

## A Cleanliness and Sanitation drive organized in Adopted Village by ICAR Tripura Centre

A cleanliness and sanitation drive was at Brahmanpuskuni village, West Tripura organized by ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Tripura Centre, Lembucherra on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2019, on the occasion of 'Swachhta pakhwada'. The villagers along with the scientists and other staff from ICAR- Tripura Centre participated in the cleanliness drive. At the outset a brief overview of the programme was given by Dr. Gulab Singh Yadav, Scientist, Agronomy and coordinator of the programme. He stressed on the necessity to recycle and manage biodegradable wastes. Dr. Anup Das, Principal Scientist, Agronomy and coordinator of the programme encouraged the villagers to come together and join hands in keeping the surrounding clean and plastic free. He suggested maintenance of two separate dustbins for bio-degradable and non-biodegradable wastes and use of organic wastes for compost and manure preparation. Dr. Das suggested the villagers to organize such campaigns once in a month for clean environment and remain healthy. Dr. Lopamudra Sahoo, Senior Scientist, Fisheries, mentioned that outbreak of diseases like Malaria, Dengue and many other health issues are resultant of unhygienic living like water stagnation, plastic clogging, smokes, air pollution and many others. Mrs. H. Bharati, Scientist, Fisheries, described different ways of rain water harvesting and recycling to villagers for saving water. The Joint Director (I/C) of ICAR-Tripura Centre, Dr. Biswajit Das, mentioned that even children should be educated on the need of a clean and healthy surrounding. The practices like throwing plastics in dustbins and avoiding spitting in public places should be inculcated in them. To inspire the villagers towards a "Swachh India", he mentioned of Mawlyngnong village of Meghalaya, known as "Cleanest village of Asia" which has attracted tourist from all over the world. Dr. B. Das insisted that even Brahmanpuskuni can set such a great example in future, provided people as a community come forward in the drive and participate actively to keep their village clean. The scientists and other staff of ICAR Tripura Centre along with the villagers of Brahmanpuskuni took the Swachhta pledge to initiate every possible step towards a clean and healthy society. During interaction between the scientists and villagers, villagers share their experience about cleanliness and ways to manage wastes. Mr. Bimal Sinha and Mrs. Uma Sarkar, ward members of Paschim Kamalghat, Gram Panchayat, promised to contribute towards the cleanliness drive and requested the villagers as a community to participate in the initiative for a healthy future. Shri Charan Das, the *Upa-Pradhan* of Brahmanpuskuni village, stressed that community participation is the key to live clean. Interaction programme was concluded with final vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Ripan Chandra Das, JRF, Agronomy. A drive to clean the village especially roads, gullies, community places, school etc. was conducted along with villagers. The villagers, the Scientists and other staff of ICAR-NEH, Tripura Centre, actively participated in the campaign. A great enthusiasm was observed among the children and women towards the cleanliness drive. A large quantity of used plastic bags, bottles, other plastic materials and non-biodegradable materials were collected and safely deposited and biodegradable materials like leaves, stems, bio wastes etc. were deposited for composting and preparation of organic manure. The cleanliness campaign was ended with cleaning of Brahmanpuskuni Ucchya Buniyadi Vidhyalaya, where nearly 47 students and 4 teachers' participated in the campaign.

