

TSP Activities conducted by ERS IVRI, Kolkata in March 2024 and April 2025

To secure the livelihoods of the poorest tribal farmers, especially women, the IVRI Regional Station in Kolkata has been supporting livestock farming in various tribal villages. The goal is to empower these resource-poor farmers by providing them with the necessary inputs to start commercial animal farming.

The program's activities include capacity-building through targeted trainings on animal farming in the face of climate change challenges, such as inundation and waterlogging. Knowledge is also being created through awareness camps, field visits, and demonstrations, along with the provision of veterinary support.

In March 2024 and April 2025, the ERS-IVRI conducted several Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) programs. In the villages of Makaltala and Farmania, the project distributed various livestock - including goats, piglets, and ducklings - to help the farmers tackle climate change-related crises.

Awareness training on the stress management of livestock species at Makaltala villages on 04.03.2025

In the vibrant village of Makaltala, an awareness training on stress management for livestock species was conducted. The event drew 65 participants, an impressive 95% of whom were women farmers from the local tribal community.

Two esteemed experts, Dr. T K Biswas and Dr. S Bag, served as the resource persons for the training. Dr. Biswas delved into the pressing issue of climate change and its impacts on livestock animals. He offered valuable insights, highlighting the importance of selecting suitable, robust breeds and providing alternate feed sources during times of crisis.

Building on this foundation, Dr. Bag elaborated on the various forms of heat and other stresses that animals face, meticulously exploring their underlying causes and effective remedies. The participants listened intently, eager to arm themselves with the knowledge to better care for their livestock.

The event reached a celebratory crescendo as the village women took the stage, showcasing their rich cultural heritage through traditional song and dance performances. This vibrant display served as a powerful testament to the resilience and pride of the tribal community.

Through this comprehensive awareness training, the women farmers of Makaltala were empowered with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate the challenges posed by

climate change and ensure the wellbeing of their livestock. This synergy of education and cultural expression exemplified the holistic approach to community development.

Piglet and feed distribution cum Farm demonstration at Kalyani Farm on 24.03.2025

Piglets and feed were distributed to tribal farmers, primarily women, in Makaltala and Gayeshpur villages. In Makaltala, goats and ducklings had been distributed earlier. The farmers were encouraged to adopt multi-species farming due to various climate change-related issues affecting the village. These issues include heavy rainfall, inundation, waterlogging, scarcity of green fodder, and loss of working days. A total of 30 piglets (Ghungroo breed, approximately 2-3 months old) and 131 bags of feed (pig grower mash, 25 kg/bag) were distributed among 29 farmers. Dr. T.K. Biswas from ERS-IVRI executed the program. The farmers also demonstrated various farm activities, and some medicines were distributed as well.

Piglet and feed distribution cum Farm demonstration at Kalyani Farm on 29.04.2025

Based on the positive feedback from the tribal beneficiaries in Gayeshpur (Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal) regarding earlier Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) programs, these beneficiaries were once again provided with critical agricultural inputs. This included the distribution of 16 piglets of the Ghungroo breed (approximately 2-3 months old) and 30 bags (25 kg each) of pig grower mash.

The program was attended by 15 farmers, and Dr. T.K. Biswas from the West Bengal Extension and Research Station (WERS), Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), was present. The activities were conducted at the Kalyani farm of ERS-IVRI. In addition to the piglet and feed distribution, medicine distribution and demonstrations of farm activities were also carried out.

This initiative aimed to build on the success of the previous TSP programs and continue empowering the tribal farmers in Gayeshpur with the necessary resources and support to improve their livelihoods through sustainable agriculture practices.

Duck plague vaccination and training at Makaltala Villages on 30.04.2025

A vaccination camp for duck plague was held in Makaltala village, targeting the duck populations in both Makaltala and Farmina villages (Habra I, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal). The event was attended by Dr. T. K. Biswas, Dr. D. Mondal, Dr. B. Mondal, Dr. A. K. Das, and Dr. Samiran Bandyopadhyay. During the camp, 1,000 doses of live duck plague vaccine were administered to 1,000 ducks, which were approximately two months old. These ducks were distributed on February 28, 2025. Additionally, four women, who were team leaders among the tribal beneficiaries, received training to administer the

vaccine. Under the supervision of the scientists, they successfully vaccinated some birds. The training also covered important procedures such as dissolving the vaccine in diluent, maintaining the cold chain, proper storage, and hygiene practices.

