

APART RICE WEEKLY

October 25-30, 2021

Published By: ARIAS Society

**Contributions from: KVKs, RARSs, HRS,
District ATMA's, IRRI Assam**

APART: RICE WEEKLY **(October 25-30, 2021)**

Third Phase of "Season Long Training" (Sali 2021-22) conducted on October 29, 2021 at Training Hall, KVK, Nalbari under APART

On October 29, 2021, KVK, Nalbari in collaboration with IRRI successfully conducted the third phase of Season Long Training (Sali 2021-22) on "Integrated Pest Management (IPM)" under Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART). A total of 30 participants from CHC, extension functionaries from DAO, Nalbari and progressive farmers from the district were present in the programme. The Programme started with introductory remarks by Mr. Homeswar Mazumdar, i/c APART KVK, Nalbari. On this occasion, Mr. Homeswar Kalita, Ex-DAO, Nalbari and Dr. Kasturi Goswami, Junior Researcher, IRRI were present as Chief Guest and Expert, respectively. At the beginning of the programme, Dr. Manashi Chakravarty, AAU, Nalbari, briefly discussed about the objective of the APART as well as the training programme. She also explained about the benefits of IPM in paddy cultivation.



Dr. Kasturi Goswami, Junior Researcher, IRRI discussed about the various production technologies of Paddy. During the programme, she briefly discussed about various mechanisms of insect-pest control (biological and integrated) methods. She also mentioned about "Rice Knowledge Bank" and Rice Doctor, their usefulness and practical application in the field and their benefits for the paddy farmers. Thereafter, Mr. Homeswar Kalita, Ex-DAO Nalbari, discussed about various control measures (Biological and Chemical) of insect-pests related to rice and other major crops grown in Nalbari district of Assam. At the end of the training, the participants shared their experiences regarding the scientific and mechanical methods of paddy cultivation. The KVK staff and APART staff of KVK, Nalbari, helped in smooth conducting of the programme. The programme ended with vote of thanks by Mr. Dipankar Kalita, Project Associate, APART, KVK, Nalbari.

Demonstration on Rice Value Chain (Sali 2021-22) on October 27, 2021 at Loharkatha Village under APART, KVK, Nalbari

On October 27, 2021 KVK, Nalbari, in collaboration with IRRI, successfully conducted "Demonstration on Rice Value Chain" under Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART) at Loharkatha Village. A total of 25 farmers from the particular village participated in the programme.

The programme started with introductory remarks by Mr. Pranjit Bharali, Asst. Project Scientist, APART KVK Nalbari. Mr. Amlandeep Saikia, Specialist from IRRI graced the occasion as chief guest.



At the beginning of the programme, Mr. Rupam Deka, Research Technician, APART, KVK, AAU, Nalbari, briefly discussed about the objective of the APART as well as the demonstration programme. Mr. Pranjit Bharali, APS, APART, KVK, Nalbari discussed about the various production technologies of paddy. He briefly discussed about various mechanical technologies and their benefits to the farmers. After that, Mr. Amlandeep Saikia, Specialist from IRRI, discussed about various mechanical methods of paddy cultivation, and Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) of Nalbari district situated at Bongaon village. At the end of the training the participants shared their experience regarding the scientific and mechanised farming of paddy.

Contributor



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



Mr. Pranjit Bharali
Asst. Project Scientist, APART, KVK, Nalbari

Impact Assessment Survey done at Golaghat

An Impact Assessment Survey is being conducted at various locations of Golaghat district where, a total of 40 beneficiary and non-beneficiary farmers under APART were interviewed with various questions on different farming technologies and usage of farm machineries promoted under rice value chain during Boro and Sali seasons. The main aim of the Impact Assessment survey is to understand the level of awareness among the beneficiary and non-beneficiary farmers regarding the adoption of best management practices to improve the farm productivity, economic and environmental outcomes and to mitigate or prevent negative outcomes. The entire survey was physically through reaching out to farmers door-to-door. Women beneficiaries were also surveyed to judge the level of participation of women farmers in paddy farming. The overall yield and machinery usage was found up to the expectation in Golaghat district. The farmers were reluctant to share their experience and various inputs used during the preceding years.

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Participatory Varietal Evaluation of Rice Variety Cafeteria at RARS, Gossaigaon

A participatory varietal evaluation of rice variety cafeteria was organized at Regional Agriculture Research Stations (RARSs), Gossaigaon, Kokrajhar on October 27, 2021. Rice variety cafeteria is a replicated trial for evaluating the performance of different rice varieties at a particular place in similar management conditions and planted in such a way that different duration varieties can have synchronous flowering and maturity. The crop evaluation enables the stakeholders/farmers to select the best suited variety of their own preference based on the performance and characteristics of different varieties in a particular region. In this *Sali* season, 2021, RARS Gossaigaon, Kokrajhar planted the cafeteria for the first time under APART, with twenty-four rice varieties, including stress-tolerant rice varieties (STRVs), premium quality rice (PQR) varieties, Local Popular Varieties (LPVs), deep water rice varieties and national level released varieties, raised with staggered planting in such a way that all the varieties mature at same time/period. The Participatory

Varietal Evaluation event was organised in the presence of Dr. S. K. Paul, Chief Scientist, RARS Gossaigaon, Dr. Kanwar Singh, Senior Associate Scientist and Resident Consultant, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Dr. Komeswar Das, Nodal officer, RARS, Gossaigaon, and Dr Suranjana Borah, GIS and Remote Sensing Expert, IRRI, Dr Rahul Priyadarshi, Seed Specialist, IRRI,

Ms Jutika Das, Project Associate (Seed), Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Jorhat, Mr. Akhoy Bhardwaj, Junior Researcher, IRRI, different scientists from RARS Gossaigaon, and many other guests. In this program, many progressive farmers including women farmers also participated for the evaluation of different rice varieties. The method of evaluation of different varieties was explained by Dr. Rahul Priyadarshi, Ms. Jutika Das and Mr. Akhoy Bhardwaj. The program was successfully managed by the APART staff of RARS, Gossaigaon namely Madhujya Bikash Borah (Project Associate), Monjit Das (Research Technician),



along with Pradyumna Mohapatra (Research Technician, IRRI). In the evaluation process, chits of different colors were distributed among male & female farmers. Male farmers were given red chits for positive vote & dark blue for negative vote. Whereas female farmers were given pink for positive vote & light blue for negative vote. All the farmers actively participated in the evaluation of the rice varieties of the crop cafeteria on the basis of their visual characters, maturity duration, type and number of grains and other plant characteristics. At the end of evaluation process variety Ranjit-Sub1 received the highest number of votes for long duration, followed by Numoli for medium duration and CR Dhan 309 for short duration group. Ranjit-Sub1 emerged out to be the most preferred variety by farmers out of the 24 varieties of the crop cafeteria. At the end, Dr Komeswar Das thanked all the participants for their active participation during the program.

Participatory Varietal Evaluation of Rice Variety Cafeteria at RARS, Gossaigaon

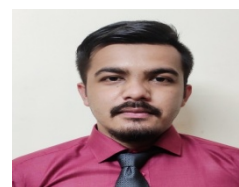
Under APART, a varietal evaluation of rice variety cafeteria by various stakeholders & scientists was organized on October 28, 2021 at RARS Gossaigaon in collaboration with IRRI & ARIAS Society. Mr. Madhujya Bikash Borah, Project Associate (APART) started the programme with the welcome of the stakeholders invited throughout Kokrajhar district comprising of District Agriculture Offices, millers, dealers, scientists & subject matter specialists from RARS & KVK, Kokrajhar. Dr. S.K. Paul, Chief Scientist, briefed about the crop cafeteria of RARS, Gossaigaon and the specific objectives associated with it. Dr. Rahul Priyadarshi, Specialist, IRRI described about crop cafeteria and its importance and scope for various stakeholders from their point of view, selection of varieties scorecards for different morphological & agronomical characteristics of the varieties that need to be accessed. He distributed scorecards to the different stakeholders including scientists, Subject Matter Specialists (SMS) in order to evaluate the varieties that suited the most and can be recommendable varieties for future in the respective district. The meeting ended with a healthy discussion between stakeholders & scientists, followed by vote of thanks to the participants.



Contributors



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Season Long Training (SLT)

As part of capacity building training in APART, the IRRI-supported Season Long Training (SLT) for farmers conducted under the KVKs and RARSs/HRS of Assam Agricultural University (AAU) is aimed at providing technical support/knowledge to the farmers in the entire crop culture in four crop operations based periods covering seed treatment and good nursery management and different types of rice nurseries, resource efficient and proper transplanting techniques, fertilizers and Integrated Nutrient Management, Integrated Weed Management, Integrated Pest and Disease Management, and Harvest and Postharvest Management.

At present, the paddies of Assam are in harvesting stage and some medium duration rice varieties are already harvested. Therefore, on October 28, 2021, the last training of SLT was organized by, KVK Lakhimpur in Narayanpur to provide technical knowledge of harvest and postharvest operations, advantages of different harvest and postharvest machineries, proper drying and maintenance of proper moisture content during storage and ensure standard quality for marketing. The training was attended by 30 persons comprising male and female member farmers of Madhabdev Organic FPC, Narayanpur, Lakhimpur. The technical training was provided by Dibyarishi Bhattacharjya from International Rice Research Institute and was co-operated by the Project Associate and Asst. Project Scientist of KVK, Lakhimpur.



Contributor: Dibyarishi Bhattacharjya
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Survey of Rice variety Cafeterias in Barpeta district

A drone survey was carried out to monitor and map the rice variety cafeterias set up by Dept of Agriculture and KVK in Barpeta district on October 26, 2021. A total of 4 cafeterias were visited at different locations of the district. The first location near Pathsala was under the Dist Agriculture Office (DAO). The second and third locations near Chenga were under DAO and KVK, and the fourth location near Howly was also under DAO. All the locations had 10 different varieties of rice including STRVs and local popular varieties planted side by side. All the locations were properly maintained and overall condition of crop was good except slight lodging and minor pest infestations observed in few areas. Drone survey was carried out to assess the quality of cafeteria in different locations. Ortho-images generated from drone images will be further used to map the areas of each cafeteria so that further analysis can be done along with height of each variety.



IRRI officials with DoA officials at crop cafeteria



Crop cafeteria by DoA near Chenga, Barpeta



Crop cafeteria by KVK, Barpeta near Chenga



Crop cafeteria by DoA near Howly, Barpeta

**Contributor: Suranjana B. Borah, Senior Specialist,
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