



## LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC TO LANDLESS, WIDOW AND ELDERLY FARMERS THROUGH BACKYARD FARMING

Under ICAR-CTRI Rajahmundry–NEH Collaborative Programme



One day program on Capacity Building programme of farmers on “Livelihood Support during COVID-19 Pandemic to Landless, Widow and Elderly Farmers through Backyard Farming” was organized on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020 under ICAR-CTRI collaborative project on “**Farmers Capacity Building Programme**” under NEH component. The project is implemented by ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Tripura Centre to develop capacity of farmers on integrated farming system through training and demonstrations for doubling farmer’s income and extending support to farmers by supplying critical inputs. A total 100 landless, widow and elderly farmers from Machima, Dhanpur, Bashpukur, Uttar Paharpur, South Paharpur villages at Sonamura sub-division under Sepahijala District in Tripura attended the programme. Dr. Anup Das, Principal Scientist, ICAR, Tripura Centre and coordinator of the program



requested farmers to extend all cooperation for the success of the program. He emphasized that during COVID-19 Pandemic farmers are the real sufferer and among those who are landless, widow and elderly are the worst sufferers to obtain their daily food security and livelihood. Thus, backyard farming is one of the most sustainable technologies to promote their livelihood during COVID 19 pandemic. Dr. Gulab Singh Yadav, Scientist, ICAR, Tripura Centre interacted with the farmers on various aspects of farming and briefly described about improved kitchen gardening practice for sustainable livelihood. He also emphasized that during pandemic period kitchen gardens can provide minimum fresh fruit and vegetables for family consumption and some additional income by selling surplus produce. Dr. Vinay Singh, Scientist (Poultry Science) ICAR Tripura Centre interacted with the farmers about scientific poultry farming. He informed that the improved poultry breed (BND cross) developed by ICAR Tripura Centre is a dual purpose bird, gives about 150 eggs in a year and it attains about 3-4 kg in maturity. About 650 BND chicks, 100 packets of vegetables seeds (Cowpea, Okra, Radish, Cucumber, bottle gourd Amaranthus etc), 60 mango saplings (Amrapalli), some medicines for poultry diseases and 100 numbers of masks were distributed for promotion of backyard farming among the participants. Some starter poultry feed, sprayer and rose cans were also distributed among the participating farmers. Farmers also interacted with Scientists/experts and requested for more such help in future. Mr. Pintu Aich (Social Worker), and Mr. Ripan Chandra Das, JRF ICAR Tripura centre also interacted with the farmers on various aspects.



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