

APART: RICE WEEKLY **(May 30 –June 4, 2022)**

Focus group discussion under APART, KVK Dhubri

A Focus group discussion of the Custom Hiring Center (CHC) members of Dhubri District with Scientists of KVK Dhubri and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) was organized under Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART) on June 1, 2022, at KVK, Dhubri campus. Two groups of farmers were present, with 15 number of participants in each group.

The programme started with the welcome speech by Ms. Rimjim S. Bora (Assistant Project Scientist, APART). Thereafter, Dr. Ranjit Sarma (Associate Dean, SCS College of Agriculture) addressed the gathering. It was followed by a speech by Dr. Suryakant Khandai (Associate Scientist, IRRI) and Ms Puja Rajkhowa (Junior Researcher, IRRI), where they briefed about the purpose of the discussion. The technical session was guided by IRRI scientists, wherein they asked questions to the members to collect their feedback regarding the functioning of the Custom Hiring Center. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr. Akhoy Bharadwaj (Junior Researcher, IRRI).



Contributors :



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Quality Seed Production Training by KVK, Karbi Anglong

On June 1, 2022 a training programme on Quality Seed Production (QSP) was organized under APART at KVK, Karbi Anglong with 25 participants. The training programme started with the welcome address by Ms. Krishnali Gogoi, Project Associate, KVK, Karbi Anglong, wherein she enlightened about APART and briefly described the objectives of the training programme. Mr. Vivek Kumar, Specialist, IRRI, delivered a lecture on the classes of seed, importance of seed cleaning, seed treatment methods and importance of good quality seeds in crop production. The process involves the dissolving of common salt in a bucket of water and adding egg to the solution, eventually waiting for the egg to float on the surface of the solution then soaking the paddy seeds in the solution with gradual stirring and allowing the healthy seeds to settle down followed by discarding the unhealthy seeds found floating on the surface of the solution. The seed treatment was done by adding 2g of

chlorothalonil in 1 litre of water for 1kg seed. The farmers actively participated in the training programme.



Focus Group Discussion held under KVK, Karbi Anglong

On June 1, 2022, a focus group discussion with AgriHorti Farmers Group FPC, Lumbajong and Dansiling Farmers Group, Dhansiri Custom Hiring Center (CHC) was organized under APART at KVK, Karbi Anglong with 25 participants. The programme was started with the welcome address by Ms. Krishnali Gogoi, Project Associate, KVK, Karbi Anglong. IRRI Specialists, Mr. Vivek Kumar and Mr. Sarujyoti Baishya had technically guided the programme. The main objective of the programme was to evaluate the participants about their knowledge and awareness on access of different facilities provided after becoming a member of FPC and Custom Hiring Centre. Specialists from IRRI asked various questions to collect the feedback of farmers related to Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) under the Farmer Producer Company (FPC). The programme was successfully completed with the vote of thanks by Ms Renuwara Parbin APS, APART, KVK, Karbi Anglong.



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Demonstration on Laser Land Leveler Organized by APART- Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Nagaon

A laser land leveler is a tractor attached device which is used to level the undulated soils for precise agricultural operations, better water management and increasing productivity. The laser land leveler uses laser for levelling the soils. The advantage of this device is that it not only levels the soils but also reduces weed growth, makes the distribution of irrigation water uniform as well as reduces time required for irrigation and hence decreases the amount of water usage in irrigation thus leading to substantial savings in water. In this year 2022, one laser land leveler was introduced through APART in Nagaon for the farming community. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Nagaon organized 4 ha demonstration on laser land leveler under APART. In this Sali season, under APART, KVK, Nagaon is going to conduct 4 ha of dry direct seeded rice (DSR) demonstration in Raha Development Block. In the selected fields for sowing of dry-DSR, the demonstration of laser land leveller was conducted between June 1, 2022 and June 3, 2022. The demonstrations were carried out by Research Technicians viz., Mr. Govind Singh, Mr. Janmejy Biswal and Mr. Durlov Ch. Kalita.

Before Leveling



After Leveling



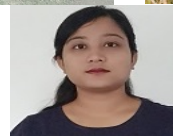
Celebration of Field Days-cum-Crop Cutting Organized under APAR Tby Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Nagaon

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Nagaon organized a crop cutting programme along with field days on early *Ahu* paddy demonstration fields under APART on Learning Centre Demonstrations (LCD). Three numberof field days were celebrated on May 31, 2022, June 1, 2022 and June 2, 2022 at village Borongatali-Samoguri, Aaibhetisatra and Jaramari, respectively. The main objective of conducting field days was to spread awareness on the newly introduced high yielding varieties among the farmers. The programmes were coordinated by Ms. Bidisha Borah, APS, where she explained all the APART activities till date including promotion of Stress Tolerant Rice varieties (STRVs), Premium Quality Rice (PQR) varieties, farm mechanisation, etc. The crop cutting process was initiated by the Research Technician, Mr. Debojit Bhuyan. During the crop cutting various data were collected at field using Kobo Collect mobile application by Ms Bidisha Borah.

The farmers were very much satisfied with the crop performance during the ongoing *Boro*/early *Ahu* season.



Contributor:
Bidisha Borah, APS, APART



Participatory Varietal Evaluation of Rice Variety Cafeteria at Goalpara under HRS, Kahikuchi

On June 03, 2022 a participatory variety evaluation on *Boro* rice variety Cafeteria was conducted at Kankata, Goalpara under APART, HRS, Kahikuchi. Evaluation of total 10 varieties namely Binadhan 11, Binadhan 10, Binadhan 17, Kanaklata, Joymoti, Lalganga, BRRI-75, CRR Dhan310, MTU 1156 and DRR Dhan 44 was done by farmers of Kankata village. The variety Cafeteria on *Boro* paddy was planted with progressive farmer, Mr. Afjalur Rahman. In the programme, Senior scientist of HRS, Kahikuchi Mr. J.K. Sarmah; Junior Scientist of HRS, Kahikuchi and APART In-charge, Mrs. Ranjita Bezbaruah; IRRI, Junior Researcher Mr. Mridupawan Mudoi; APART staff of HRS Kahikuchi, Mr. Madhujya Bikash Borah (Project Associate); Ms Kasturi Goswami (Assistant Project Scientist); Mr Bhaskar Boruah (Research Technician); Mr Anurag Khound (Research Technician) and Mr Bolin Rajkhowa (Research Technician) were present. The programme started with the welcome address by Mrs. Ranjita Bezbaruah, who briefed about rice varietal Cafeteria and the main objective of the programme. Mr. J.K. Sarmah interacted with the farmers and told them about different activities under APART project and how the farmers can avail benefits from agriculture and farming. Mr. Mridupawan Mudoi, briefed the farmers about the evaluation process of the ten varieties planted in Cafeteria and evaluation was accordingly done by farmers and scientists. Crop cutting and data collection was also done for eight varieties of the cafeteria which were in harvesting stage. The whole programme went smoothly with cooperation of APART staff and with technical support from IRRI.



Contributors :



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Training and Demonstration on Postharvest Machinery, APART, KVK, Cachar

A training as well as demonstration on postharvest machineries was conducted at Darmikhhal by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Cachar, Assam Agricultural University under the World Bank sponsored 'Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project' (APART) on May 31, 2022. The training was organized for the farmers of Palonghat FPC. The programme was attended by 70 farmers including both male and female. The meeting was attended as resource person by Mr Devamitra Tarafdar, Project Associate, APART, KVK, Cachar; Mr Rituraj Gogoi, Assistant Project Scientist, APART, KVK, Cachar; Mr Abu Sahid Barbhuiya, Research Technician, APART, KVK, Cachar; and Mr Ajit Kumar, Research Technician, IRRI. The board members of Palonghat FPC were also present at the event. Mr D. Tarafdar inaugurated the event and gave an overview of the project. A brief lecture was given by Mr Tarafdar about the working procedure of APART and the ways how the project is trying to develop the farmers in various sectors. Further he made the participants aware about seed production and advised that it will provide higher returns to the farmers. Afterwards, the program continued with the demonstration on various machines by Mr R. Gogoi and Mr A. Kumar which included cost efficient machines that can be used

right from sowing till postharvest. At the end of the training many of the farmers expressed their interest in adoption of various modern machineries for cultivation of rice in the upcoming *Sali* season. The meeting came to an end with the vote of thanks by Mr R. Gogoi.



Contributor:
Devamitra Tarafdar, Project Associate,
APART, KVK, Cachar



Conducted Demonstration and Training Programmes on Postharvest Machinery successfully at Bhitha Village by APART, KVK, Nalbari

A demonstration and a training programme on postharvest machineries were successfully conducted under Assam Agri-business & Rural Transformation Project (APART) on **May 31, 2022** at Bhitha village by KVK, Nalbari with the technical support of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in presence of 61 numbers of participants of the locality.

The programme started with the welcome address given by **Mr. Pranjit Bharali**, Asst. Project Scientist, APART, KVK, Nalbari. There after **Mr. Ambika Charan Sarma**, SMS Agronomy, KVK, Nalbari briefly elaborated about the project as well as the Training and demonstration. Mr. Sarma briefly described about various paddy varieties, their characteristics and nutrient management system. The both programmes were technically guided by the IRRI specialist **Mr. Amlandeep Saikia**. During the technical session he presented a brief demonstration on use of Moisture meter, IRRI super bag, etc. He also talked about uses of Super bag, Moisture meter and other machineries which are generally used after harvesting of the paddy, such as Solar bubble dryer, portable rice mill, thresher, etc.

During the last part of the programme **Mr. Bharali**, APS, APART talked about the various mechanical methods related to paddy cultivation and their benefits. The both programmes were successfully carried with the help of **Mr. Rupam Deka**, Research Technician, APART, KVK, Nalbari. The training & demonstration programme were successfully ended with the vote of thanks given by **Mr. Pranjit Bharali**.



Contributors:



Dipankar Kalita, PA, APART, KVK Nalbari



Pranjit Bharali, APS, APART, KVK, Nalbari

Focus Group Discussion at Regional Agricultural Research Station, Shillongoni, Nagaon

A Farmer's Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted on June 2, 2022, at Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS), Shillongoni, Nagaon under APART, in collaboration of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and Assam Agricultural University (AAU). Total 30 participants from Luitporia Agro-producer Company attended the meeting in the presence of [Dr. Dinesh Hazarika](#), Principal Scientist, RARS, Shillongoni, Dr. Pankaj Kumar Deb Choudhury, Principal Scientist, RARS, Shillongoni, Dr. Pabitra Kumar Bordoloi, Principal Scientist, RARS, Shillongoni, Dr. Arunima Deb Choudhury, NFSM State Consultant, APART honorary consultant, Dr. Sharmee Gogoi, PA, APART-AAU, Ms. Eleza Boro, APS, APART-AAU, Mr. Parth Pratim Borah RT, AAU-APART, IRRI experts and interns from Tezpur University. FGD was facilitated by the IRRI team consisting of two experts namely, Ms. Nomi Sarmah, Specialist, IPM; Ms. Bhanita Kalita, Consultant and two interns from Tezpur university -Ms. Puja Upadhyay and Ms. Hemasri Mishra.



Group members of Luitporia Agro-producer Company with scientists of RARS-AAU & IRRI

Active participation of farmers during the discussion.



Interaction of scientists and farmers.

The FGD was conducted with the primary objective of learning the shared experience of the farmers upon joining FPC, including the benefits reaped and constraints faced. The discussion also specifically focussed on technologies delivered by APART through FPCs. The discussion was started with a welcome address by Ms. Nomi Sarmah, which was followed by addresses of dignitaries at RARS, Shillongoni. The farmers shared the positive feedback on STRVs such as Ranjit Sub-1, Bahadur Sub-1, Swarna Masuri Sub-1, BINA dhan-11. They acknowledged the advantages, like submergence tolerance as well as higher production upon using the mentioned varieties which led to a profit of Rs-1000-1500 per bigha. The farmers were introduced to these varieties by APART team of RARS through their FPC after 2018. The members mentioned that they started cultivating newer crops like okra, brinjal, cole crops, strawberry, millet and G-9 variety of banana in previously fallowed lands after joining the FPC. Many other benefits such as improved seed access, increased information on best management practices, increased access to trainings were made possible because of the membership in FPC. Many farmers were able to sell their produce to PPCs and received higher prices for the produce, as their FPC facilitated the process to linking them to these centres.

Joining the FPC made them well acquainted with the machineries provided by APART. A few of the farmers also acknowledged that the trainings facilitated to FPCs through APART trained them in running the machines. Mechanical transplanter, Seed-cum-fertilizer drill, Drum seeder, battery operated Sprayer and Reaper are the most demanded machines. Training on quality seed production so that seed production can be done on a commercial scale and increased availability of machines were the immediate requirements put forth by the FPC. The program concluded with vote of thanks from Ms. Sharmee Gogoi, APS, APART-AAU.

Contributors



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Study on Consumption Pattern of Rice and Rice Based Products in Assam

A study on “Consumption pattern of rice and rice-based products in Assam” was conducted by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in association with Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services, Society (ARIASS), Assam. Four enumerators which included two summer interns, Ms Hemasri Mishra and Ms Puja Upadhyay, from the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University, an IRRI staff, Ms Bhanita Kalita and an AAU staff, Mr Nayan were engaged for the field survey of the study, which was in progress for a duration of three months. The study involved 750 randomly selected consumer households/respondents under cluster sampling from the urban/rural areas of four districts of Assam viz Sonitpur, Jorhat, Kamrup and Hailakandi. The survey majorly focused on rural areas of these 4 districts which were implemented by the interns as part of their internship. Kamrup Metro was considered for the urban segment from which a limited sample of 150 respondents were covered. The main respondent of the survey was chosen to be that individual in the household, who normally goes grocery shopping and engages in preparing meals for the household.

The survey was conducted with the objective of learning the consumption pattern of rice and rice-based products and the related behavioral dimensions of consumer decisions in the state of Assam. Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) software named "Kobotoolbox" was used for field data collection. Diversity in the consumption of rice was explored through elaborate questions meant to understand the variation in rice-based diet in an Assamese household. Major parameters such as average consumption of rice/rice-based products, frequency and occasion of their consumption, rice varieties used for their preparation, choice of rice/rice based dishes for different occasions, etc were measured, for distinct demographic, social and income profiles, through posing questions from the structured questionnaire prepared. Different aspects on source of purchase, distance of the source, mode of payment, etc., were also measured for these segments. The respondents were also adequately facilitated in answering the questions through the display of props such as measuring containers, pictures and tables which furthered their understanding. The questionnaire had a specific section devoted to specialty rice/premium quality rice where consumer valuation and preferences for important grain attributes of the 3 specialty rice varieties namely Red Rice, Black rice and Joha rice were explored. A small stated experiment on valuation of these varieties, so as to measure consumer willingness to pay for these varieties and the cognitive bias (anchoring bias) displayed in the procedure, was implemented in association with the survey. This was done through displaying different



samples of above-mentioned specialty races, which varied in grain quality, to the consumer respondents divided into 6 subsamples based on needs of the experiment.

The study is meant to throw light on the rice-based consumption pattern of Assam whose rural residents are highly dependent on paddy cultivation for their livelihood. The results would aid us in framing plans to manage deficit/surplus paddy production of the state for rice, after meeting consumption requirements of the state. The study will also further our understanding on the preferences towards premium quality rice varieties so that niche marketing can be undertaken for these promising races



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