

## Capacity building programme on ‘Jhum Improvement for Food and Environmental Security’ organized by ICAR, Tripura Centre

A capacity building programme on “Jhum Improvement for Food and Environmental Security” was organized by ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Tripura Centre, Lembucherra on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 under STC-Jhum project. The programme was organized with the objective to develop skill and capacity of farmers on jhum improvement for improving their livelihood. Since jungle clearing and burning is on for jhum, the program was organized to

support farmers with seeds and other inputs. A total of 30 farmers along with youth leaders attended the programme from Ompi, Gomati District and Thelakung, Sepahijala District of Tripura. Dr. Biswajit Das (Head-ICAR, Tripura Centre), Dr. S.P Das (PS-Plant Breeding), Dr. Anup Das (PS-Agronomy), Dr Asit Chakraborti (Scientist-LPM),



Dr Vinay Singh (Scientist- Poultry Scientist), Dr Lopamudra Sahoo (Sr Scientist-Fishery Science) and Dr Lembisena Devi (Scientist-Horticulture) interacted with the farmers on various aspects of Jhum cultivation, natural resource conservation, rice, maize, vegetables, poultry and pig related issues. Dr Biswajit Das welcomed the farmers and highlighted the importance of jhum improvement programme for improving livelihood and conserve ecosystem. He further highlighted the importance of water on the occasion of World Water Day focusing attention on



the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. Dr Anup Das discussed about various soil and water conservation practices like minimal soil disturbance, residue management, mulching, cover crops, intercrops, inclusion of legumes, foliar nutrition and also about Jalkund and roof water harvesting structures for rain

water harvesting which can be utilized to provide protective irrigation to the jhum crops during dry periods. Emphasis was given on Integrated Farming system comprising crops, livestock and multipurpose trees, fodder/grasses and secondary/ subsidiary enterprises in such a way that maximize on-farm resource recycling, reduces dependence on external resources and enhances farmers income. Dr. Asit Chakraborti on his note discussed about scientific pig rearing with focus on shelter and nutrition management for increasing their income and livelihood. He emphasized on feeding and watering, hygiene and sanitization, vaccination and deworming for getting desired results from pig farming. He recommended Fenbendazole for deworming of pigs as a broad- spectrum anthelmintic, effective against both roundworms and tapeworms at be 5-7.5 mg/kg body weight. He then accentuates that, after breeding pigs should be feed with a limited but well balanced ration until the last 6 weeks of pregnancy and then full feeding should be resumed to avoid pregnancy complications. Dr S.P Das on his note asked the farmers to practice mixed cropping in their jhum land to get more production and income, he appealed the farmers to incorporate markhoi (millets), Tripura Sipping (sesame), blackgram etc in jhum fields as these crops are more climate resilient than others. He urged the farmers to cultivate Hakuchuk-2 rice as it has much higher yield potential and also less prone to pest and diseases than traditional varieties like Garo Malati and others. Dr. Lembisana Devi, Scientist, Horticulture interacted with farmers on various aspects of vegetables production like nursery management, varieties, insect – pest management etc. Dr. Lopa Mudra Sahoo, Senior Scientist, Fishery Science also interacted with farmers about fish farming and mushroom production. Farmers expressed their satisfaction



with the ICAR and informed that many of them are now earning very good amount from vegetables production, poultry and pig farming. A total of 6 sprayers, 4 motor Pump, 20 rose cans, 6 nos of vermibeds along with about 20 kg improved vegetable seeds (okra, cowpea, ridge gourds, bitter gourds, amaranthus, pumpkin), 30 kg maize hybrids, 60 kg rice (Hakuchuku 2) were provided to the farmers. Dr Vinay Singh (Scientist-poultry science) offered vote of thanks at the end of the programme. The programme was coordinated by Drs. Anup Das, Lopa Mudra Sahoo, Vinay Singh and Lembisana Devi under the guidance of Dr. B Das, Head, ICAR Tripura Centre.