

ERS-IVRI conducted DAPST activities through distribution of duckling at Makaltala village, West Bengal on 28 February, 2025

Makaltala village, located in Habra I block of the North 24 Parganas district in West Bengal, experiences regular flooding. This water logging problem occurs for 1-3 months every year, leading to a severe fodder crisis for ruminants. Many farmers are forced to sell their animals at lower prices due to the lack of feed. To address this issue, the ERS-IVRI has encouraged the tribal villagers to adopt a mixed farming approach. By rearing ducks along with other animals, such as goats, the farmers can use the income from duck farming to purchase feed for their other livestock during the scarcity period. Fortunately, the village has a sufficient number of ponds, making it an ideal location for backyard duck rearing. Another purpose of the ERS-IVRI's intervention is to address the issues of climate change through changes in the animal husbandry system and pattern.



A survey was conducted among the tribal farmers in the villages of Makaltala and Farmania to assess their demographic status. The weakest farmers were primarily selected to receive agricultural inputs and extension services. Farmers who expressed a strong interest were chosen to receive these inputs. It was noted that only a small number of farmers (9) in the villages had prior experience in duck rearing. The majority of the farmers were women, as they required support to address gender inequality issues.



The event included the following activities: 1. A brief awareness camp on duck rearing. 2. Distribution of inputs to the participants. 3. Follow-up on previous TSP (DAPST) programs. 4. Distribution of literature on duckery in the local language. The activities were jointly executed by Dr. T.K. Biswas and Dr. A.K. Das from ERS-IVRI, Mr. Avik Mitra, Mr Kutub from the NGO SEVA. Dr. T.K. Biswas, the Nodal Officer of DAPST, explained the purpose and process of the DAPST program. He discussed the feeding, care, vaccination, breeding, and housing of ducks. Dr. A.K. Das provided information on techniques to improve egg quality and quantity, marketing of duck eggs and meat, and the economics of duck rearing. He encouraged the participants to take up duck rearing at a commercial level. A total of 1,000 ducklings (5 days old, Chara Chameli breed) were distributed among 69 tribal families.

