



APART RICE WEEKLY

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District ATMs, IRRI Assam**

APART: RICE WEEKLY **(April 3–9, 2022)**

Field Testing of Rice Knowledge Bank under HRS, Kahikuchi

On April 7, 2022, a training programme on 'Field Testing of Rice Knowledge Bank' was organized at Tisimpur, Goalpara under APART, HRS, Kahikuchi. The programme was organized in collaboration with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in which a total of 30 farmers participated. Mr. Mridupawan Mudoj (Junior Researcher, IRRI) was present as a resource person in the training programme. The programme started with a welcome address by Mr. Dhajen Barman, President & BOD, Ratnapith FPC, Goalpara. Mrs. Ranjita Bezbaruah, Junior Scientist & APART in-charge, HRS Kahikuchi explained the importance of use of high-yielding and stress-tolerant varieties in rice cultivation. She also explained different management practices in paddy cultivation to the farmers.



Mr. Mridupawan Mudoj explained the Rice Knowledge Bank mobile application to the participants. He described step by step, how we can find information about different cropping systems of rice, varieties, seasons, market, extension services, etc. on the RKB website. Pre- and post-training evaluation of participants was carried out before and after the training programme and along with that feedback of the participants was also obtained. Mr. Madhujya Bikash Borah, Project Associate, HRS Kahikuchi explained the importance of RKB website and concluded the training programme with a vote of thanks. Miss Kasturi Goswami, Assistant Project Scientist; Mr. BhaskarBaruah, Mr. Anurag Khound, Mr. Bolin Rajkhowa, Research Technician, HRS Kahikuchi were also present during the training programme. The programme progressed and concluded smoothly with cooperation of APART staff and with technical support from IRRI.

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Field Testing of RKB, Assam held at RARS, Gossaigaon

On April 2, 2022, Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project (APART) under RARS, Gossaigaon in collaboration with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) organized field testing of RKB on usability, efficacy and feedback of RKB website www.rkbassam.in, and its mobile application. A total of 30 participants were present in the training programme including both farmers, and students of Science Academy, Gossaigaon. The program began with a warm welcome address by Ms Anjela Deka, Project Associate (APART) who briefly explained about APART. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Sunil Kumar Paul, Chief Scientist, RARS Gossaigaon who briefed about mechanization and innovations in rice cultivation. Dr. Kameswar Das, Principal Scientist, RARS, Gossaigaon who co-chaired the program, stressed on rice value chain and market linkages scenario of paddy in Assam and also on different mobile apps which are helpful for the farmers.



The technical session was conducted by Mr. Akhoy Bharadwaj, Junior Researcher from International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) who explained briefly on IRRI objectives & elaborated on Rice Knowledge Bank (RKB) and its scope, importance and benefits. The participants operated RKB website and the application in their own mobile phones and were assigned task to find out nearby Paddy Procurement Centres (PPCs) in their district. The programme was also attended by APART staffs of the station. The participants were very enthusiastic and optimistic about RKB and its role.

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Successfully Conducted One-day Training under IRRI Objective-II by APART KVK, Nalbari on April 5, 2022 at KVK, Nalbari

A one-day training on 'Best Management Practices of Paddy' under IRRI Objective-II was successfully conducted by KVK, Nalbari on April 5, 2022 under APART project. A total of 30 *Boro* paddy growing farmers from different locations of the district participated in the programme. The programme started with the welcome address by Mr Dipankar Kalita (Project Associate, APART) who highlighted the basic objective of the training. Mr. Amlandeep Saikia (IRRI Specialist) discussed about the Rice Knowledge Bank (RKB) website, different mechanization techniques related to paddy crops and its benefit for the farming community. He also discussed about how to access all the required information in the RKB website step by step.



A brief description about the *Boro* paddy cultivation was given by Mr. Pranjit Bharali (APS, APART). He also discussed about the insect-pest and their management practices in rice crop. Mr. Bharali also discussed about the different Paddy Procurement Centers (PPCs) situated in Nalbari district and how the farmers can be benefited in terms of economics. Mr. Dipankar Kalita discussed about various cropping sequences related to paddy crop. He also discussed briefly about doubling farmers' income by growing different crops in rice-fallows.

The training programme was well coordinated by all the APART staff of KVK, Nalbari and attended by Mr. Homeswar Mazumder (APART in-charge & SMS Horticulture), KVK, Nalbari. At the end of the training, participants expressed their satisfaction over such beneficial training programmes.

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Five-day Training on 'Geospatial Analytics using Earth Observation Data'

During April 4-8, 2022, a five-day training on 'Geospatial Analytics using Earth Observation Data' was conducted under Objective IV, APART at AAU, Jorhat. The main purpose of the training was to build the capacity of scientists/faculty/officers of Assam Agriculture University/Dept. Agriculture, Govt. of Assam in use of Remote Sensing & Geographical Information System (GIS) for geospatial analysis and mapping, so that GIS lab established at AAU under

APART is sustainable and aptly utilized after the completion of the project.

Geospatial analytics is the method of geographic data interpretation, exploration and modeling, from acquisition to understanding the results. The training was scheduled for 5 days, programmed in a way to maximize learning that has provided rigorous theoretical and practical knowledge on Remote sensing, GIS & GPS. The training was attended by 20 participants including Assistant Professors, Jr. Scientists, Technical Officers, Ph.D. Research Scholars and Master degree students from Sarat Chandra Sinha College of Agriculture (SCSCA), Dhubri, Biswanath College of Agriculture (BNCA), Biswanath, College of Horticulture and Farming Systems Research (HFSR), Nalbari, Dept. of Meteorology, Dept. of Soil Science and College of Agriculture, AAU, Jorhat. The training started with welcome address and a brief introduction of the participants highlighting the major issues related to the meeting by Mr Bhaskar Mahanta, Project Co-ordinator, OPIU, APART, followed by a detailed overview on various IRRI-supported activities under APART by Dr. Virendar Kr.

Yadav, Consultant IRRI. Mr Amit Srivastava, Scientist- RS & GIS from IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC), Varanasi briefed about the activities regarding geospatial technologies under APART and concluding remarks given by Dr Binoy Medhi, Professor AAU and Dr Debanand Das, Alternate Nodal Officer, APART. SuranjanaBhaswati Borah, Senior Specialist GIS(IRRI) presented the introduction to Remote Sensing and Amit Srivastava covered the session on Remote Sensing data products & application.



Day one of the training ended up with practical class on software QGIS given by Ms Payel Ghosh Dastidar and Archita Sharma, Project Scientists, OPIU-AAU, APART. On second day of the training, Dr Bipul Deka, Principal Scientist, AICRP on Irrigation Management, AAU gave a detailed presentation on visual image interpretation. Afterwards, the digital image processing was explained by Mr Amit Srivastava, Scientist- RS & GIS from ISARC, Varanasi. The participants were also given hands-on training on remotely sensed data with open source GIS software by the GIS team under APART. The third day started with introduction to GIS by Dr. Binoy Medhi, Professor, AAU. This was followed by presentation on spatial data analysis by Ms Suranjana Borah, Senior Specialist GIS(IRRI). Mr Debabrat Gogoi, Project Scientist, OPIU, APART along with the GIS team showed how to create and analyse spatial dataset, and print layout of maps. A brief introduction to GPS was explained by Mrs Suranjana Borah, IRRI, on the fourth day of the training. An exposure to precision agriculture using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and a demo on drone data processing was made by Mr Priyanuz Goswami, Project Scientist, OPIU, APART. Field data collection using GPS apps, and downloading and handling in QGIS was covered by Ms Giti Deka, Assistant Project Scientist, OPIU, APART along with GIS team. A mini-project using GIS-based tools was given to participants to prepare, which was presented by each of them on the last day of the training. This was followed by interactive sessions between participants, dignitaries and the organizers. Participants came up with valuable feedback and recommendations. Towards the end of the training session, the participants were motivated for learning and utilizing GIS technologies in the field of Agriculture by Dr Rupam Borgohain, Pr Scientist & Nodal Officer, APART. On the closing ceremony, Dr Ashok Bhattacharyya, Director of Research (Agri.), AAU enlightened on the importance of geospatial technology towards precision Agriculture and distributed certificates to the participants on the eve of successful completion of the program. The program ended with vote of thanks by Mr. Bhaskar Mahanta, Project Coordinator, OPIU-AAU.



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