

AAU

Newsletter

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From Vice-Chancellor's Desk ...

Entrepreneurs in the making.....

The changing global scenario has made the AAU realise to put its efforts to create an eco-system for entrepreneurship development by constantly trying to upgrade the skills and capacities of its students and teachers through various skill-oriented academic programmes. The University aims to segregate undergraduate students in the 2nd year 1st semester into different groups based on their interests and prepare them accordingly through group mentoring as stated in the University Action Plan 2021-25. The mission is to bring gradually but surely a change in the student psyche to make them believe that they can become "Job-creators" instead of merely being "Job-seekers". For this purpose, AAU has already established an Agri Business Incubation Centre called North East Agriculture Technology entrepreneur HUB (NEATeHUB) at the Jorhat campus. It is being funded by the Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog and RKVY-RAFTAAR scheme of DAC & FW, Govt of India. The centre aims to encourage student-led innovation supported by faculty-facilitated mentoring—culminating in commercialized technologies and sustainable ventures in agricultural and allied sectors in the region. AAU understands the future of the Nation lies at the hand of the productive generation. Young and bright minds moulded in the right way can achieve anything. In this line of thought, a second Incubation centre is being planned to be established at AAU, Khanapara campus.

The immense potentiality of agri-entrepreneurship as sustainable and promising ventures can be gauged by the fact that Indian agri-startups raised investments to the tune of almost USD 1 billion during the year 2021 as per a FICCI-PWC Agri startup report Jan 2022. These facts and figures are easier said than done, but AAU has set its goal to play its part sincerely and dedicatedly. AAU has already designed the course and preparing accordingly. As a starter, selected/nominated faculty members will be sent for the Entrepreneurship Orientation Programme (EOP). The selection/nomination process will not be arbitrary for the faculty members. They will be selected/nominated following a standard procedure. The selection/nomination of the faculty members will be based on their leadership qualities, liking for hard work and innovative

mindset. Our primary goal is to select/nominate 100 faculty members. The cohort of 100 will then be split into groups of 25 each and sent for Entrepreneurship Orientation Programme (EOP) in various incubators, entrepreneurship-related Institutions etc to undertake the programme. Faculty members, after the completion of their trainings will be encouraged to undertake similar programmes for the students and other faculty members showing the requisite zeal and inclination.

The students of the University will be active participants in this ambitious project. They will be introduced to the above programme early on, in the second year of graduation; they will be encouraged to look into the technologies developed by AAU and are ready for commercialisation. The students who get into the second year and exhibit the requisite traits based on psychometric tests will be encouraged to work on their ideas and technologies. They will be sent to proven entrepreneurship-related Institutions. Better still, they will be mentored here at AAU by their teachers who are already trained. The student-entrepreneurs will be simultaneously pursuing their studies as well as working on their products. Necessary support infrastructure for the fabrication lab, robotics lab, simulation space, prototyping, etc, will be set up speedily for use by these interested students. As the students graduate, at the end of the four years, these products may find a place in the market due to this structured mentoring and facilitation process. Seed money in the form of grant-in-aid will be provided for deserving student-entrepreneurs.

I believe that this programme may usher in a new era in the annals of the history of Assam Agricultural University and for that, we need to have the collective will and courage to start something new.



Bidyut C Deka



SPECIAL FEATURES

Crop Show on Mechanical Transplanting of Paddy under APART

Mechanization in paddy farming is the key for doubling farmers' income and also to change the Agricultural scenario of Assam said by Honourable Agriculture Minister of Assam Mr. Atul Bora on 18th of July, 2021 in Borpak village, Bokakhat Development Block in connection with the "Ceremonial Mechanical Transplanting of Salipaddy" under APART, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Golaghat. A crop show of mechanical transplanting was also organized and Honourable Agriculture Minister of Assam Mr. Atul Bora has inaugurated the programme and encouraged the farmers by transplanting the paddy by Mechanical transplanter. The programme was held in the paddy field of Mr. Pradip Das & his wife Mrs. Bhanu Das, a dynamic and progressive farmer duo from Borpak village. A total of 15 bighas of land was transplanted through mechanical transplanter and the variety was Bahadur sub 1 as the location is severely affected by flood. In this village nearly 90 bighas of paddy land has been covered through various demonstration under APART, KVK, Golaghat for the year 2021-2022.

The programme was started with the welcome addressed by Dr. Bhabesh Ch. Deka, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK, Golaghat followed by a speech by Honourable Agriculture Minister Mr. Atul Bora followed by demonstration in the paddy field. In his speech Honourable Minister has enlightened the importance of mechanization in agriculture sector and its benefits to reduce production cost and to increase profitability. He also requested educated youth to take farming as a profession and make Assam as one of the five best state among India in coming five years. All the scientist of KVK, Golaghat, APART staff and IRRI scientists were present and technically supported for smooth conduction of the demonstration. Farmers of this village was satisfied by seeing the technology and by having Honourable Agriculture Minister at their village.



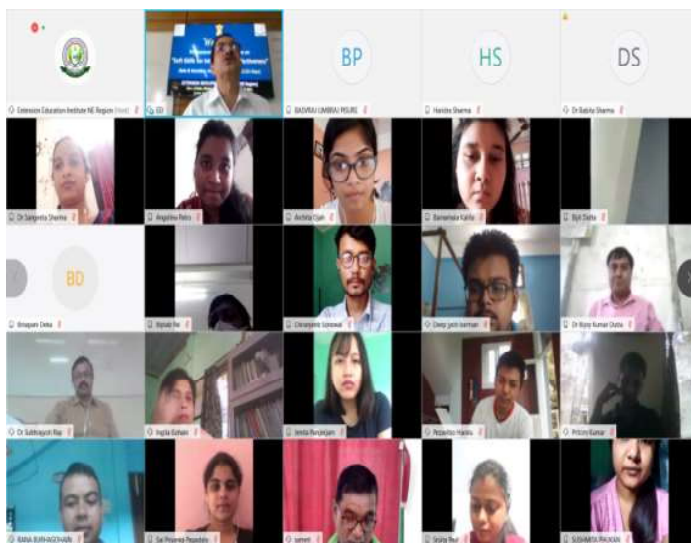
Management Committee Meeting held

The 28th Meeting of the Management Committee of Extension Education Institute (N E Region), AAU, Jorhat was held on April 26, 2021 under the Chairmanship of Dr B C Deka, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU in order to discuss various matters relating to the smooth functioning of the Institute. Dr P K Neog, Director, EEI presented the Progress Report presenting highlights of achievements. Esteemed members shared ideas in planning various matters for the future including sustaining the quality of training provided and reviewed of various Action Research Projects.



Innovative methods and tools applied

Innovative methodology of organising on-line training could draw adequate attraction to the EEI Programmes. The innovative IT based methods included "Break-out sessions", "Interactive sessions", "Virtual Field Visit" even during Covid lockout situation, "Online Panel Discussion" "Use of Video Tutorials" etc. Demonstration and use of the Digicid platform in few sessions could draw lot of interest amongst participants. Competent Resource Persons were selectively invited keeping a focus on the National priorities / GOI Flagship Programmes as well as Schemes to address the issues of the farming community



SPECIAL FEATURES

of the NE Region while conducting the training programmes.

During April to September 2021, a total of 967 participants attended the training programmes out of whom 472 were females and other 497 were males. The feedback received from the participants mostly ranged from 'Excellent' to 'Very Good'. Regular follow-up measures have been made with participants in order to facilitate application of their learning in their job situations.

The institute has been also conducting various Contact Classes of the PGDAEM Programme of MANAGE, Hyderabad.

Action Research Project

An Action Research Project entitled 'Community Participation for farming as an enterprise' since 2020 is an on-going project. Training and Demonstrations were organised based on the needs and problems of the people identified through various PRA exercises and community meetings in various locations by adopting the "One Village: One Commodity" approach. Thus Litchi Village, Mango village, Ber Village, Vermi Village and Mushroom villages are coming up in various locations under the direction of Dr P K Neog, Director, EEI along with regular support and guidance of the EEI faculty and staff viz Dr S Borua, Mrs Madhusmita Dutta, Dipanjali Saikia and Kishore Saikia.



Important meeting attended by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor

- Attended the 8th Foundation Day of SCS College of Agriculture, Dhubri
- Visited facilities of Veterinary Clinics at TNUVAS, Chennai
- Attended Vice Chancellors' Conference at New Delhi
- Visited facilities of seed chain of UAS, Bengaluru
- Visited the incubation centre of University of Agricultural Science, Bengaluru

AAU Foundation Day observed

KrishiVigyan Kendra, Sonitpur observed Foundation Day of Assam agricultural University on 1st April, 2021 at its office campus. The AAU flag was hoisted by Head, KVK, Sonitpur. In connection to this an extempore speech competition was organized among the RAWEP students of AAU stationed at KVK, Sonitpur. A swachhta programme was also organized.



ACHIEVEMENT

- Prof. M. K. Modi acted as guest speaker on the topic -Genome wide association studies in Bengal and Assam Aus Panel at University of Aberdeen on 7-11 June, 2021
- Dr. M Barooah was invited to Indian Institute of Management, Shillong (IIM) as Speaker in North East Summit on Food Processing Building Partnership for inclusive growth in Food Processing Sector
- Dr, Bibha Chetia Borah acted as Invited speaker for National Seminar on Covid 19- impact on aquaculture practices, organised by Adikavi Nannaya University, Andhra Pradesh on 22nd June, 2021.
- Dr, Bibha Chetia Borah Acted as resource person for virtual training programme on Potential of Integrated fish culture in NE India organised by NFDB- NER on 9th Sept, 2021
- Organized Adapt NET WEBCON 2021 on Climate-Smart Technologies for Agriculture and Industry: Challenges and Prospects Online from DBT-NECAB, AAU, Jorhat on July 28, 2021





Nath, one of the board directors of Shymol Farmers' Producer Company Ltd, Jamugurihat described the benefits they received from the Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) established under



APART program by KVK Sonitpur at Seunichuk, Jamugurihat. The program was organized in presence of District Agriculture Officer, Sonitpur and a few of his staff, KVK Sonitpur staff and a few nos of farmers and farm women.

World Breastfeeding Week

KrishiVigyan Kendra, Sonitpur observed "World Breastfeeding Week" from 1st to 7th August, 2021 with the theme Protect Breastfeeding: a shared responsibility. In this regard KVK, Sonitpur conducted one awareness programme on "Importance of breastfeeding", one training programme on "Preschool children in the pandemic situation of COVID 19" and shared some awareness messages and videos in social networking sites. The awareness and training programme was conducted virtually on 6th August to make the extension functionaries dealing with mothers and child aware about the importance of breastfeeding. Dr. Promod Chandra Deka, Head, KVK, Sonitpur welcomed all the participants and briefed about the objective of the training. Dr Arifa Momtaz Begum, Subject Matter Specialist (Community Science) discussed about the importance of breastfeeding and responsibility of the other family members for the nursing mother. Responsibility of the parents, family members and extension workers for the preschool children during the COVID 19 pandemic was also discussed by Dr. Tulika Borah, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Development and Family studies, College of Community Science, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. She emphasized on different activities to be given to the children for wholesome development. The training was attended by supervisors, anganwadi workers and farm women from different parts of the district. The programme was also attended by scientists of KVK, Sonitpur and ended with vote of thanks offered by Dr. Arifa Momtaz Begum.

Rice crop Cafeteria opened under APART

A crop cafeteria or rice varietal cafeteria was inaugurated at Borpothar, Jamuguri under APART programme of KVK Sonitpur on 18th of August, 2021. The programme started with



the welcome address by Dr. Roji Chutia, SMS, Agronomy, KVK, Sonitpur. She welcomed all the dignitaries and farmers and highlighted the basic objectives and criteria of the crop cafeteria. The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Dr. Pradip Kumar Borah, Director, NERIWALM, Tezpur. Addressing the participants, he lauded the initiative of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur for preserving and popularising the local rice varieties and also highlighted the use of machineries related to irrigation and urged the farmers to take up different post harvest operations using machines to reduce labour cost, time and drudgery. Dr. Promod Chandra Deka, Head, KVK, Sonitpur highlighted the activities performed in Sonitpur district under APART programme. He also narrated the qualities of paddy varieties introduced in the cafeteria and also motivated the farmers to preserve the local varieties. Three flood resistant rice varieties Ranjit Sub-1, Bahadur Sub-1 and Swarna Sub-1, two premium quality rice varieties Kola Joha and Kunkuni Joha, one medium duration variety Sharboni and four local varieties Lucky Sali, Chokuwa Kumol, Nol Bora and Jalpania were transplanted in the cafeteria. The best among these will be selected after studying the characters like drought resistant, pest resistance and other desirable characters. KVK Scientists, APART Staff and more than thirty nos of farmer and farm women attended the programme.

Azadi Ki Amrit Mahotsav-Health And Nutrition of Farmers

In the series of events under "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", ICAR is organizing one National level campaign every month. The theme for the month of August 2021 is "Food and Nutrition for Farmers". In connection to this Krishi





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Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur celebrated Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on 26th August, 2021 at its office campus. Highlighting the purpose of this celebration, Dr. Promod Chandra Deka, Head, KVK, Sonitpur emphasized on the nutritional security of the farmers and advised the gathering to popularize integrated farming for enhance nutrition and income. In connection to this a training programme was being organized for the farmers and farm women. Dr. Arifa Momtaz Begum, Subject Matter Specialist (Community Science) in her lecture detailed about the health and nutrition of the farmers, children and mothers. Importance of fruits and vegetables for a balanced diet was discussed by her. She also emphasized on biofortified crop varieties to combat the nutritional deficiencies. Fortification of different traditional recipes was also discussed by her. Health benefits and cultivation practice of mushroom was discussed by Mrs. Sanjukta Saikia, Subject Matter Specialist (Plant Protection). She also emphasized on bee keeping for nutritional benefit and for doubling income. Awareness on Jal Shakti Abhiyan was also given to the participants. Webcasting of the National level campaign for the month of August organized by ICAR was also done at KVK, sonitpur where farmers, farm women and youth participated from different parts of the district. Scientist from KVK, sonitpur Dr. Namita Dutta, Subject Matter Specialist (Soil Science), Dr. Roji Chutia, Subject Matter Specialist (Agronomy) and other officials were also present in the programme and interacted with the participants.

National Campaign on 'AYUSH Apke Dwar Mein'

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur celebrating the "AYUSH Apke Dwar Mein " as part of Azadi ka amrit mohatsav on 1st September, 2021 at Seunichuk village of Jamuguri. The programme was organized in the Seunichuk village of Naduar block. Dr. Promod Chandra Deka, Head , KVK, sonitpur inaugurated and explained the objective of the program to the participants. In his speech he emphasized on importance of medicinal plants for our health and asked the participants to conserve the local medicinal fauna of Assam. Mrs Angana Sarmah, Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture) highlighted the importance of Pippali and blackpepper for human health along with their scientific cultivation. Mr Dinesh Das, Anchalik Panchayat Member of Naduar, address the gathering and made them aware about the importance of our traditional medicinal plants. In connection to the programme, 250 number of Pippali and 250 numbers of black pepper seedlings were distributed and planted. Block development officer, Mr

Palak Sarmah, Naduar Development block also graced the occasion and shared his views. In her speech Dr. Arifa Momtaz Begum, Subject Matter Specialist (Community Science) elaborated the medicinal value and value addition of some of the locally available medicinal plants. Mrs Sanjukta Saikia, Subject Matter Specialist (Plant Protection) explained about plant protection measures for Pippali and black pepper. The programme was attended by more than 40 farmers and farm women of different parts of the district. The Board of Directors and members of Shyamol Farmers Producer Company collaborated the programme. Mr. Anjan Nath, BoD of Shymol FPC anchored the programme and Mr Paresh Nath, President, Seunichuk Gaon Unnayan Samiti offered vote of thanks.



15 days training programme for Agricultural Input Dealers

Inauguration of a 15 days training programme for Agricultural Input Dealers was done at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur campus on 20th September,2021 which will be continued till 4th October, 2021. The training is jointly organized by Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat and District Agriculture Office, Sonitpur. Dr. Arifa Momtaz Begum, In-charge, Head, KrishiVigyan Kendra, Sonitpur, Sonitpur welcomed the dignitaries and input dealers for the training programme. Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Bhupesh Chandra Das welcomed the participants and emphasized on the necessity of creating awareness among input dealers regarding knowledge of agricultural inputs.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Hareshwar Das, Assist. Director of Agriculture elaborated about impact of weather parameters on crop production, global warming and good agricultural practices for the farmers. Mr. Diganta Thapa,





SDAO, Sonitpur also welcomed the inputs dealers, and described about the 15days programme, its prospects and advantages of the programme to the dealers. Agricultural Inspector, Mr. Vivek Saikia highlighted about the different agril. Inputs and their uses in crop production. All about 25nos. of input dealers participated in the training programme. The Inaugural session was anchored by Dr. Namita Dutta, SMS (Soil Science) and ended with the vote of thanks by Mrs. Sanjukta Saikia, SMS (Plant Protection)



Balance use of Fertilizers

Farmers Awareness Campaign on balance use of Fertilizers was organized on 18 / 06 / 21 at KVK Chirang where 20 nos of participants from Kisan Gosthi attended the programme.

International Yoga Day

International Yoga Day, 2021 was celebrated at KVK Chirang on 21/ 06 / 21 with the participation of 17 nos participants.

National Fish Farmers Day

On 10.07.21 National Fish Farmers Day was celebrated at KVK Chirang. 15 numbers of participants participated the programme.

ICAR Foundation Day celebrated

ICAR Foundation Day was celebrated on 16 / 7 / 21 with the participation of 24 numbers participants.

National level Campaign

National level Campaign on Food and Nutrition for

Farmer's under Azadi ki Amrit Mahotsav was celebrated on 26 / 8 / 21 at KVK Chirang with the participation of 34 numbers participants.

National Campaign on Ayush Apke Dwar under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav was celebrated on 1/ 9/ 21 at KVK Chirang with the participation of 62 numbers participants.

National Campaign on Poshan Vatika Maha Abhiyan and Tree plantation programme was celebrated on 17/9/21 at KVK where 92 numbers farmers and 33 numbers Kanyas attended the programme.

Significant achievements of KVK, Dhemaji

Inauguration of distribution cum plantation programme under "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" held on 01.09.2021 at Matikhula, Dhemaji

National Campaign on Poshan and Tree Plantation held on 17.09.2021 at Simen Chapori

Agriculture Input Dealer training for 15 days from 20.09.2021 at Silapathar

Awareness given on COVID 19

To make the people aware about COVID 19 KrishiVigyan Kendra, Sonitpur has taken some awareness drive. Advisories were given to the farmers through social media like whats app, facebook and in personal mobile numbers.

Training and Demonstration on Post-Harvest Machineries

A training and demonstration programme on post-harvest machineries was organized under APART at village Kundarbari, Dekargaon by KVK Sonitpur. Dr. Rupam Borgohain, Nodal Officer, APART also attended the programme and elaborated about mechanization in rice cultivation and also encouraged the farmers to develop custom hiring centres for agricultural machineries as a business model in their villages. He discussed about the importance of mechanization in present system owing to scarcity of labour and increased labour charges. During his speech, Dr Borgohain also asked the farmers to develop different types of marketing strategies for sale of their agricultural product to earn better income. Earlier, Dr Arifa M Begum, In charge Head of KVK Sonitpur also





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emphasized on importance of agricultural machineries in present scenario and also encouraged the farmers to go for proper post-harvest management and value addition to increase their income. Mr. Sauraj Jyoti Baishya (Specialist, IRRI) acted as a resource person and presented the technical knowhow of different agricultural machineries including rice mill, reaper and thresher. He also explained in details about functioning of some of the machineries and tools available at the farmers' field. The farmers showed keen interest in the programme. Around thirty farmers from the village and nearby areas along with APART staff of KVK Sonitpur attended the training programme. After completion of the training programme, Dr Borgohain also visited Shyamol Farmer Producer Company and Custom Hiring Centre promoted by KVK Sonitpur at village Cheunichuk, Jamuguri and interacted with its members. Later, he also visited Rice Varietal Cafeteria where ten numbers of rice varieties were cultivated together in 2000 square meter area and few other rice demonstration plots and advised the farmers to follow best management practices and go for multiple cropping systems to increase their yield and income.



PoshanVatika Mahabhiyan

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur organized PoshanVatika Mahabhiyan along with tree plantation programme on 17th September, 2021. Dr Arifa Momtaz Begum, in charge Head of KVK, Sonitpur welcomed all the dignitaries and participants and briefed about the objective of organizing the programme. She emphasized on inclusion of millet and millet based products in our diet. Mrs Bakul Roy, instructress of Anganwadi Training centre, Tezpur acted as resource person and elaborately discussed about malnutrition and ways to overcome it. She also discussed about the ways to minimize nutrient loss during process-

ing and cooking. Mrs Morjina Begum, President, Napam Gaon Panchayat emphasized on role of plantation for successful livelihood. President of Parbatia Gaon Panchayat Mrs Jamini Kalita in her speech mentioned about the importance of establishing nutrition garden in the house-



hold as well as public places. Mrs Naba Sarmah, a social worker and Secretary of Mahila Morcha, Sonitpur explained about the health benefits of locally available indigenous fruits and vegetables. In connection to the National campaign on International Year of Millets 2023, Poshan Vatika Mahaabhiyan and tree plantation, seeds of some vegetables provided by NEH component were distributed to the participants. Saplings of fruits and some medicinal plants were also distributed. The programme was anchored by Mrs Sanjukta Saikia, Subject Matter Specialist (Plant Protection) and vote of thanks was offered by Dr Namita Dutta, Subject Matter Specialist (Soil Science). Miss Rupsikha Goswami, APART staff of KVK, Sonitpur supervised the millet based recipe competition. Prior to starting of the programme, Nutricereals Multi-stakeholders Mega Conclave, and Poshan Vatika and Tree plantation Campaign event for International Year of Millets 2023 organized by ICAR- IIMR Hyderabad was webcasted by KVK, Sonitpur.





Training Programme on Portable Rice Mill

A two day hands on training programme on Portable Rice Mill was organized under APART at KVK Sonitpur in collaboration with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). A total of twenty farmers from Shyamol Farmer Producer Company of Jamugurihat and Rupali group of farmers (Custom Hiring Centre) of Lakhimpur district attended the training programme. Rupsikha Goswami, Assistant Project Scientist (APART) welcomed the participants and explained the objectives of the programme. Dr Arifa M Begum, In charge Head of KVK Sonitpur emphasized on importance of agricultural machineries in present scenario and also encouraged the farmers to go for proper post-harvest management and value addition to increase their income. Mr. Sauraj Jyoti Baishya (Specialist, IRRI)



acted as a resource person and presented the technical knowhow of portable rice mill. He also explained in details about operation, repair and maintenance of the rice mill. In the beginning of the programme, pre evaluation sheets were distributed among the farmers to judge their knowledge regarding the operation, maintenance and overall functioning of the rice mill. The farmers showed keen interest in the programme. Mr P. Srichandan (RT, IRRI) also actively participated in the training programme and showed the operation of milling in the machine. After completion of the training programme, post evaluation test was conducted to judge the knowledge of the farmers after their hands on session.

Training Programme under APART

A two day training programme on “Post Harvest Machineries” under APART was organized by KVK Sonitpur on 19 th and 20 th August, 2021, at KVK, Sonitpur campus Dr. Promod Chandra Deka, Head, KVK, Sonitpur elaborated

about the mechanization in rice cultivation as now be-



coming a necessity among the farmers of Assam owing to the scarcity of labour and increased labour charges. Mr. Nitesh Gupta, Project Scientist (Post harvest) OPIU_APART, AAU, Jorhat acted as resource person who presented the technical knowhow of different agricultural machineries and tools. Mr. Gupta explained in details about the functioning of some of the machineries and tools provided to the KVK, Sonitpur under the APART project. He also demonstrated Solar bubble dryer, moisture meter and super bag. The farmers showed keen interest on machineries demonstrated in the programme. More than 25 nos. of farmers from different parts of the district and all officials of KVK, Sonitpur attended the programme. Earlier, Dr. Roji Chutia, SMS, Agronomy as well as Nodal Officer, APART of KVK, Sonitpur welcomed the farmers on the occasion. She also emphasized the importance of agricultural machineries in the context of present agriculture.

Webcasting of PM’s programme

In connection to the Azadi Ki Amrit Mahotsav, Hon'ble Prime Minister addressed the farmers on Climate Resilient Agriculture Technologies on 28th September which was organized by Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Hon'ble Prime Minister also interacted with some of the selected farmers from different parts of the country. The programme was webcasted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur where more than 200 farmers participated. Hon'ble Prime Minister released 35 numbers of new crop varieties and encouraged the farmers and agricultural scientists for promotion of nutritionally rich or biofortified crop varieties. Emphasized was also given on mechanization in the field of agriculture and popu-





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larization of climate resilient crop varieties to increase the agricultural production. Prior to start the programme, Dr. Arifa Momtaz Begum, in charge Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur welcomed the participants and explained the objective of the programme. After Prime Minister's address, a powerpoint presentation on climate resilient agriculture was given by Dr. Namita Dutta, Subject Matter Specialist (Soil Science). A farmers Scientist interaction was conducted by Mrs Sanjukta Saikia, SMS (Plant Protection) and Dr. Roji Chutia, SMS (Agronomy) where the problems of the participants were discussed and solved. Seeds of some rabi vegetables and some fruits saplings were distributed among the farmers and farm women present in the programme.

Strengthening of Farmer Producer Company(FPC) on Rice Value Chain through mechanization

Two days training on strengthening Farmer Producer Company on Rice Value Chain through mechanization was held under APART at KVK Sonitpur. The training was attended



by a few members of Shyamal Farmer Producer Company of Sonitpur district through offline mode and virtually by the members of Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) of Lakhimpur district. Addressing the participants, Mr. Prakash Ch Bora, District Agriculture Officer of Sonitpur district stressed that mechanization is a must for today's farming and thus it can be further utilized for improving the agriculture scenario of Assam. He further stated that Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur along with District Agriculture depart-

ment of Sonitpur district will provide guidance and help to the Farmer Producer Company. Earlier, Head, KVK Sonitpur, Dr. Promod Chandra Deka welcomed the participants and advised the farmers to improve value chain through cultivation of crops like rice, maize, blackgram etc. He further suggested the farmers to go for establishment of more custom hiring centres and Farmer producer Companies which will further enhance self employment among the rural youth. In his speech, Head KVK Lakhimpur, Dr. Prasanta Kumar Pathak who joined virtually the training, also highlighted different activities going on under APART. He also advised the farmers to cultivate stress tolerant rice varieties (STRVs) through mechanization which will further increase income of the farmers. Mr. Anjan Nath, Director of Shyamol Farmer Producer Company Limited gave a brief report on the activities covered under in the present year. He also stated that different demonstrations are being conducted in the present Sali season with the help of rice transplanter, drum seeder and seed drill under the technical guidance of KVK, Sonitpur and IRRI. Dr. Suryakanta Khandai, Associate Scientist of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and Mr. Vivek Kumar, Specialist of IRRI acted as resource person for the training and provided valuable guidance in planning different activities under the FPCs promoted by KVK Sonitpur and Lakhimpur, respectively. Dr. Roji Chutia, Subject Matter Specialist (Agronomy), Dr. Arifa M Begum, SMS (Community Science), Dr. Namita Dutta, SMS (Soil Science), Dibyarishi Bhattacharyya, Junior Researcher (IRRI), Mr. Hareswar Das, Assistant Director of Agriculture of Sonitpur district and all the APART staff of KVK Sonitpur and Lakhimpur were also present in the meeting.

NEWS FROM ATIC

Farmers' visit : A total of 831 farmers visited ATIC and were provided advisory services.
Products sold : Paddy seeds of different HYV, vegetables, Biofor-PF, tea, jaggery, etc. were sold.

ATIC continues to be an active collaborator in Gyan Yatra Programme of Govt. of Assam

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