

A Field Day on High Value Intensive Vegetable Farming for Doubling Farmers Income Organized in Brahmanpushkuni village by ICAR Tripura Centre

A field day on “High Value Intensive Vegetable Farming for Doubling Farmers Income” was organized on 18th December, 2019 at Brahmanpushkuni village by ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Tripura Centre, Lembucherra under SCSP-NICRA project. The program was organized with objective to upscale and demonstrate technologies for doubling farmer’s income to fellow farmers and other areas. Total of 50 farmers from nearby villages of Brahmanpushkuni attended the field day. Dr Biswajit Das, Joint Director, ICAR Tripura Centre, Dr Anup Das, Principal scientist Agronomy, Dr Gulab Singh Yadav, Scientist, Agronomy, and scientists from other Division of ICAR Tripura Centre participated in the programme. Dr Anup Das welcomed all the scientists, other ICAR staff and farmers Brahmanpushkuni and nearby villages. Dr Das, in his welcome note asked the farmers to come forward for scientific vegetable farming for doubling their income. During farmers-scientist interaction, it was informed by the farmer that initially they use to grow rice in lowland but due to low productivity and income etc. they have transformed rice land into vegetable farming. By cultivating lab lab bean during kharif season and spine gourd, snake gourd and ash gourd during rabi season they can make a huge profit upto Rs. 3 lakh from a kani (0.16 ha) as against only about Rs. 7,000 to 8,000/kani for rice. Shri. Nepal



Debnath of the village was one of the first farmers to initiate this innovative practices of vegetable cultivation in low land paddy field about 20 years back. Low land rice field is converted to raise beds with narrow channel to cultivate high value vegetables like lab lab bean, spine gourd, ash gourd, cucumber etc. Realising the potential for high income about 80% villagers are now practising this innovative method of vegetable cultivation. However, heavy rain, off-season rains, hail storms, water logging etc. are the major climatic aberrations which causes heavy damage to crops and economic loss to farmers. Thus, ICAR Tripura Centre is popularising vegetable based integrated farming system by integrating other compatible components like Poultry, Pigs, fruits, mushroom



etc. to reduce risks and cope with changing climate and generate sustainable income. Integrated pest and disease management with emphasis on bio-pesticides and natural enemies are being promoted by ICAR for eco-friendly and cost effective pest management. During field visit, the innovative farmer, Mr. Nepal Debnath of Brahmanpuskurini village, showcased that he had productively converted his low-lying paddy land into vegetable growing lands. His cultivation practice mainly includes growing of vegetables like Seem [(Lablab bean- *Dolichos lablab*)] followed by spine gourd and Ash gourd in the paddy lands by preparing raised beds with drainage channels in between plots. At last Dr Biswajit Das, Joint Director (I/C) of ICAR, Tripura Centre, appreciated the effort of Mr. Nepal Debnath and assured the farmers for providing more technical helps and advised them to go for IFS based models to minimize the risk associated with climatic variations and change and realize higher profits.