

## **APART: RICE WEEKLY** **(7-13 June, 2021)**

### **Review meeting on Paddy Procurement under KMS 2020-21 in Sonitpur District**

A review meeting was conducted for Paddy procurement under Kharif Marketing Season (KMS 2020-21) on June 11, 2021 at 4 PM in the conference hall of the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sonitpur. Total quantity procured under KMS 2020-21 was 6189 MT from 729 farmers (including APART farmers) in Sonitpur district. Total five paddy Procurement Centres (PPCs) were operational in the district by two procurement agencies i.e. Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Assam State Agricultural Marketing Board (ASAMB). The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Sonitpur and also attended among others by District Development Commissioner, Sonitpur, Deputy Director, Food & Civil Supplies, Sonitpur and District Agriculture officer, Sonitpur. The meeting was also attended by officials of Agriculture, DAMC, APART, officials of Procurement agencies and millers. It was discussed that for smooth procurement, infrastructure and technology development needs to be taken up at scale. Suggestions on the same were received and the procurement committee will work on this aspect to take the matters forward.



Massive campaign is also required to create awareness on the scheme and quality parameters for procurement which reduce the rejection rate.

**Contributor:**

**Saurabh Srivastava, DAMC Sonitpur**

### **Crop Cutting of BINA Dhan-11 under KVK, Barpeta**

Under, Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Barpeta with the technical support of IRRI has been conducting Wet Direct Seeded Rice (Wet-DSR) demonstrations at farmer's field. In Wet DSR demonstrations, drum seeders are used to sow the seed on puddled soil, after conventional tillage. By using drum seeder a single operator can sow 8 rows at 20 cm row to row spacing in a single stretch.

The drum seeder is made up of plastic material and has many advantages-

1. Easy to operate and saves time
2. Women friendly
3. Economical to adopt by small and marginal farmers.
4. Suited best to rainfed ecologies

During Early Ahu season 2020-21, one such demonstration was conducted by KVK, Barpeta at Vill. Madhyam

Kordoiguri of Bhawanipur Development Block in Barpeta district.

The crop cutting experiment on this Wet-DSR demonstration with variety BINADhan 11 was conducted on June 12, 2021. The crop cutting was carried out in the field of Mr. Krishna Kanta Roy. During the crop cutting experiment, various yield attributing characters of the crop such as plant height, panicle per square meter, total biomass yield, grain weight, grains/panicle, test weight etc. were recorded by the technical team of APART at KVK Barpeta. The average calculated yield with 24% grain moisture was 5.21 ton/ha.



**Contributor: Mridupaban Mudoj, JR, IRRI**

## Mechanized harvesting of *Boro* Paddy under KVK Golaghat

Farmers of Sohola village, Golaghat have started harvesting of paddy sown during the *Boro* season by using reaper. Some of the farmers of this village received demonstrations of different varieties under APART through KVK Golaghat. The farmers received DRR Dhan 44 variety to carry out the demonstrations and some farmers had also received BINA Dhan 11. Now, as the crop is matured, grown under the guidance of KVK team of experts including APART and IRRI team, the farmers are harvesting their paddy using a reaper for the first time. Farmers are happy by adopting the mechanized technology for harvesting their matured crop. *"I am able to harvest my produce on time and reduce my expenses on harvesting by using reaper. I am happy and want to encourage my fellow farmers to go for harvesting of their paddy by using reaper"* Munuwa Choudhary said.



**Contributor:**

**Ankita Sahoo, Junior Researcher, IRRI**

### RKB Assam ([www.rkbassam.in](http://www.rkbassam.in)) mobile app goes live on mobile

It's a proud moment for APART to inform you that Rice Knowledge Bank (RKB) for Assam ([www.rkbassam.in](http://www.rkbassam.in)) app for mobile phones is now live and is available at Google Play Store. The URL is <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.rkbassam.rkbassam&hl=en>

One can also install it by searching Rice Knowledge Bank Assam on browser.

\*\*\*Congratulations to the teams of IRRI & AAU\*\*\*

## Seed distribution for Sali Paddy 2021-22 under KVK Kamrup

For this *Sali* season, KVK Kamrup has received a targeted field demonstration of 941.44 bighas of land under IRRI supported activities of APART. Five different rice varieties have been provided to the farmers in the demonstrations, of which three are Stress Tolerant Rice Varieties (STRVs) viz., Ranjit-Sub1, Bahadur-Sub1 and Swarna-Sub1 and two are Premium Quality Rice viz. Joha rice and CR Dhan 909. The total area of 941.44 bighas for the *Sali* season 2021 demonstrations is distributed with Uttran Krishok Producer Co. Ltd (FPC) in 731 bigha, Tetelia Agro Organic Producer Company(FPC) in 43.5 bigha and the individual beneficiaries selected by KVK-Kamrup in remaining 166 bighas. The selected villages under different demonstration include Godebori, Rani, Bongora (under Chayani Borduar Block), Urput, Kholihamari, Gondhmow, Mahadevtula (under Hajo block) and Bongshor (under Sualkuchi Block).



Seed distribution commenced for two days i.e. 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 and 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2021. On day 1, Mr. Bhabesh Kalita current MLA from Rangia constituency accompanied by Dr. Ilakshy Deka, Subject Matter Specialist, KVK Kamrup graced the event with their presence during the seed distribution process with Uttaran FPC, Rangia. Mr. Kalita stated that farmers are playing a major role in uplifting the state's economy which was hit due to COVID-19 Pandemic. He also praised Uttaran Krishi Producer Company Ltd. for their tremendous work in agriculture in recent years and also advised the farmers to go for commercial cultivation for their own upliftment.

On day 2, the seed distribution process continued by Komedity Chamua, Asst. Project Scientist and Ananta Gogoi, Research Technician, KVK Kamrup. Komedity briefed about the different varieties distributed to the farmers with special emphasis on CR Dhan 909, being a newly introduced variety in the district. She requested the farmers to follow the Package of Practices accordingly and feel free to contact KVK APART staff for any kind of assistance required.



**Dr. Kasturi Goswami**  
Junior Researcher, IRRI-APART

### Contributors:



**Ms. Komedity Chamua**  
Asst. Project Scientist, KVK Kamrup

## Boro paddy field visit and crop monitoring during COVID-19 Pandemic under APART- KVK Kamrup

On June 09, 2021, Ms Komedy Chamua, Assistant Project Scientist and Ananta Gogoi, Research Technician under APART KVK Kamrup visited Boro paddy fields under Hajo block following all COVID-19 protocols in order to monitor the present status of rice crop for scheduling timely crop cutting and data collection in the Project's targeted villages. Under the network of APART, cultivation of Stress Tolerant Rice Varieties (BINA Dhan 11 & DRR Dhan 44) for Boro/ Early Ahu season has been widely promoted in different villages of Hajo block. The visited fields belong to beneficiaries, Debajit Mahanta (Mechanically transplanted Rice-Variety BINA Dhan11), Paresh Das (Head to Head- Variety BINA Dhan 11 and Farmers Variety-Hima), Kailash Kalita (Learning Centre Demonstration- Variety BINA Dhan 11), Khargeswar Deka (Wet-DSR- Variety BINA Dhan11) and Sakraram Das (Cluster demonstrations- Variety BINA Dhan11) at village Bhoilabori, Japia, Dampur, Bongaltula, Bagtia of block Hajo, respectively.



**MTR demo (Var.: BinaDhan-11) at village Bhoilabori, Hajo**



**Head to Head (Var.: Bina Dhan11) demo at village Japia**



**Cluster demo (Var.: Bina Dhan11) at village Bagtia, Hajo**



**Wet-DSR (Var.: BINADhan11) demo at village Bongaltula,**

While interacting with the farmers, Paresh Das, a Head to Head demonstration beneficiary delighted to inform that the panicle length of BINA Dhan 11 is more than the control hybrid variety Hima and the grains also have more weight. Thus, he is hopeful that he will get good yield from his cultivated land. In some fields, infestation of gundhi bug was also noticed and insecticides were distributed to the farmers for their control. Mr. Khargeswar Deka was much satisfied with his Wet-DSR field as initially he didn't have faith on the technology but now he is hoping for a successful harvest. Due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation in the state, physical field monitoring in last few months was not possible but the KVK APART staff were in regular telephonic contact with the farmers and provided suggestions on fertilizer application and plant protection measures. The ever-changing season also had a major role to play in the outcomes of these demonstrations. The farmers of respective villages are looking forward to harvest their crops within 12-15 days.

### Contributors



**Ms. Komedy Chamua, APS, APART, KVK Kamrup**



**Dr. Munmi Bora, PA, APART, KVK Kamrup**

## Input distribution for Sali Paddy 2021 under APART at Morigaon , Assam

Input distribution for Sali Paddy 2021 under APART was carried out in Morigaon district from 7<sup>th</sup> June to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at Cluster office, Morigaon. COVID-19 protocols were strictly adhered during the distribution process. A total of 41 Integrated Crop Management Demonstrations (ICMDs) and 131 mini-kit demonstrations have been allotted to Morigaon district for the Sali season 2021. Seeds of three flood tolerant varieties namely Swarna-Sub1, Bahadur-Sub1 and Ranjit-Sub1 were distributed among the selected beneficiaries from 5 blocks of Morigaon. A total of 154 kg of Swarna-Sub1 seed, 404 kg of Bahadur-Sub1 seed and 589 kg of Ranjit-Sub1 seed was distributed.



**Input distribution for ICMD**

**Contributor:**

**Subhashree Borthakur, BTM CSS-ATMA,  
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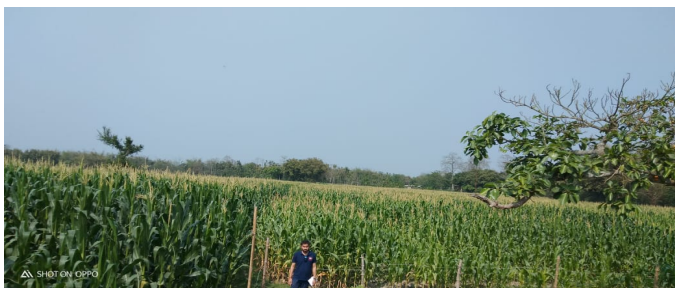
**Seed distribution for Minikit**

For mini-kit demonstration, each beneficiary was provided with 5 kg of seed. In case of ICMD, the beneficiaries were provided with 12 kg of seed along with fertilizers namely Urea, DAP, MOP and Zinc Sulphate. Bio-pesticides *Pseudomonas fluorescense* and *Tricoderma viride* was also provided to the ICMD beneficiaries. ATM, BTM and ADO of each block along with Mr. Arup Bora, DAO Morigaon and Ms. Beenita Barman, Nodal Officer, APART, Morigaon were present during the Input distribution program. The farmers were briefed on the management practices to be followed while conducting the demonstrations.

## Seed Drilled Maize: A Promising Technology for increasing Cropping Intensity in Rice-Fallows in Assam

A total of 150 bigha hybrid corn was sown with multi crop planter (seed-cum-fertiliser-drill) in chronically flood affected Sitolmari village of Borsola area of Dhekiajuli block of Sonitpur district. The farmers of the area have been cultivating rice and maize traditionally. With the inclusion of a short duration rice variety particularly, BINA Dhan11 which is also a promising short duration STRV, an oilseed crop (mustard/toria) can comfortably be fitted in the cropping sequence to raise the cropping intensity to 300%. A group of farmers from the maize belt were selected for the demonstrations in rice-fallow areas. The activity was performed jointly by Dept. of Agriculture and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur with the technical support from IRRI.

The crop was sown in the last week of December and it reached the tasseling stage during 1st week of June. The members of the farmers group Green Valley Farmers Organization- Bharat Subedi, Amar Gauli, Dipu Newar, Biswanath Biswas, Manoj Sapkota and Dilip Das have used the multi-crop planter in their lands for establishment of the crop. They were guided by technical staff of IRRI and KVK, Sonitpur. In a conversation with Dibyarishi Bhattacharjya, Junior Researcher, IRRI, farmers Bharat Subedi and Biswanath Biswas revealed with satisfaction that earlier in manual establishment 3 labourers with a charge of Rs.300/day could sow only 2 bigha maize in full day working hours, which was a time and labour consuming process. With the help of the seed-cum-fertiliser-drill machine, it took only 15 minutes to complete the sowing of 1 bigha with a tractor rental of Rs. 100 and operator charges of around Rs. 50, which totals to around Rs. 150.



Moreover, the depth of seeding remains uniform which aids in uniform establishment of the crop. The technology of machine sowing for maize demonstration (under objective IV of IRRI assignment in APART), which aims to increase cropping intensity in rice-based cropping systems by mapping soil moisture availability status through remote sensing with resource conservation technology. It was conducted in Bherbheri (26.83°N, 92.57°E) and Bengenajuli (26.85°N, 92.55°E) village of Misamari, Dhekiajuli Block under the CHC, KVK, Sonitpur. The total demonstration area was 50 bigha in the land plots of a group of 13 farmers. The crop was sown with the Landforce company multi-crop planter (seed-cum-fertiliser-drill). Maize crop was very new to these farmers as they are primarily rice-fallow farmers. With technical guidance from KVK and IRRI, the common problems like fertilization, irrigation and pest management were dealt with the farmers.

The average yield per bigha is 12 quintals. In conclusion it can be rightly said that maize crop can be taken as a succeeding crop after *Sali* paddy in rice fallows of Assam by using a multi-crop, seed-cum-fertiliser-drill machine which substantially reduces the cost of production. Moreover, now a days with rapidly increasing demand for animal protein, the requirement of maize is a pre-requisite for animal and bird feed is scaling up day by day. With new animal feed mills being set up, maize has got a secured market for the farmers.



**Contributor: Dibyarishi Bhattacharjya, JR, IRRI**

## Field Day on Boro Paddy organized by DOA, Morigaon

Morigaon district comes under flood prone area. Flood also severely affects major rice cultivated area during *Sali* season. In some parts flooded water remains for more than a month and growing *Sali* rice is not possible. Konwargaon village under Mayong block of Morigaon district is one of such areas where *Sali* crop is confined to few upland areas. The farmers of this village experience frequent floods several times, water stagnation up to weeks or even a month, also cause huge losses in *Sali* paddy production or sometimes complete loss of the whole crop. Farmers here mostly grow *Boro* crop in a large scale. Under such prevailing conditions, *Boro* paddy cultivation is a boon for these farmers. The popularity is due to lesser or negligible risk of crop loss due to flood or other constraints and comparatively higher productivity as compared to *Sali* rice. The only constraint was the lack of a good variety as they are spending much on hybrid seeds.



In the last *Boro* season, DAO Morigaon provided 12 kg of BINA Dhan 11 seeds to a women farmer named Mrs. Baliki Deuri under ICM demonstrations of IRRI supported activities. Along with seed, the recommended fertilizer dose was also provided and time to time technical guidance was also provided by the ATM and BTM of that block. The crop was sown on time and harvested at crop maturity. A field day programme was organized on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 in the presence of BTM, Mr Pabitra Deori and ATM, Mr Chintu Moni Bora following all the COVID-19 protocols. Crop cut was done in 5x5 m<sup>2</sup> area and data like plant height, number of tillers, number of panicles, grain per panicles were taken according to the format shared by IRRI in KoboCollect app

The farmer harvested a good crop with 5.2 t/ha. Mrs. Deuri was very pleased and with her smiling faces expressed her satisfaction for the variety. She plans to grow the same variety in next *Boro* season. The ATMA staff also informed her that this variety seed can be kept for 3 years and can also be grown in both the seasons. She also expressed her thankfulness for the Department of Agriculture and officials for their help and cooperation throughout the season and introducing BINA Dhan 11 to the farmers of Assam.

### Contributors:



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