption of scientific animal husbandry and precision farming in North eastern states. Dr. Mokidul Islam, Principal Scientist & Head, ICAR-KVK, Ri Bhoi welcomed the dignitaries and farmers. Dr. Sher Singh, Principal Scientist & PI NEH component, ICAR-IVRI, Mukteswar campus highlighted about the NEH component and its importance among the beneficiaries. Dr. B. P. Singh, Head DTAC, ICAR Umiam addressed the gathering about the importance of livestock and poultry integration in sustainable agriculture. Dr. A. K. Mohanty, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Zone VII, Umiam was the guest of honour and urged the beneficiaries to adopt best scientific practices for piggery and poultry production. Dr. S. Ghatak, Director (Acting), ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam urged for the need based collaborative research for the ultimate benefit of stake-holders. The chief guest of the program was Shri. Kynjoohlang Rangtong, Hon’ble MDC Mawhati cum Vice Chairman KHADC, Meghalaya. He was profusely thankful for the initiative and requested the beneficiaries for active participation and wished for the grand success of the event. Technical session on ‘Care and management of poultry and piggery during winter’ was coordinated by Dr. Madhusoodan A.P., Scientist, ICAR-IVRI, Mukteswar campus and Dr. Moloy Sarmah Baruah, SMS (Animal Science), KVK Ri Bhoi. Active participation and engaging interactive session was witnessed during the Kisan Goshti. A total of 107 beneficiaries comprising of 71 women and 36 men covering all the blocks of Ri Bhoi district participated in the program. Input distribution in terms of Poultry feed (25kg/beneficiary), drinker (2/beneficiary), feeder (2/beneficiary), Infrared bulb (1/beneficiary), mineral mixture (2kg/beneficiary), disinfectant(1litre/beneficiary), feeding tray (1/beneficiary) were provided to the beneficiaries.



Kisan Goshti



Input Distribution



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Awareness for livestock farmers held in Ri Bhoi

By TME | February 6, 2026

Shillong, Feb 6: An awareness on the theme "Care and management of poultry and piggery during Winter" under the NEH Programme for livestock farmers was organised at The event, Kisan Goshthi-cum-Input Distribution Programme, was organised by ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Mukteswar Campus, Uttarakhand, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Ri Bhoi, ICAR Research complex for NEH Region.

A total of 107 farmers from Ri Bhoi district attended the programme, comprising 71 women and 36 men, indicating strong participation of women farmers in livestock-based farming activities.

During the inaugural session, dignitaries emphasised the importance of adopting scientific practices for poultry and piggery management during the winter season to minimise stress, reduce disease incidence and improve productivity.

abysmally low in Meghalaya

Roopak Goswami
Shillong, Feb 5

A new study conducted in East Khasi Hills has revealed concerning gaps in maternal health preparedness in Meghalaya, with just 16% of pregnant women found to be "well prepared" for childbirth and related emergencies, while a staggering 84% were classified as inadequately prepared.

The research, published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research by scientists from the Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH), Shillong, reported a Birth Preparedness and Complication Readiness (BPCR) index of only 43.4%, underscoring systemic weaknesses in maternal health awareness and planning.

The study found that awareness of pregnancy danger signs was critically low, with only 5% of pregnant women able to identify at least one danger sign. Emergency arrangements were also found lacking – just 8.5% had arranged a potential blood donor, and only 29% had made transportation arrangements for delivery.

Notably, none of the observed antenatal care (ANC) visits included counselling on birth preparedness, indicating a gap in communication within the healthcare system.

The findings are particularly concerning for Meghalaya, which recorded 228 maternal

Only 16% pregnant women in EKH 'well prepared' for childbirth



deaths in 2021-22 – the highest in the Northeast.

Health experts note that most maternal deaths are preventable if complications are recognised early and timely medical care is accessed. However, the study indicates that the "three delays" – delay in deciding to seek care, delay in reaching a health facility, and delay in receiving appropriate treatment – continue to hinder maternal outcomes in the state.

Meghalaya's difficult hilly terrain, limited road connectivity, and high prevalence of anaemia among women further compound the risks.

Researchers also highlighted the role of social and cultural dynamics. Many women

rely on family members for decision-making, while traditional beliefs and preferences for home deliveries continue to influence maternal choices. Community and family support helped some women save money and plan for institutional deliveries. Interestingly, the study observed that cohabiting women were more likely to be better prepared than formally married women, suggesting that local social structures may shape maternal health decisions in unexpected ways.

Routine ANC visits included physical examinations and laboratory tests; however, counselling and communication were limited. Discussions on nutrition and family plan-

ning were occasionally mentioned, but birth preparedness was not addressed – a gap the authors describe as a missed opportunity to provide potentially life-saving information.

As one of the first detailed assessments of birth preparedness in Meghalaya, the study brings much-needed data from a region often underrepresented in national research. With maternal mortality remaining a critical concern, the findings send a clear message: medical check-ups alone are not enough – awareness, preparedness, and effective communication could determine whether childbirth is safe or life-threatening.

JNC protests against illegal trading by non-tribals, non-implementation of Pnar alphabets

Shillong, Feb 5

The Jaintia National Council staged an unannounced protest march to the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council office on Thursday against the alleged failure of the council to address the issue of illegal trading by non-tribals and non-implementation of the Pnar alphabets.

"We had written to the JHADC with a demand to conduct checks against illegal trading by non-tribals, but no action was taken," JNC president Sambornim Lyngdoh.

"The JHADC has passed a resolution to recognize Pnar alphabets and language, but it remains unimplemented."

He said the JNC is demanding the revocation of trading licenses issued to non-tribals, implementation of the Pnar language in official purposes, and a special session to encourage the use of Pnar alphabets and language.

"The aim of the protest is not to create any law and order situation, but to wake up the JHADC to safeguard the rights and interests of the local indigenous people," Lyngdoh added.

Awareness held for livestock farmers

Shillong, Feb 5

An awareness on the theme "Care and management of poultry and piggery during Winter" under the NEH Programme for livestock farmers was organised at Umiam on Thursday. The event, Kisan Goshali-cum-Input Distribution Programme, was organised by ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Mukteswar Campus, Uttarakhand, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), RI Bhoi, ICAR Research complex for NEH Region. A total of 107 farmers from RI Bhoi district attended the programme, comprising 71 women and 36 men, indicating strong participation of women farmers in livestock-based farming activities. The programme concluded with the distribution of essential inputs such as pig feed, infrared bulbs and other related materials.

Coverage in the Media