

Organization of a Goshti and Animal Health Awareness Programme at Makaltala village of Habra-I Block, West Bengal under DAPST

Makaltala village is one of the tribal dominated pockets of the area in Habra block of North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India. The ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Eastern Regional Station (ERS), Kolkata, IRRI, New Delhi (Collaborative Project) and SEVA (NGO), Atghara, Baduria jointly organized a Goshti and Animal Health Awareness Programme on 16th November 2023 as part of the preparatory efforts for new beneficiaries in Malkatal village of Habra-I Block, West Bengal, under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST).



A total of thirty (n=30) new beneficiaries from Makaltala village attended for the goshti and Animal Health Awareness Programme. On behalf of the SEVA (NGO), Smt Anuradha Chatterjee and Mr Kutubuddin Ahamed organized the programmes and Dr. Arnab Sen, Head of the Regional Station and Dr. A. K. Das were present and co-ordinated the events.



The purpose of the first programme was to collect basic information about scheduled tribe population, their main occupation, awareness level of about livestock rearing, major constraints in case of livestock rearing, preference of livestock interested to rear, possible livestock population based on the agricultural land etc. Other objectives were also to make aware them about the DAPST programm, climate change and its impact on gender in agriculture and livestock rearing, and inputs to be distributed among beneficiaries. The villagers, predominantly engaged in agriculture and livestock rearing, have limited agricultural land, mostly used for seasonal crop cultivation. Notably, women play a crucial role in agriculture within this community, with their livelihoods partially dependent on livestock rearing. The primary livestock in the area include cows, goats, hens, ducks, and pigs.

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husbandry and poultry farming sector. The scopes to improve the family income as well as women empowerment through animal husbandry and backyard poultry farming are also elaborated in his lecture. Dr. A K Das indicated about the 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, scientific livestock management and effective marketing strategies to improve livelihoods security and income generation. Smt Anuradha Chatterjee talked about various types of programme conducted through their NGO and the impact of those programmes among the villagers in Makaltala.

