

Technology Week of KVK on “Income Generation through Family Farming” Celebrated

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, South Tripura celebrated “Technology Week” during 11-13 Nov 2014 at its Campus at Birchchandramanu. The theme of Technology Week 2014 was “Income Generation through Family Farming”. A series of programmes like workshop on “Homestead Farming System” and “Aromatic and Medicinal Plant Cultivation in Wasteland Areas”; Method Demonstrations on Mushroom Farming, Vermicomposting, Value added product of Fish; Farm Demonstration on Fruit Nursery Management, Protected Vegetables & Flower Production, Nutrition Gardening, Rural Poultry Farming, Integrated Fish Farming; Kharif Rice, Pulses and Oilseed Crops, Integrated Nutrient Management, Inter-cropping System, Fruit Orchard Development, Medicinal Plant Gardening, Trellis system of Vegetable Production, Micro-irrigation System; Nukkar Drama and Magic Show on Bank Loan Facilities; Live Exhibition of Rice Production through SRI, Double Cropping System, Vertical Farming System, Fish Farming, Seed Production, etc. were organised. More than 500 farmers from different parts of the district participated in this programmes. Programme was conducted in collaboration with NABARD, NEDFI and ICAR (Tripura Centre).

On Inaugural Function of Technology Week and Workshop on “Homestead Farming System for Sustainable Livelihood of Small Farmers”, Sri Rajat Kanti Deb Barman, GM, NABARD (Tripura) and Dr. M. Datta, Joint Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region (Tripura) in their address emphasized up on adoption of low cost and high return technology like Integrated Farming System modules as demonstrated by the KVK in different villages of South Tripura. The system



provided year-round food security and nutritional benefits through vegetables, fruits, eggs, meat to the poor farmers. In addition, it helps in maximum utilization of available family labour and creation of integrated business enterprise (mushroom, vermicompost, horticulture nursery). A farmer could earn Rs. 65000/- per year from just 0.16 ha homestead land with expenditure of Rs. 25000/- per year. After successful completion of KVK demonstration on Homestead Farming System, presently about 100 farmers got bank loan for its replication in more than 5 villages. About 33 farmers already started such farming in Bagma, Garjanmura and adjacent villages.

In urban areas of Tripura, there is little scope of farming due to small homestead area. To help the rural youth for income generation in urban areas, a live prototype model on “Vertical Farming System” is developed by the KVK in the Farm. An integrated approach of rearing animals and poultry along with fodder and daily uses vegetables & spices gardening is adopted covering an area of 240 sq ft only. Grower can rear 100 egg laying poultry, 200 Broiler for meat purpose, 12 rabbits and 8 black Bengal goats. About 160 pots can be used for growing fodder, vegetables and spices with drip irrigation facility. Farmer of urban area can earn up to Rs. 3.50 lakh with an annual expenditure of about 1.70 lakh. The model was inaugurated during this Technology Week of KVK.



Livestock based Integrated Vertical Farming System at KVK Farm, South Tripura

To utilize the wasteland area for making profit with zero maintenance, cultivation of Citronella and Lemon grass was given special importance especially for farm women of the district. Sri N.K. Das, Project Incharge of R&D centre of NEDFI (Tripura) demonstrated the techniques for cultivation and processing of most of aromatic and medicinal plants feasible in Tripura. Two Processing Units for aromatic plants under JICA project is being developed in the district which can be utilized for processing of lemon and citronella grasses. Planting materials are being provided by KVK under Tribal Sub Plan to all the farm women. NEDFI also agreed to provide buy back arrangement for purchasing of aromatic oil after processing. More than 50 farm women are going to start Citronella and Lemon Grass cultivation after this technology week programme.



Farm demonstration on micro-irrigation, aromatic plants, mushroom farming and vermicomposting



Exhibition, Drama and Magic Show on Agriculture theme during Technology Week of KVK, South Tripura

On valedictory function of Technology Week, Rice Field Day was also organized in Vedentapara (Tribal village). KVK is demonstrating HYV rice (Gomati) with SRI and INM technology in 40 hectares area under NFSM programme. Sri Munindra Reyang, Minister of Tribal Welfare and Home (Jail), Govt. of Tripura was the Chief Guest of the function. He urged that farmer should not only practice rice farming but also cultivate second crop and rear animals and poultry for better income and livelihood. He appreciated the demonstration and requested all the farmers of South Tripura and Gomati district to utilize the multi-disciplinary expertise of KVK for better productivity of crops, livestock and fish. Dr. M. Datta, Joint Director, ICAR (Tripura Centre) was also present during the function and shared his experience with regard to use of rural technology, crop trials, integration of animals and poultry, etc. Sri Diganta Das, DDM, NABARD requested all the farmers to avail benefits of bank loan through various schemes. Dr. A.K. Singh, Programme Coordinator of KVK (South Tripura) in his address requested members of Farmer's Club of South Tripura to bring more and more farmers under their club for faster development of agriculture in the district. All the Subject Matter Specialists of KVK actively engaged in conducting all the technical sessions and other arrangements during the Technology Week. During the occasion, five technical folders namely Homestead Farming, Nutrition Garden, Grampriya Poultry, Lentil Cultivation in Rice fallow area, and Mustard/Toria in Rice fallow area is released and distributed to all farmers.



Hon'ble Minister Sri Munindra Reyang, Govt. of Tripura visiting the Field demonstration on rice under SRI system and releasing technical folders of KVK during Rice Field Day of Technology Week. Joint Director of ICAR (Tripura) and farmers at Duck-cum-Fish farming demonstration of KVK in Farmer's Field during Technology Week.