A Field on Conservation Agriculture based Rabi Maize Production Technology in Tripura organized by ICAR, Tripura Centre, Lembucherra, West Tripura

A field day on 'Conservation Agriculture Based Rabi Maize Production Technology in Tripura'was organized by ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Tripura Centre, Lembucherraon 24th December under project "Promoting improved technology of maize production in NEH region, funded by ICAR- Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR), Ludhiana. The field day was organized with the objective to demonstrate low cost conservation agriculture based technologiesfor Rabi maize productionfor efficient utilization of rice fallow areas and natural resources. Total of 81of farmers from different district of Tripura participated in this programmeof field day. DrAnup Das, Principal Scientist, Agronomy,welcomed all the farmers and other scientists and experts of ICAR and state department. In his welcome note, he asked the farmers to come together for scientific *rabi* maize farming for increasing their income and livelihood. Dr Dashad described the importance of conservation agriculture (CA), as it aims to achieve sustainable and profitable agriculture and subsequently aims at improving livelihoods of farmers through minimal soil disturbance and suitable crop rotation. He also advised the farmer to cultivate *rabi* maize by using "no-till (*Sunyachash*)" method for improving crop productivity and conserving natural resources. During interaction with farmers, it was informed by the farmers that maize is a more lucrative crop as compared to other cereals as it retrieves Rs 40-50 from one kg fresh cob. Non availability of quality maize seed was expressed as a burning problem in maize production. Some of the adopted farmers informed that intercropping of maize with cowpea, bitter gourd and vegetable pea increased their profit, as these technologies demonstrated by ICAR Tripura Centre on farmers' field.DrGulab Singh Yadav, Scientist, Agronomy, described the complete set of management practice of CA based *rabi* maize production. He advised farmer to grow high yielding quality maize varieties like HQPM 1, VQPM-9 etc. and utilize inter row space for growing short duration vegetables like cowpea, vegetable pea, cucumber, pumpkin, etc. At field day site a practical demonstration with farmers participation was carried out on field preparation, fertilizer application, herbicide application, seed sowing, etc. At last, Dr Anup Das, Principal Scientist, Agronomy assured the farmers for providing more technical help and advised them to go for no-till and intercropping method along with *rabi*maize cultivation for better soil health and higher income.