APART: RICE WEEKLY
(28th June- 3rd July, 2021)

Paddy Nursery of Sali Season 2021-22 Visited by KVK, Nalbari and IRRI experts under APART

During the entire week of 27th June, 2021 to 3rd July, 2021, KVK, Nalbari team along with ***Mr. Amlandeep Saikia*** (Junior Researcher, IRRI), visited the nursery plots of various demonstrations conducted during *Sali* season 2021-22 under APART, to observe the present status of *Sali* paddy fields. The team visited four blocks of the Nalbari district and interected with the beneficiaries of *Sali* paddy to discuss various matters/ issues related to the ongoing activities of the *Sali*p addy farming. They visited four number of MAT-type nursery plots, three numbers of *CFLD demo nursery plots*, and one *Learning Centre Demo (LCD) nursery plot*. *Mr. Amlandeep Saikia (Junior Researcher, IRRI), Mr. Dipankar Kalita* (*Project Assiociate*) and *Mr.Pranjit Bharali* (*Asst. Project Scientiest*) interected with the farmers and discussed about the activitiesof the ongoing and upcomming Sali paddy season. The APART personnels advised the farmers to maintain the guidelines of Sali paddy demonstrstions under APART. The MAT-type nursery plots were in Panigaon, Bihampur, Tegheriattari and Lokhopur, CFLD plots were in Mukalmua, Tilana, Belsor and the LCD plot was in Budrukuchi village. The whole program was guided by *Mr. Homeswar Mazumdar*, SMS, Horticulture & i/c APART, KVK, Nalbari.

Contributors:

Mr. Dipankar Kalita
Project Associate, APART, KVK, Nalbari

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Mr. Amlandeep Saikia
Junior Researcher, IRRI

Preparation of Mat-Type Nursery at Golaghat

On 21st June 2021, a demonstration on preparation of MAT-type nursery was held at Chonkola village under Khumtai development block. A farmer named Mr. Dhiren Manki of Chonkola village received Ranjit-Sub1 variety under APART from KVK Golaghat and with the technical support from IRRI. He decided to mechanically transplant the paddy seedlings. Hence, he prepared the MAT-type nursery which will cover an area of 1ha, under APART demonstrations. The farmer was technically supported by Mr Bhaskar Jyoti Sarmah (RT, KVK Golaghat) and Mr P. Srichandan (RT, IRRI) on the day of nursery raising. This is the first time the farmer has adopted this technology and he is happy that the technology will cut down his cost of production and drudgery associated with paddy cultivation.

Similarly, on 24th& 25th June 2021, demonstration on MAT-type nursery was conducted at No.1 Borpak village under Bokakhat Development Block. A farmer named Mr Pradip Das received Bahadur-Sub1 variety under APART from KVK Golaghat as a part of cluster demonstration. The farmer is going to transplant his field using the machine transplanter for which he has raised a MAT-type nursery of about 50m² under the technical guidance of KVK Golaghat and IRRI. Mr Bhaskar Jyoti Sarmah (RT, KVK Golaghat) & Mr P. Srichandan (RT, IRRI) helped the farmer in the preparation of MAT-type nursery.

Contributor: Ankita Sahoo
Junior Researcher (IRRI)

Demonstration on Wet-DSR under RARS, Titabar

For the very first time RARS, Titabar is carrying out Wet-DSR demonstrations in famers' fields. To promote Wet-DSR, RARS, Titabar has selected some of the farmers in different parts of Titabar area. On June 28, 2021 pre-germinated seeds of Ranjit-Sub1 were sown on the surface of puddled soil with the help of drum seeder at Sadiyal Kachari Gaon by a female farmer Rinku Saikia. The demonstration was carried out in the presence and guidance of Ms. Ankita Sahu, Junior Researcher, IRRI, Mr. DevamitraTarafdar, Project Associate, APART, RARS, Titabar, Mr Rajib Sahu, Research Technician, APART, RARS, Titabar and Mr. Pradyumna Srichandan, Research Technician, IRRI. The interested farmers from neighbouring areas also visited the demonstration site.

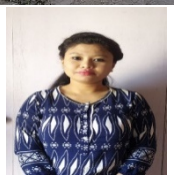
Ms. Ankita Sahu and Mr. Devamitra Tarafdar explained the procedures in detail for conducting the demonstration in a right manner. Farmers were also explained the benefits of direct seeding of rice with drum seeder over conventional method of transplanting of rice in puddled condition, such as higher grain yield, cost and labour saving, less water use and finally higher profitability. Mr. Pradyumna Srichandan and Mr Rajib Sahu gave a practical demonstration on how to use the drum seeder in field conditions which was followed by the participants. All the present farmers cleared their doubts regarding DSR and provided positive feedback regarding taking up the DSR forward, in near future. Similarly, two more Wet-DSR demonstrations were carried out in the farmer's field at Kakodonga and Betoni gaon on June 29, 2021 and June 30, 2021 respectively, under RARS, Titabar.

Contributor: ***Mr. Devamitra Tarafdar, Project Associate, APART, RARS, Titabar*.**

Wet-DSR Demonstration for *Sali* 2021 under RARS, Shillongani, Nagaon

During Sali season, 2021 three Wet-DSR demonstrations are conducted by using drum seeder machine on June 30, 2021. These three demonstrations are conducted with the farmers Mrs Pratibha Devi, Abony Bordoloi and Dibyajyoti Saikia located at three different villages, viz, Dagaon, Kakomari and Chamuagaon respectively of Nagaon district. The farmers have shared their experiences regarding difficulties faced for labour during transplanting. The new technology of direct seeding with drum seeder will help them to save water, time and labour.

Contributor: Ms Sharmee Gogoi, Project Associate, RARS, Shillongani, Nagaon



Virtual Field day, Gabharu, Sonitpur

Due to covid-19 pandemic lockdown it was not possible to conduct physical field day with large number of farmers, in this regards District Agriculture Office, Sonitpur has planned to conduct one virtual Paddy field day. Paddy ICMD (Integrated crop management demonstration) has been done under APART project in Gabharu block with Dipota Maj Pathar Krishi Pam farmer interest group (FIG). The FIG having total 20 nos. of farmers and they received quality seed (variety BINADhan11), fertilizer and other inputs from project, during Boro Season. Time to time farmer group also received training on best management practices (BMPs) and field visit by Shri Nilanjan Saikia, BTM, Gabharu block and Shri Dibyarishi Bhattacharjya, Junior Researcher, IRRI. A virtual Paddy field day was organized on 21st June 2021 at 11.30 AM in Gabharu block, Sonitpur. Total 42 members have participated in this event including farmers from Sonitpur and nearby districts, APART, ATMA and IRRI officials. At the outset Shri Prakash Ch. Bora, District Agriculture

Officer, Sonitpur welcomed all the participants and briefed about the objective and agenda of the event. He also mentioned that due to COVID-19 pandemic, virtual event is the only way to organize any meeting. He also discussed that farmer has adopted best management practices in Paddy and it has increased their productivity.

BTM, Gabharu briefed about the area and management practices followed by farmer group.

IRRI official has presented the power point regarding variety, best management practices and post-harvest management.

Live crop cutting was done to showcase the results. Team has found the moisture of 20.8 %, yield -5.8 ton/ha and 1000 grains weight 24 gm. Some key farmers have also shared their views regarding variety and their experiences. Shri Chintu Sarmah Bordoloi ICMD farmer discussed his experiences regarding first time cultivation of variety BINADhan11 during *Boro* season with satisfactory yield and performance of variety. He has given his gratitude to all extension officials for their support.

Shri Saurabh Srivastava, District Agriculture Marketing Coordinator, APART has briefed about the scope of market linkage for paddy procurement. He suggested the farmers to clean and dry their grains and keep in safe place till the time paddy procurement centre will open in district. He also discussed regarding quality parameter and current MSP of paddy.

The event was closed by vote of thanks given to all the participants by DAMC, Sonitpur.

Contributor:
Shri Nilanjan Saikia, BTM, Gabharu, Sonitpur

Crop Cutting of DRR Dhan 44 under HRS, Kahikuchi

Under the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART), DRR Dhan 44, a high yielding drought tolerant rice variety suitable for drought prone shallow low lands was first introduced during the *Boro* season of 2020-21. In association to this, AAU-HRS, Kahikuchi has conducted field demonstrations with this variety covering an area of 2.1 ha in Goalpara district. Likewise, one such demonstration i.e., Integrated Crop Management Demonstration (ICMD) for the variety was carried out in the farmer field of Mr Sanowar Hosen, village Abhrabhita under Kharmuza Development Block (Goalpara). The beneficiary was supplied with all the inputs, including seed, recommended doses of fertilizer and other need based plant protection inputs for obtaining successful results from the demonstration. On June 28, 2021 the crop cutting programme was conducted at the above mentioned farmer's field in presence of the APART Team members of AAU-HRS, Kahikuchi. During the crop cutting programme several yield attributing traits of the crop such as plant height, no. of hills/square meter, no. of tillers/hill, total biomass yield, grain weight, grains/panicle etc. were recorded by the APART team. An average yield of 5.06 t/ha was recorded. In addition, the duration of maturity was reported to be 128 days. Moreover, the farmer mentioned that the crop performed well throughout the cropping season and consumed less water as compared to other varieties which indicates that the crop may be suitable for cultivation in drought prone areas. Despite of good yield, it was noticed that the variety was prone to shattering loss which may be prevented by harvesting the crop at around 80-85% physiological maturity for better results.

Demonstration on Wet-DSR under HRS, Kahikuchi

Among several resource efficient and cost-effective technologies introduced in rice one is direct seeding of rice using a low weight drum seeder made up of plastic which nowadays is gaining popularity among the farmers. Reasons behind such popularity may be because drum seeder is easy to operate, women friendly, saves time and can be adopted by small and marginal farmers. During this *Sali* Season (2021-22) one such demonstration has been established in the paddy field of Mrs. Sumati Barman of Kishoridubi village under Balijana block, Goalpara covering an area of 1 ha in collaboration with Ratnapith Farmer Producer Company Ltd on June 28, 2021. Prior to direct seeding under wet condition the field was prepared thoroughly by ploughing with desi plough 4 times followed by harrowing, laddering and application of recommended basal dose of fertilizer. To accomplish Wet-DSR with the help of drum seeder it is necessary to keep the field saturated but there should not be any water stagnation, as excess moisture may lead to floating of seeds. Following this, well sprouted seeds of Ranjit-Sub1 were then directly seeded in the field by using eight rowed drum seeder. After 3 days of sowing, pre-emergent herbicide (Pretilachlor) firmly mixed with sand was applied to the field to suppress the growth of weeds. The beneficiary was greatly motivated by this technology and expressed her willingness to adopt the technology in the upcoming seasons.

Contributors:

Priyanka Das (PA, HRS, Kahikuchi)

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