

APART: RICE WEEKLY **(18th-22nd January, 2021)**

Training on post-harvest machineries at Mukalmua under KVK, Nalbari

Training on post-harvest machineries, 2020-21 session under APART KVK, Nalbari was successfully organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra Nalbari on 21st January 2021 at Mukalmua. The Training was successfully completed in the presence of Mr. Pranjit Bharali (Asst. Project Scientist, APART, KVK, Nalbari), Mr. Biswajit Gogoi (RT, APART, KVK, Nalbari) and Mr. Amlandeep Saikia, IRRI Specialist. The workshop was held with the 30 numbers of women farmers of the local area. In the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Pranjit Bharali, Asst. Project Scientist, APART, KVK, Nalbari welcomed the participants and interacted with them on various tools and implements related to rice crop.



Consequently, Mr. Amlandeep Saikia, IRRI Specialist also interacted with the farmers and informed them about the uses of different tools and implements related to rice crop. He also requested the young generation to come forward to take up agriculture as a business. The meeting ended with a short group discussion among the farmers and scientists on rice in particular and the agricultural sector in general. The women participants informed that they learned a number of new things related to paddy/rice post harvest management during this meeting and provided a positive feedback.

Contributors:



***Dipankar Kalita, PA,
APART, KVK, Nalbari***



***Pranjit Bharali, APS,
APART, KVK, Nalbari***

Demonstration on Ricevalue-chain at RARS Diphu, Karbi Anglong

The demonstration on rice value-chain under APART was successfully conducted by Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS), Diphu, Karbi Anglong, on 22nd January 2021 at Rajapathar. The session was initiated with a welcome address by Dr. Pradip Kr. Kakati (Sr. Scientist, Agronomy) and interaction with the farmers by Miss. Joshila Enghipi, Project Associate, Mr. Pradyumna Kr. Mohapatra (Research Technician, IRRI) and Mr. Mirlong Bey, (Research Technician, APART, RARS).

The workshop was held with 30 number of participants including women farmers. Miss Joshila Enghipi and Mr. Pradyumna Mohapatra explained the farmers about different rice value chain machineries, viz., moisture-meter, portable rice-mill, rice flake machine, rice puffing machine, dry grinding machine, IRRI super bag etc. Moisture meter and IRRI super bag were demonstrated among the farmers during the training program. There was a good interaction between resource person and participants.



Contributor : Joshila Enghipi, PA , RARS, Diphu

Exposure visit within district under APART, KVK Dhubri

On 22nd January 2021 an exposure visit within district under IRRI supported objective-III activities for Boro season, 2020-21 was successfully conducted by APART team of KVK, Dhubri, Assam Agricultural University (AAU), at Luit Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) located at Paschim Medhipara. Mr. Akhoy Jyoti Bharadwaj (Junior Researcher, IRRI) addressed the programme along with other APART staff including Dr. Amarjit Saikia (Project Associate), Mr. Manas Jyoti Bharali (Assistant Project Scientist) and Mr. Dulal Chandra Rai (Research Technician). Total 20 farmers from Pakhrital, Sasargaon and adjacent areas participated in the exposure visit. The programme started with a welcome speech delivered by Dr. Amarjit Saikia. Later on, the programme was led by Mr. Akhoy Jyoti Bharadwaj, Junior Researcher, IRRI with facilitation of interaction among the participants. The farmers were introduced to various machines and technologies, right from sowing of seed to harvest and storage of harvested produce viz. drum seeder, seed drill, rice transplanter, paddy weeder, power sprayer, paddy thresher, open drum thresher etc.



The usage and working of different machineries were thoroughly explained by Mr. Bharadwaj. The demonstrations of newly introduced technologies like moisture meter and super grain bag, were also provided to the farmers. In addition, hands on training was also imparted to the participants. Most of the technologies were relatively new for the participants and hence they had shown keen interest in learning about them. A short interactive session was also held between the APART team and the participants regarding different aspects of agricultural machineries. The participants had also shared their feedback and the programme concluded with vote of thanks, by Mr. Manas Jyoti Bharali.

Contributors :



**Mr. Akhoy Jyoti Bhardwaj,
Junior Researcher, IRRI**



**Dr. Amarjit Saikia
PA, APART, KVK, Dhubri**

Training & demonstration on Ricevalue-chain machineries at HRS, Kahikuchi

The training and demonstration on rice value-chain machineries under IRRI Supported Objective-III for Boro Season, 2020-21 was successfully conducted by APART Team of HRS, Kahikuchi, AAU at Dudhnoi, Goalpara on 21st January 2021. Mrs Ranjita Bezbaruah (Junior Scientist and APART Rice In-charge, HRS, Kahikuchi) and Mr. Mridupaban Mudoi (Junior Researcher, IRRI) addressed the programme as Resource Persons along with the APART Staffs namely Miss. Priyanka Das (PA, APART), Mr. Dibakar Mohodi (APS, APART), Mr Bhaskar Boruah (RT, APART), Mr. Anurag Khound (RT, APART) and Mr. Ashrafal Ahmed (RT, APART). More than 60 farmers including women attended the programme as participants. Mr. Dibakar Mohodi (APS, APART) initiated the programme with the welcome speech. Then the programme continued with a brief introduction about APART activities and its objectives, delivered by Mrs Ranjita Bezbaruah (Resource Person). She explained the critical role of farm mechanization in agriculture. Mrs. Bezbaruah spoke about the nutritionally enriched varieties of rice like black rice, red rice, golden rice and their health benefits. Moreover, she disseminated knowledge on how value addition to rice can lead to preparation of new products (puffed rice, rice flakes, rice cakes etc) which can have higher commercial value. In addition, she explained how trainings and demonstrations imparted under APART can motivate the farmers in adoption of mechanization in agriculture. She also informed the farmers about the steps to be taken for quality seed production of rice. She thoroughly described the procedure of selling the farm produce at MSP to FCI, ASAMB, etc.





The programme was then led by Mr. Mridupaban Mudoi (Junior Researcher, IRRI) who through his speech created awareness among the farmers to avail machineries at subsidized rates under different Govt schemes from the District Agriculture Offices of the Department of Agriculture. He described the basic role of farm mechanization in agriculture and listed out the different machines provided through Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) under APART and also motivated the farmers to increase production through farm mechanization that can ultimately enhance their income. Mr. Mudoi explained the working principle of various farm machineries used during different stages of crop production, starting from crop establishment to harvest followed by post-harvest management and lastly value addition to rice.

He showed a calculative explanation about cost economics and the cost difference created with use and non-use of machines. Through a power point presentation Mr. Mudoi discussed the working principle, capacity and uses of different rice value-chain machineries like portable rice-mill (milling rice grains), dry grinding machine (making grinded powder of rice), rice puffing machine (making puffed rice) and rice flake machine (producing rice flakes/chidwa). He also mentioned that Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) may adopt the use of rice value-chain machineries for value addition in rice for increasing the income of member farmers. Mr. Mudoi also practically demonstrated and explained the use of IRRI superbag and digital grain moisture meter to the participant farmers. The farmers were highly motivated by the topics covered by the resource persons. Lastly, the day long programme came to an end with the vote of thanks from Miss Priyanka Das (PA, APART).

Dry Mat-type nursery preparation with Breeder Seed under Sreejoni Mohila FPC (Rongjuli) promoted by SeSTA in collaboration with APART, HRS, Kahikuchi

On 22nd January 2021 a demonstration on Dry Mat-type nursery was conducted at Kankata village under Rongjuli Development Block, Goalpara. The demonstration was arranged by Sreejoni Mohila FPC and promoted by SeSTA (NGO). The whole demonstration was led under the technical assistance provided by the experts from IRRI, Mr. Govind Singh (Research Technician, IRRI) and APART, HRS, Kahikuchi, AAU, team. Mr. Dibakar Mohodi (APS, APART), Mr. Bhaskar Boruah (RT, APART) and Mr. Anurag Khound (RT, APART). The basic ideology for preparation of dry Mat-type nursery that would lead to mechanical transplanting of rice was formulated by Mr. Mridupaban Mudoi (Junior Researcher, IRRI) with support from the APART Team, AAU-HRS, Kahikuchi. Nearly 20 women members of FPC provided the helping hand for the successful completion of the demonstration.



The preparation of the dry Mat-type nursery involves several steps, including levelling of field, raised bed preparation of dimension 15 m x 1.0m (5 nos of beds), collection of weed free soil followed by sieving, mixing of dried cow-dung with the sieved soil in the ratio of 1:4, polythene sheet folded and perforated randomly, covering the bed with the perforated polythene sheet followed by removal of air bubbles formed beneath the sheet, iron frame (2.5 ft x 3 ft) put over the polythene sheet, spreading of soil and cow-dung mixture on the top of the polythene sheet

inside the iron frame, spreading of sprouted seeds (rice) uniformly on the top of the soil layer and finally covering the whole seed bed using a low tunnel polythene based structure. The participants were highly motivated by the demonstration provided by the technical support team and were willing to adopt the technology in the upcoming paddy seasons. In addition, the technical team suggested the participants for regular monitoring of the nursery bed till 15 days.



Contributors :



Dibakar Mohodi
(APS, APART, HRS, Kahikuchi)



Priyanka Das
(PA, APART, HRS, Kahikuchi)

A report on participation in National Agri-Horticulture Show 2021

A National Agri-Horticulture Show was organized by Govt. of Assam on 21-23rd Jan'2021 at Bokakhat, Golaghat. This show attracted a large gathering from different parts of Assam. APART in collaboration with the CGIAR institutes (International Rice Research Institute, International Potato Centre, World Vegetable Centre, and International Livestock Research Institute) showcased different technologies promoted under APART. Dr. Kanwar Singh (RC, IRRI), Dr. J. Minhas (RC, CIP), Dr. A. K Upadhyay (RC, WVC), Dr Naba Das, Consultant (ILRI), Vivek Kumar, Jyoti Bikash Nath, Dr. Suryakant Khandai, Saurajyoti Baishya, Ankita Sahu, P. Srichandan and Janmejy Biswal from IRRI, Dr. Brijesh Kumar, Nirmal Kumar and Krishna Kumar from CIP, Sudeeptho and Angshuman from WVC actively participated in the event and handled all the queries of the visitors.






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In this event, more than 400 farmers visited the APART stall where International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) displayed different Stress Tolerant Rice Varieties (STRVs), High Yielding Varieties (HYVs), and Premium Quality Rice (PQR) Varieties. Different machineries like Mechanical Transplanter, Reaper, Drum Seeder, Power Weeder, Battery operated Sprayer, Power tiller operated Multi crop Planter, Dry Grinding Machine, etc. were put on display for the farmers. Information materials on different technologies and machineries were also distributed among the visitors.

International Potato Centre (CIP) displayed 22 different varieties of Potato like different Table purpose varieties, different Processing varieties, dual purpose varieties and some Private company varieties. They have also displayed a model of Protective Seed production in Net House and zero tillage technology of Potato cultivation.

World Vegetable Centre (WVC) demonstrated on raising the vegetable nursery using a seedling tray and also distributed information materials to the farmers on different technologies.

During the show, the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of Assam, Shri Atul Bora and MP Rajya Sabha Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa visited the APART stall and discussed about the technologies promoted under APART. During their visit, IRRI Scientists explained about the different rice varieties displayed in the stall and different farm machineries like Drum Seeder, Multi crop Planter and Dry Grinding machine.

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| <p>IRRI RC explaining about the varieties to Hon'ble Agriculture Minister</p> | <p>IRRI Official explaining about the Inclined Plate Multi crop Planter</p> | <p>IRRI Official explaining about the Drum Seeder and Dry Grinding Machine</p> |

Director of Agriculture, Govt. Of Assam Shri Akash Deep, IAS also visited the APART stall and discussed about the Stress Tolerant Rice Varieties (STRVs) promoted under APART and the CIP officials also explained about the Zero Tillage Cultivation of Potato and different varieties of Potato promoted under APART.

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| <p>Director of Agriculture observing the different rice varieties</p> | <p>Director of Agriculture observing the different varieties of Potato and discussing about ZT potato</p> |
