

## **Awareness Programme on Balanced Use of Fertilizers and Sustainable Farming Practices**

An awareness programme on the balanced use of fertilizers and sustainable agricultural practices was successfully conducted by ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, across multiple villages in Bareilly district, including Vaishpur, Roopapur, Berehpur, Kalapur, and Barakpur, on 05 May 2026.

The programme was carried out by teams of scientists comprising Dr Ravi Kant Agrawal, Dr Akhilesh Kumar, Dr Shruti, and Mr. Durga Dutt Sharma in Vaishpur village, where 25 farmers participated. Additional campaigns in Roopapur and Berehpur villages were led by Dr Arup Ratan Sen, Dr Abhishek Chandra Saxena, Dr Snehal Mishra, and Dr Ajoy Das, with around 20 farmers in attendance. Similarly, in Kalapur and Barakpur villages, the programme was conducted by Dr Ujwal Kumar Dey, Dr Pawan Kumar, Dr Souman Chaudhary, and Dr Renu Sharma, engaging approximately 20 farmers involved in crop cultivation and livestock rearing.

The primary objective of the programme was to educate farmers on balanced nutrient management, soil health improvement, and environmentally sustainable farming practices. Scientists emphasized the importance of soil testing as a scientific tool to assess nutrient status and guide precise fertilizer application. Farmers were encouraged to utilize Soil Health Cards and adopt need-based fertilizer application to prevent excessive and imbalanced use, which can lead to soil degradation and reduced crop productivity.

Special focus was given to the promotion of organic and eco-friendly practices, including the use of compost, manure, and vermicompost. Farmers were trained on the preparation and benefits of vermicompost, such as improved soil structure, enhanced microbial activity, better nutrient availability, and long-term soil fertility. The programme also highlighted natural farming approaches as sustainable alternatives to chemical-intensive agriculture.

During the programme, Dr Shruti elaborated on the emerging role of nano-fertilizers, particularly nano urea and nano DAP, in modern agriculture. She explained that these nano-formulations are designed to enhance nutrient use efficiency by delivering nutrients in a more targeted and controlled manner, thereby reducing losses due to leaching, volatilization, and runoff. Dr Shruti emphasized that the adoption of nano-fertilizers can play a crucial role in

reducing the excessive use of chemical fertilizers, which is a major cause of soil degradation and environmental pollution. She encouraged farmers to integrate nano urea and nano DAP into their nutrient management practices in combination with soil testing and balanced fertilization approaches. In addition, she highlighted the importance of proper crop residue management as a key component of sustainable agriculture. Farmers were advised against burning crop residues, as it leads to loss of valuable nutrients, decline in soil organic matter, and environmental pollution. Instead, she promoted alternative practices such as in-situ incorporation of residues into the soil, composting, and use of residues for mulching. These practices help in improving soil fertility, enhancing moisture retention, and supporting beneficial microbial activity.

She further explained that effective crop residue management not only contributes to long-term soil health but also reduces input costs and supports climate-resilient farming systems. Farmers were motivated to adopt these practices to ensure sustainable productivity and environmental conservation.

In addition to crop management, sessions in Kalapur and Barakpur villages covered important aspects of livestock health and management. Scientists discussed vaccination, heat stress management, mastitis prevention, and control of parasitic infestations. Farmers were also guided on reproductive health issues such as anoestrus, infertility, and scientific breeding practices.

Interactive sessions formed a key component of the programme, where farmers actively participated, shared field-level challenges, and received practical solutions from the experts. On-the-spot treatment and prescriptions were provided for livestock-related issues, and informative pamphlets were distributed to support knowledge dissemination.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers across all villages, reflecting growing awareness and interest in sustainable agriculture. This initiative is part of ongoing efforts by ICAR-IVRI to promote environmentally responsible farming practices, improve soil health, and enhance long-term agricultural productivity and livestock management in the Bareilly district region.





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