Promoting Goat–Duck Integrated Farming in Canning I Block, West Bengal under ERS-IVRI's DAPST Program

The DAPST (TSP) program in tribal villages of Canning I block, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal aims to secure livelihoods of resource-poor farmers, empower women, increase incomes through livestock farming, and build capacity. ERS-IVRI selected several tribal-dominated villages in this block to provide inputs and extension support. Key inputs and activities included distribution of Black Bengal goats and Chara Chambeli ducklings, provision of feed, feed supplements and health tonics, vaccination and animal health camps, awareness and training on scientific and commercial farming, promotion of mixed farming, and showcasing of tribal culture and handicrafts. **The goat-cum-duck model**, previously tested successfully at Makaltala and Farmania villages (North 24 Parganas), was implemented during 2025–26 through several field programs. Farmers gave a very positive feed back on goat-cum-duck model in the flood prone areas where during the waterflooding season there is an acute scarcity of goat feed and famers are forced to sale out their stock. Under this scenario, we introduced duck farming in these areas. The farmers reported that duck farming along with goat farming gave them maximum return as it helps in mitigating the distress sale in one hand and ensure a year-round steady income from a moderate sized flock. Duck eggs also helped the farmers' families them to maintain a healthier meal.

The DAPST (TSP) program in tribal villages of Canning I block, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, aims to secure livelihoods for resource-poor farmers, empower women, raise incomes through livestock farming, and build knowledge on animal farming and entrepreneurship. ERS-IVRI selected several tribal-dominated villages in the Canning I block to provide inputs and extension support. Key inputs and activities included distribution of Black Bengal goats and Chara Chambeli ducklings; provision of feed, supplements and health tonics; vaccination and animal-health camps; training and awareness on scientific and commercial farming; promotion of mixed farming; and showcasing of tribal culture and handicrafts.

The goat–cum–duck model, previously tested successfully in Makaltala and Farmania villages (North 24 Parganas), is being implemented during in these villages during 2025–26 through field programs. The beneficiary farmers from the model villages (Makaltala and Farmania gave very positive feedback, particularly in flood-prone areas where feed becomes scarce during the flooding season and many are forced to sell off their goats. Introducing duck farming alongside goats increased returns, helped mitigate distress sales, and provided a year-round, steady income from a modestly sized flock. Duck eggs also contributed to healthier household meals.

20 May 2025 — Gopalpur and Pangashkhali

- On-field training on scientific goat and sheep farming, awareness campaign, animal health camp and distribution of goats.
- Distributed 40 Black Bengal goats (3 males, 37 females) to 20 women beneficiaries (2 goats per beneficiary).

- Scientists present: Dr. T. K. Biswas and Dr. G. K. Das.

03 July 2025 — Gopalpur and Pangashkhali

- Repeat on-field training, awareness campaign, distribution of goats and literature, and animal health camp.
- Distributed 32 Black Bengal goats (2 males, 30 females) to 17 beneficiaries (16 women, 1 man) at a rate of 1–2 goats per beneficiary.
- Scientists present: Dr. T. K. Biswas and Dr. G. K. Das.

06 November 2025 — Bharat Sevashram, Danria (Janajatiya Gaurav Diwas Pakhwada)

- Cultural and awareness program focused on tribal culture and heritage, targeting beneficiaries from Gopalpur and Pangashkhali (farmers belonging to Munda and Oraon subcastes).
- Activities: talks on scientific animal farming and government schemes, distribution of medicines, demonstrations of handicrafts, tribal cultural performances, and sessions on digital education, talk on branding and marketing of handicrafts.
- Participation: 25 women and 1 man.
- Key outcome: strong interest among farmers in promoting traditional products.
- Scientists present: Dr. T. K. Biswas and Dr. G. K. Das.

11 December 2025 — Gopalpur, Pangashkhali, Madhukhali, Paranikheko, Dumki, Dabu and Daria

- Programs on duck farming economics, care and management of ducklings, distribution of ducklings and starter feed, lectures on women's empowerment and mixed farming, radio interviews (Akashvani), and follow-up of earlier activities.
- Distributed 1,000 four-day-old Chara Chambeli ducklings, 2,000 kg of duck starter mash and health/feed supplements to 96 beneficiaries (92 women, 4 men).
- Scientists present: Dr. T. K. Biswas and Dr. G. K. Das.

Summary of key achievements

- Livestock inputs and training reached multiple tribal villages, with a focus on women beneficiaries.
- Goat distribution (20 May + 3 July): 72 Black Bengal goats (5 males, 67 females) to 37 beneficiaries.
- Duck intervention (11 Dec): 1,000 Chara Chambeli ducklings and 2,000 kg starter feed to 96 beneficiaries.
- Complementary activities—animal health camps, vaccination, capacity-building sessions, cultural promotion and marketing guidance—supported both livelihood improvement and preservation/promotion of local heritage.








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