



APART RICE WEEKLY

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District ATMA, IRRI Assam**



APART: RICE WEEKLY **(September 27–October 2, 2021)**

Training on Rice Knowledge Bank (RKB) Conducted at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Lakhimpur

A training program on Rice Knowledge Bank was conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Lakhimpur under the aegis of Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART) on September 29, 2021. A total of 30 participants comprising of farmers, NGOs and FPC members and extension functionaries of ATMA from different blocks of the district attended the program.



The program started with a welcome address by Ms Mouchumi Dutta, Project Associate, APART. Dr. Prasanta Kr. Pathak, Senior Scientist & Head of KVK, Lakhimpur, in his speech motivated the participants to adopt modern agricultural technologies and to step towards scientific agricultural practices. Ms Brishti Saikia, Assistant Project Scientist, APART, gave a brief overview of APART while stressing upon the importance of mechanisation in the farming. Mr. Lakshi Kanta Nath, Subject Matter Specialist of KVK Lakhimpur, expressed his views on scientific management of paddy and also briefly described different agricultural applications available on digital platforms. Mr. Kandarpa Baruah, Assistant Professor, College of Veterinary Science, Lakhimpur also graced the program with his presence.

Mr. Debahash Buragohain, Project Scientist from Assam Agricultural University, APART introduced the farmers to a mobile application "Rice Knowledge Bank Assam (RKB Assam)" as well as the website www.rkbassam.in and highlighted the various components available on the portal. Mr. Buragohain trained the participants for effective handling of the portal where farmers can surf information such as details of different stress-tolerant rice varieties, scientific seed production, pest and weed management, nursery preparation and management, postharvest operations including mechanization, etc., which will serve as a valuable source to the farming community of the state.



Contributors



Brishti Saikia, APS, KVK, Lakhimpur



Mouchumi Dutta, PA, KVK, Lakhimpur

Awareness Meeting under APART, Organized by KVK, Nagaon

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Nagaon organized a day-long awareness meeting under Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project (APART) on September 28, 2021 at its campus. The main objective of the program was to create awareness of APART activities amongst the farmers. A total of 40 participants from 5 different villages attended the training. The training started with a welcome speech by Ms. Bidisha Borah, APS, APART. She briefly explained the aims and objectives of the training. She also gave a small presentation on APART.



Dr. Rahul Priyadarshini, Specialist from IRRI explained about all the activities of APART starting from Minikit demonstration, Integrated Crop Management demonstration, Learning Centre demonstration, Cluster demonstration, Direct Seeded rice demonstration, Mechanically Transplanted Rice demonstration, Head to Head demonstration. He also described about quality seed production, seed treatment, nutrient management, weed management, water-insect-pest and disease management. Thereafter, an interaction session was held, in which farmers interacted and cleared their doubts and queries.

Contributor: Bidisha Borah, APS, APART, KVK, Nagaon



Two-day Training under APART at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Darrang

On September 29-30, 2021, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Darrang, in collaboration with IRRI, successfully conducted two-day training program at Youth Club Mangaldai, Darrang under Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART). A total of 32 participants from different locations of the district participated in the program. On the first day, the program started with the welcome address by Ms Barsi Baro, Project Associate, APART. Dr. Abdul Hafiz, Head, KVK, Darrang briefly described about the main objective of the program along with an overview of the APART. The technical session was carried out by Mr. Vipin Kumar, Specialist, IRRI, where he discussed about the importance of different stress-tolerant rice varieties viz. Ranjit-Sub1, Bahadur-Sub1 & Swarna-Sub1. He also explained about the importance of scientific cultivation and quality seed production of rice. Dr. Sunil Kumar, IPM Specialist, IRRI, discussed about the disease and insect-pest identification in rice and their improved management practices in the field. He also explained about the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices of rice. On the second day, Mr. Vipin Kumar, Specialist, IRRI briefly discussed about the integrated weed management





practices, calibration of herbicide and power sprayer. He also described about the different types of nozzle and their uses in the field. Mr Amlandeep Saikia, Specialist, IRRI, explained about different machines used for rice cultivation under APART and the working principles of the machines viz. drum seeder, seed-cum-fertilizer drill, mechanical transplanter, power weeder, battery operated sprayer, etc. At the end of the training program Research Technician (RT) Mr. Kushil Gogoi demonstrated the battery-operated sprayer to the participants. The pre- and post-training evaluation tests were conducted to know about their knowledge gained during the training. The participants expressed their interest throughout the training program. The program ended with vote of thanks by the Project Associate, APART, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Darrang.

One-day Training on “Best Management Practices of Rice” under APART

On October 1, 2021, one-day training on “Best Management Practices of Rice” was successfully conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Darrang in collaboration with IRRI under Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART) at Youth Club Mangaldai, Darrang. A total of 30 participants participated in the program.

The program started with welcome speech by Barsri Baro, Project Associate, APART. Head, KVK, Darrang, Dr. Abdul Hafiz, briefed about the main objective of the program. At the very beginning, Mr. Amlandeep Saikia, Junior Researcher, IRRI, informed the participants about the main objective of the APART. During the training program he discussed about the best management practices of rice and briefed about the resource-efficient crop establishment methods for rice cultivation. He also discussed about the different machineries used for rice cultivation and explained about the working principles of the machines viz. mechanical transplanter, drum seeder, seed-cum-fertilizer drill & power-weeder etc. At the end of the training program all the participants expressed their views regarding the training program and thanked the experts for providing the excellent training sessions and the program ended with vote of thanks by Project Associate, APART, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Darrang.



Contributor: Barsri Baro
Project Associate, APART, KVK, Darrang

Successfully Completed the Demonstration on Postharvest Machinery by APART KVK Nalbari on September 21, 2021 at Pokhura Village

A postharvest machinery demo was successfully completed by APART KVK Nalbari on September 21, 2021 with the technical support of IRRI experts in Pokhura village. The Program was conducted with 25 farmers of the particular village. The Programme started with the welcome address by Mr. Rupam Deka, Research Technician, APART, KVK, Nalbari. The first part of the demonstration was handled by Mr. Pranjit Bharali, APS, APART, KVK, Nalbari about the machineries related to the paddy cultivation. He also described about the moisture meter and also advised the farmers to sell their paddy seeds through Food Corporation of India (FCI) or other procurement agencies at MSP.



Thereafter, Mr. Amlandeep Saikia, Junior Researcher from International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) briefly explained about the different machinery and their uses. He also explained about the farm mechanization and asked to take benefits of machineries by contacting the Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) located at Bongaon village, where the machineries are available for farmers of the whole district. During the technical session, Mr. Bharali showed the use of moisture meter to the farmers. The experts also discussed about the IRRI Super bag and gave a demonstration on its use. The program ended with vote of thanks by Mr. Bishwajit Gogoi, Research Technician, APART KVK, Nalbari.

Successfully Completed the 2nd Demonstration on Postharvest Machinery by KVK, Nalbari on September 28, 2021 at Panigaon

Second post harvest machinery demonstration was successfully completed by APART KVK, Nalbari on September 28, 2021 with the technical support of IRRI experts in Panigaon village under Pachim Nalbari Development Block. The Program was conducted with 30 farmers of the village. The program started with the welcome address by Mr. Rupam Deka, Research Technician, APART, KVK, Nalbari. During The first session of the program, Mr. Dipankar Kalita, Project Associate, APART, KVK, Nalbari briefly explained about the APART and its activities in the entire district. He also elaborated about the CHC where the machineries related to the paddy cultivation were stocked for the farmers. Mr. Kalita briefly explained about the working procedure of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and urged the farmers for keeping contact with the scientific staff of KVKs for any technical support.

During the second session, Mr. Amlandeep Saikia, Junior Researcher from International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) briefly explained about the different machineries and their uses. He also told about the farm machineries like weeder, transplanter, reaper, thresher, etc. and how to get benefits of these machineries by establishing contact with Custom Hiring Centre (CHC). He also described about the moisture meter to the farmers and also advised the farmers to sell their paddy grain on MSP, via FCI or other procurement agencies, to increase their profits. Mr. Saikia explained about the use of moisture meter and the IRRI Super bag to the farmers. The program ended with vote of thanks by Mr. Rupam Deka, Research Technician, APART, KVK, Nalbari.





Contributor: Dipankar Kalita
Project Associate, APART, KVK, Nalbari

Two-day Training on Portable Rice Mill by KVK, Kokrajhar

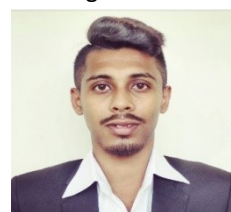
On September 28-29, 2021 a two-day training on Portable Rice Mill was organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kokrajhar in collaboration with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) under Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project (APART). A total of 20 members each from two Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) namely Milon Self Help Group CHC and Luit Custom Hiring Centre attended the program. Dr. Manoj Kumar Bhuyan, Senior Scientist and Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kokrajhar, inaugurated the training program and addressed the participants about the importance of present-day mechanization in farming and rice processing and highlighted the importance of portable rice mill. Before starting the training, a pre-training evaluation test was given to the participants to know the status of their knowledge about rice processing and portable rice mill.



Mr. Saurajyoti Baishya, Specialist, IRRI, arranged an interactive session with the participants and described the process of milling, its various parts, advantages of the mill, business opportunity and model for portable rice mill and its repair and maintenance. Mr. Saurabh Kumar, company technician, demonstrated all the parts of rice mill along with its repairing and maintenance and the working principle of mill during the program. On the next day, the participants tried their hands on operating the machine and engaging themselves in adjusting different parts of the machine. They learnt about the crucial points like moisture content at the time of milling, petrol consumption and other factors in operation and post-operation of the machine. Mr. Gopal Chandra Roy,

Research Technician, KVK, Kokrajhar and Mr. P. Srichandan, Research Technician, IRRI helped in smooth conduct of the program. 300 kg of paddy (*variety Swarna-Sub1*) was processed during the training program. After the program, a post-training evaluation sheet was provided to the participants to ascertain how much knowledge they acquired from the training, and all the participants showed up with good results. Dr. Gitasree Goswami, Project Associate, Mr. Hemanta Borkakati, Assistant Project Scientist, Mr. Gopal Chandra Roy, Research Technician, KVK, Kokrajhar actively participated in the program. All the participants were actively involved in the demonstration. The training ended with the vote of thanks.

Contributor: Hemanta Borkakati, Assistant Project Scientist, KVK, Kokrajhar



Series-6 Training on Portable Rice Mill (Tractor-operated) Conducted at KVK, Barpeta

To train the members of the FPCs, to enhance the skills of the machine operators and to generate employment, a series of trainings are planned in this year under APART project. As a part of this great initiative, 3 series of trainings have already organised in Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Barpeta & the latest training was on “Portable Rice Mill”. In APART, the KVK had already handed over the machinery to the FPCs to run Custom Hiring Center (CHC) across the district. Portable rice mill is one of the most popular machinery among the farmers community. To train the members of the FPCs, the training was conducted on September 24-25, 2021 at KVK, Barpeta with active participation of the farmers of the 3 respective districts viz. Barpeta, Nalbari & Darrang. A total 20 members of the FPCs participated in the training i.e., 6 members of FPCs from each district & 1 research technicians each from Nalbari and Darrang. The training program was hosted by Mr. Hemanga Das, Project Associate & inaugurated by Sr. Scientist & Head Dr. A.K Deka. The technical session was carried out by Mr. Mridupaban Mudoi, Junior Researcher, IRRI. In that technical session the farmers were informed about the portable rice mill, its working, different parts etc. by the IRRI personnel.



Contributors:



Hemanga Das, PA, APART, KVK, Barpeta



Mridupaban Mudoi, Junior Researcher, IRRI

Rice Knowledge Bank Usage Training held at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kamrup

A one-day training program on usage of Rice Knowledge Bank website of Assam was organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kamrup on September 28, 2021. A total 30 participants, including 18 males and 12 females, participated in the training program. The program began with an address to the participants and sharing the objectives of the program and various activities of KVK Kamrup with respect to the APART, particularly in collaboration with IRRI by Komedy Chamua, APS APART KVK Kamrup. Dr. Kasturi Goswami (Junior Researcher, IRRI) emphasized on modern farming



practices and prospects of non-chemical pest-control methods and described about the launch of Assamese and English version of Assam Rice Knowledge Bank portal (www.rkbassam.in) to bridge the gap between research and rice production practice and explained how it will address the challenges for agricultural development by supporting fast and effective transfer of technologies from laboratory to farmer's field. Arup Jyoti Kakati and Ananta Gogoi (Research Technician, APART, KVK, Kamrup) helped in smooth running of the program.



Dealer Meeting held at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kamrup

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kamrup, in collaboration with International Rice Research Institute, organized a one-day Dealer Meeting on September 29, 2021 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kamrup where 20 participants from different seed and fertilizer dealers/ retailers and 10 progressive farmers from Sristigami Farmer Producer Company participated in the training program. Komedit Chamua, APS APART, KVK, Kamrup addressed the participants and shared the objectives of the program and various activities of KVK Kamrup with respect to the APART, particularly in collaboration with IRRI and highlighted the purpose of the training program.

Dr. Rahul Priyadarshi, Scientist, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) highlighted the activities under APART and emphasized how to increase productivity and profitability of small and marginal farmers in rice-based cropping system. The participants were told about different stress-tolerant rice varieties that should be adopted under different climatic condition and discussed about the performance of the different varieties. Moreover, the linkage between the farmers and the seed/fertilizer/pesticide dealers was strengthened through the program. Arup Jyoti Kakati and Ananta Gogoi (Research Technician, APART KVK Kamrup) helped in smooth running of the program. The queries of the participants were successfully addressed in the training program and they provided positive feedback.



Demonstration on Rice Value Chain under KVK, Kamrup

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kamrup in collaboration with IRRI organized a demonstration on Rice Value Chain at village Godebori, block Chayani Barduar on September 30, 2021 in which 36 farmers including 33 farm-women, participated in the program. Komedit Chamua, Assistant Project Scientist, APART, KVK Kamrup briefly informed the farmers about the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kamrup and ongoing APART Project along with other related international organizations and their role in technical guidance.

Further, farmers were informed about different Stress-Tolerant Rice Varieties (STRVs), value addition of rice, paddy procurement centres and also discussed about the minimum support price and how it helps farmer to get better realizations for their produce. Dr. Kasturi Goswami, Junior Researcher, IRRI discussed about rice value chain and its significance in present-day scenario. Importance of different farm machineries was highlighted in the program. Mr Ananta Gogoi, Research Technician, APART helped in smooth conduct of the program. The working principle of solar bubble dryer (0.5 ton) was demonstrated during the program. In an interactive session, solutions were suggested by the experts to the queries raised by the farmers. The participants felt encouraged and willing to go for value addition of rice in future.



Contributors



Ms. Komedit Chamua, APS, APART, KVK, Kamrup



Dr. Kasturi Goswami, Junior Researcher, IRRI-APART

Field Testing of Rice Knowledge Bank at RARS, North Lakhimpur

On September 28, 2021 a day-long meeting for field testing of Rice Knowledge Bank (RKB) was organized by Regional Agricultural Research Station, North Lakhimpur under Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART). The program was graced by presence of Dr. Tarun Ch. Mahanta, Principal Scientist RARS, North Lakhimpur, Among others Jr. Scientist Dr. Nripen Gogoi, Jr. Scientist Bibha Ozah, Project Scientist, APART Debahash Buragohain, Project Associate, Porismita Dutta, and Research Technician, Champak Saikia attended the program. Besides, the participants from District Agril. Office, Lakhimpur, farmers from different villages attended the program.

The training program started with a welcome address by Porismita Dutta and she also briefed the objective of the program. Dr. Tarun Ch. Mahanta described the objectives of APART and the activities that are going on under APART. Mr Debahash Buragohain while convening the technical session gave a detailed introduction of the user-friendly mobile application "Rice Knowledge Bank, Assam" available in two different languages viz. English and Assamese and in progress for Bengali and Bodo. He explained every section in the portal which included rice in Assam, varieties, step by step production, details of the extension functionaries present in the district, etc. to the participants. In addition, he also discussed cultivation practices of rice including nursery management, timely application of fertilizers, pesticides, weedicides and importance of postharvest machinery. The program included an observation session where the participants actively participated and this informative programme was appreciated by everyone.



Contributor: Ms. Porismita Dutta, Project Associate, APART, RARS, North Lakhimpur

One-day Training on Resource-Efficient Crop Management Methods and Best Management Practices of Rice under APART, KVK, Dhubri

A one-day training on 'Resource-Efficient Crop Management Methods and Best Management Practices of Rice' under APART was held at Nidani village, under Chapar-Salkocha block of Dhubri district on October 1, 2021. Dr. Parvez Ahmed (Assistant Professor of Agronomy, SCS College of Agriculture) and Dr. Rupak Kr. Nath (Asst. Professor of Entomology, SCS College of Agriculture) were present as resource persons. The training was initiated by Mr. Bikash Jyoti Gharphalia (SMS, Agrometeorology) who gave a brief introduction of the program. It was followed by a brief introduction of APART and the various activities under the project. by Mr. Akhoy Jyoti Bharadwaj, Junior Researcher, IRRI.



Dr. P. Ahmed led the training by a lecture on best management practices and various other aspects related to paddy cultivation. It was followed by the lecture of Dr. R. K. Nath on IPM practices in rice as well as other crops. Dr. Nath laid special emphasis on controlling pests with minimum use of chemicals and various ITKs to control insect-pests and diseases, and rodents. It was followed by Mr. A. J. Bharadwaj who presented a brief description on modern paddy storage practices laying emphasis on the use of IRRI Super bag. Lastly, there was an interactive session between farmers and the resource persons. The training was attended by a total of 30 farmers.

Contributors:



Akhoy Jyoti Bharadwaj, Junior Researcher, IRRI



Bikash Jyoti Gharphalia, SMS, Agrometeorology, KVK, Dhubri

Demonstration of Postharvest Machinery by KVK, Nalbari

The second postharvest machinery demonstration was successfully conducted on September 28, 2021 by APART KVK, Nalbari with the technical support of IRRI in Panigaon village under Pachim Nalbari Development Block. The program commenced with the welcome speech by Mr. Rupam Deka, Research Technician, APART, KVK Nalbari. During the first session of the program Mr. Dipankar Kalita, Project Associate, APART, KVK, Nalbari briefly informed the gathering about the APART project and its activities. He also elaborated about the Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) where the machinery related to the rice value chain are available for the use by the farmers on hiring basis.

Mr. Kalita also briefly explained about the working procedure of Krishi Vigyan Kendra and encouraged the farmers to contact the staff at KVK to resolve their queries. Mr. Amlandeep Saikia, Junior Researcher, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), in the second session of the program briefly explained about the different machinery and their uses during paddy cultivation and encouraged the farmers to contact the district CHCs to avail the services.

He also informed the participants about the moisture meter and also advised them to sell their paddy through PPC. Mr. Saikia ended his session by demonstrating IRRI Super Bag to the participants. Thirty participants from the village took part in the program.



Contributors:



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



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