



AAU

Newsletter

Vol. 49, No. 4&1
December & March, 2021-2022

From Vice-Chancellor's Desk ...

Ambitious Aspirational Undertaking.....

'Changing with the time' is the persistent buzzword, and Assam Agricultural University, with a positive outlook, is trying to put its steps in the right direction. The university has been selling its products in an unplanned manner, till now. A university like AAU must move with time and change itself in certain spheres. Branding AAU products is one of the areas in which the university has taken the requisite initiative with the right perspective. To bring visibility and give identity to AAU products, the university brand 'AAUselect' (AAU service for energizing and leveraging economically competitive take-up) with the tagline 'we nurture, we serve' is going to be launched very soon. The tagline is in tandem with the very idea and philosophy for which this university stands for.

The trademark registration process has been initiated to make the brand the sole property of AAU. Once the trademark is registered, efforts will be put in place to make the products under the brand 'AAUselect' popular among consumers. As it will be directly related to marketing, barcoding the products will be important for streamlining record keeping. AAU is going to register its barcode with the GS1 for facilitating electronic scanning of the products. In addition, for storing information both horizontally and vertically, the Quick Response (QR) code will also be provided on the marketed products of AAU to enable the consumers to see the details of the products.

'AAUselect' has a well-defined brand idea. The products branded under 'AAUselect' will be perceptual entities and will be rooted in reality. The stakeholders including the farming community will be at the forefront of the target consumers. The university understands that no brand can survive on one-time consumers. Repeat customers are essential for any brand to survive. We are confident that AAU will be able to live up to the brand promise and fulfill the brand mission which will eventually play a positive role in expanding the target market and consumer base.

Apart from the processed and perishable farm products of the AAU headquarters, other products having promising business potentialities from all the four faculties, research stations and Krishi Vigyan Kendras of the university will be



brought under the ambit of the 'AAUselect' brand. Branding will also be incorporated in the intellectual outputs of the university like books, annual reports, newsletters, bulletins, the package of practices, leaflets, brochures, hoardings and such services.

The university is going to establish a central selling-cum-display stall at a suitable place at the AAU headquarters in Jorhat to sell/display the AAU products under the brand 'AAUselect'. The expansion drive will be done in a phased manner where similar selling-cum-display stalls will be established at promising locations of other campuses/outstations. All the selling cum display stalls will be interlinked electronically to a centralized facility to monitor the activities.

There may be a risk of failure. The university has taken this calculated risk and the risk is well worth it. The bottom line is if one does not take risks because of fear of failure; there is no way to learn how to achieve success.



SPECIAL FEATURES

22nd CONVOCATION OF AAU

The 22nd convocation of Assam Agricultural University was held on 3rd March, 2022 at Jorhat campus which was presided over by His Excellency, the Governor of Assam and the Chancellor of the university, Prof. Jagdish Mukhiji. Addressing the convocation of the university, Acharya Jagdish Mukhi expressed that by using agricultural resources rationally and by handling the natural disasters, wisely bio-economy may emerge as a new model for industry and economy which can ensure the economic

and dreams of all those involved in agriculture and farming.” He gave a detailed account of the role played by the university in the field of agricultural education, research and extension.

Speaking on the occasion, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of Assam, Shri Atul Borah, said “The younger generation should take initiatives in the field of agriculture. An entrepreneurial mindset should be nurtured to propagate commercial agriculture management by emphasizing the importance of a meaningful market. Agricultural production and



security the of farmers and all those involved in agriculture. Speaking at the Madhav Chandra Das Memorial Auditorium of the university, he said that although natural disasters at different times have taken a toll on human life and livelihood, it is a gift of nature to have rich and abundant rainfall. He further added that with the introduction of farming methods, farmers have started cultivating with the help of suitable technologies and the transition from traditional agriculture as a whole has taken place. Noting that the agricultural sector has made a significant contribution in the nation-building process, which was well reflected he said that it has become very significant during the COVID pandemic period. He mentioned that Assam Agricultural University has also played a significant role in this direction. The Governor further emphasized that the younger generation should focus on their own goals and move forward in a devoted manner.

On the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor of the university, Dr. Bidyut Chandan Deka in his address stated, “Our university has some collective dreams. We want to build ourselves as a leading state in agriculture and allied sectors. Our dream is to establish ourselves in the country by fulfilling the aspirations

the acquisition of knowledge in this direction has contributed a great deal to elevate the agricultural sector as a whole. The country is now taking steps to alleviate poverty and hunger in the country through sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition security, employment and so on.”

University Registrar, Shri Tapan Gohain led the academic procession and Dr. Ajanta Borgohain Rajkonwar, Vice-Chancellor, Assam Women’s University, stated that “Economic upliftment can be provided to the farmers through proper marketing and export of agricultural inputs with the acceptance of Act East Policy, new opportunities can be created and a new breed of farmers may come up throughout the states of South East Asia. In that sense , all those who get a degree today must not be job seekers but job providers so that the upcoming generation can remember you as pioneers of change in future.”

The governor was accompanied by Trilochan Mohapatra, internationally renowned agricultural scientist and Secretary to the Department of Agriculture Education and Research, Govt. of India and Director, Council of Agricultural Research, and Kushal Kowar Sharma, internationally renowned veterinarian and Professor and Head, Veterinary surgery and



SPECIAL FEATURES

radiology at College of Veterinary Sciences, Khanapara, who were conferred honorary doctorate degree by the University.

A total of 1369 undergraduate, postgraduate and Ph.D. degrees were awarded in this convocation which was conducted by hybrid mode (online and offline). In this programme, 47 students who excelled in different Faculties of the university were awarded gold medals and cash prizes from different branches of the university. The convocation was attended by Bhabendra Nath Bharali, MLA, MPs Tapan Kumar Gogoi and Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Forest man Padmashree Jadav Payeng, District Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Barman, Superintendent of Police Ankur Jain and many other dignitaries.

REGIONAL AGRICULTURE FAIR, 2022

Assam Agricultural University organized Regional Agriculture Fair, 2022 from 12th-14th March, 2022 at its Jorhat campus. All the states of the north-eastern region including Sikkim participated in the fair. The hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Border Areas Development and Assam Accord Implementation, GoA, Shri Atul Borah inaugurated the three-day regional Agriculture Fair. Rajya



Sabha MP, Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa and several other dignitaries graced the inaugural function.

The welcome address was delivered by AAU Vice Chancellor Dr. Bidyut Chandan Deka. A souvenir and several books were released on the occasion and five progressive farmers of the north-eastern region were felicitated. Speaking on the inaugural ceremony, Shri Atul Borah emphasized on the fertility of Assam's lands and said that farmers with small holdings can increase production if they utilize their land and resources in proper manner. "once the production is stepped up, then Assam's agri-products can have a sizable share in markets outside the north-eastern region," the Minister stated. Hoping that the agro-economy of the State would improved significantly, for which our youth must come forward to take up farming as a paying carter.

FIRST EVER PHYTOTRON FACILITY DEDICATED ON THE OCCASION OF NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY AT AAU, JORHAT

The DBT North-East Centre for Agricultural Bio-technology, Assam Agricultural University has established a state-of-the art Phytotron Facility with funding from the Department of Biotechnology, GoI. A brief inaugural ceremony was organized as a part of the National Science Day and the IVth Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of the DBT-NECHAB DURING 28th February, 2022 to 2nd March, 2022.

NE India's first controlled plants growth facility was



inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, AAU, Dr. Bidyut Chandan Deka in presence of the officials of the DBT, GoI, Dr. A. Aslam, Senior Consultant, DBT-ILS, Dr. T. Madhan Mohan, DBT-APSC, S & T Skill Vigyan, Kimin, Arunachal Pradesh, experts in the area of Plant Biotechnology and all Deans and Directors of AAU. Dr. T.J.V. Higgins, Chairman of the SAC, joined the event online via video-conferencing.

Inaugurating the facility, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Deka lauded the contribution and efforts of the center for yet another achievement. He emphasized that the student and scientific community should make the best use of the facility and assured that the University would support the facility in every possible way to contribute in scientific research throughout the NE India. He emphasized that in the wake of the current climate-change scenario, this facility will contribute in evolving climate resilient agriculture throughout the region.

The Director of DBT-NECAB, Dr. B. K. Sarmah informed that the inauguration of the Phytotron has added value to plant biotechnology research in the region. Dr. Sarmah added that the facility is aimed to cater to research involving live-plant responses to changing environments. The facility will also support the mass maintenance of tissue-cultured plantlets. Services will also be provided to other institutions and organizations both within and outside the NE region.

Dr. M. Aslam and Dr. T. Madhan Mohan congratulated Dr. Sarmah for making the Phytotron functioning. They stated that it was a well-timed development and the DBT hoped to receive valuable outputs by utilizing the facility.



SPECIAL FEATURES

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP AT ASSAM AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

In line with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a week-long workshop on “Improving Skills through the Impact Analysis of Agricultural Technology Information in Population Science” was organized in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Agricultural Statistics, New Delhi during 11th-16th March, 2022 through both online and offline mode. The workshop was attended by 50 researchers/scientists, 30 enterprising farmers and 20 students from different universities across the country and abroad. Useful sessions were conducted by five international level professors and 21 national level professors during the course of the workshop.

At the inaugural function organized by the Department of Agricultural Statistics and Agricultural Engineering of AAU, Dr. Anup Kumar Barooah, Director, Toklai Tea Research Centre, while inaugurating the workshop, generation of an authentic database is of prime importance, be it in food security by issue or quality products, which can be linked with the market. In order to address the new challenges facing agriculture, more emphasis need to be placed on the proper analysis of data. Technical information so generated will be extensively be used rather than merely moving forward on the basis of speculative problem-solving.

Participating in the online programme at the inaugural function chaired by Dr. Jatyanta Deka, Dean faculty of Agriculture, AAU, Dr. Rajendra Prasad of the Indian Institute of Agricultural Statistics, New Delhi said that by collecting quality information in a timely manner, and through proper management and evaluation of the information, complex problems can be solved. Dr. Chupahi Mohanty, Asst. Professor (Agricultural Statistics) and Organizing Secretary also spoke on the occasion considering the importance of accurate data analysis.

Dr. Bidyut Kumar Sharma, Coordinator and Professor, Department of Agricultural Statistics, delivered the keynote address. In his speech, Dr. Sharma said that agriculture in India is on the verge of transformation into a big business. Information science has also moved in this direction by combining research with information technology. All our farmers have to be educated in this direction. This will enable them to establish themselves as successful farmers and agri-entrepreneurs. Another Coordinator Ms. S. Boruah, Asst. Professor (Agricultural Statistics) gave a detailed of the workshop organized by the department.

Important meeting attended by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor

- Attended the 21st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society of Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal at Delhi
- Delivered lecture on ‘Atma Nibhar Axom : Yuba Prajanmar Bhumika aru Dayitwa’ at Nalbari Natya Mandir.
- Attended IAUA 45th VC's Conference at Birsa Agricultural University
- Participated in Bee Village inauguration programme at Nagaon
- Attended interaction programme with farmers on Integrated Farming System with Dr. G. R. Chintala, Chairman, NABARD at KVK, Barpeta
- Attended General Body Meeting (GBM) of North-East Agricultural Technology Entrepreneurs Hub (NEATEHub) at Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati
- Attended Foundation Day programme of College of Fisheries Science, AAU, Raha
- Attended the inaugural session of International Buyer Seller Meet at Hotel Taj Vivanta, Guwahati organized by APEDA

Participation in North-East Food Show Organized By Directorate of Food Processing, Govt. of Meghalaya

Mrs. Ranjana Deka, Assistant Food Microbiologist, AICRP on PHET, Deptt. of Agricultural Engineering attended North East

Food Show, 2022 and represented Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat as an invitee in VIP category from the Directorate of Food Processing, Govt. of Meghalaya. During the event, she witnessed the participation of food processing enterprises from various parts of India and other international companies, policy makers, buyers, vendors, and other stakeholders linked to food processing industry with the product category ranging from fruits and vegetables to spices and meat. Mrs. Deka also explored shared and gained knowledge on the vast scope

of food processing sector from the conferences sessions and panel discussions which will help her to guide the students for opting the food processing course in the near future and can nurture the young minds for entrepreneurship development in the state by various support programmes offered by the Govt. of India.



SPECIAL FEATURES

ACHIEVEMENT

- Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India nominated Madhumita Barooah as member of the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) on **Life Sciences** under Women Scientists Scheme-A (WOS-A). WOS-A is one of the flagship programmes of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) that provides opportunities to Women Scientists and Technologists who had a break in their career to return to mainstream research.
- Dr. Debajit Das, PhD scholar from Department of Agricultural Biotechnology, AAU, Jorhat got selected as a post doctoral fellow. He has been hired by Dr Dipak Santra, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, USA for a period of one year.
- Dr. Robin Chandra Boró's project proposal "Development of Prodigiosin Encapsulated Particles For Agricultural Disease Management" has been selected by AAU under the theme "GENERATION OF PROCESSES AND PRODUCTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF FARMING COMMUNITY AND AGRIPRENEURS".
- Dr. Basanta Kr. Borah's project proposal "Application of the Gut Microbes of Greater Wax Moth (*Galleria mellonella*) as Efficient Plastic Polymer-degraders " has been selected by AAU under the theme "GENERATION OF PROCESSES AND PRODUCTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF FARMING COMMUNITY AND AGRIPRENEURS".
- 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 a Member of District level Implementation Committee for Prime Minister's Matsya Sampada Yojana(PMMSY), Jorhat District.
- 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

EEI (N E Region), AAU, Jorhat Training/Workshop programmes conducted

From Oct, 2021 to March, 2022 a total of 18 Training/Workshop programmes were conducted. A total of 604 participants attended the programmes out of which 300 were females. Quality study materials and informative video clips were shared substantially. The Training programmes were rated by most participants either as 'Excellent' or 'Very Good'.

Regional Workshop held

The Regional Workshop on "Training Planning for NE States" was organized by the Extension Education Institute (NE Region), AAU, Jorhat in online mode on February 22, 2022 at EEI

(NER), Jorhat conference room. Dr. P. K. Neog, Director, EEI chaired the Meeting and exhorted on the need for regular and quality training to competently serve the farming community in the N E Region. A total of 43 number of representatives of each SAMETI from 9 NE states participated in the workshop along with representatives from the Directorate of Extension (DOE), Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), GOI.

Action Research

An Action Research entitled Value Addition and Market-



ing of Ethnic Rice based Products of Assam has been initiated during the period. The Project has been continuing with the objectives of promoting entrepreneurship development of value-added ethnic Rice –based

Products and experimenting on the group approach for its production and marketing. The Project has generated mass interest and sensitized a considerable number of farm women to go for setting up their own enterprise in the line. the programme was Coordinated by Mrs. Madhusmita Dutta and Dr. Dipanjali Saikia, RAs, EEI.

200 hrs- Skill Development Training Programme held

The institute has also conducted two Skill Development Training Programmes under Agriculture Skill Council of India of during 2021-22. The training programmes were:

1. Skill Development for 'Beekeeper' conducted during March 04, to March 26 2022. (Course Director: Dr S Borua, Faculty, EEI, Resource Person: Dr Mukul Deka, Principal Scientist, AAU and Coordinated by Mr Kishor Saikia)
2. Skill Development of 'Community Service Provider' held from March 05, to March 29, 2022. (Course Director: Dr. C. Deka, Faculty, EEI, Academic Coordinators: Dr Tulika Boruah & Dr Samprity Gogoi, CCSc)





Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of Assam Mr. Atul Bora encouraged the youth farmer of Golaghat District for farm mechanization

A one day training programme on "Post Harvest Machineries" was conducted on 13th November, 2021 at Borpak village organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Golaghat with an objective to provide knowledge on various post harvest machineries. The programme was graced by the Honourable Agriculture Minister of Assam, Mr. Atul Bora and he interacted with the farmers. Director of Extension Education, Dr. Prasanna



Kumar Pathak and Senior Extension Specialist, Dr. Phuleswar Nath were also present and they shared valuable information on *Sali* paddy cultivation and stressed on importance of climate resilience technology and encouraged farmers to adopt double and triple cropping to generate optimum income from farming. Scientists, staffs and APART officials from KVK, Golaghat were also present and interacted with the farmers. Scientists and research technician of IRRI demonstrated various technologies to the farmers such as the use of IRRI super bag, moisture meter, seed cum fertilizer drill and paddy reaper so that farming communities could come forward and be able to invest in scale-appropriate agricultural machinery and can provide services to other farmers on a fee-for-service basis. In the participatory discussion, the Honourable Agriculture Minister of Assam Mr. Atul Bora himself harvested paddy by using paddy reaper.

Swachhta Campaign

KVK, Sonitpur is working towards the safe environment. On 02.10.2021, 25 nos of farmers along with KVK staffs cleaned the KVK campus. Dr. Arifa Momtaz Begum, In charge Head made the farmers aware about the Swachhta programme and encouraged them to go for a clean environment with plastic free. At the end of the programme, KVK, Sonitpur distributed 20 nos of dustbin in public places.

Farmers' Training cum Demonstration programme at Nalbari District

Farmers' Training cum demonstration programme was held at Barbhag (Nalbari district) on 18th April, 2022 organised by AICRP on PHET followed by another programme under SCSP at Solmara (Nalbari district) on 19th April, 2022 organised by AICRP on IWM. A total of 40 farmers were present in both the training programme. In the training programme held on 18th April, the farmers were benefitted about different post harvest technologies while in the training programme held on 19th April, the farmers were trained on various irrigation water management technologies which will be applied during kharif season. Er. Ranjana Deka took the lead for organizing the training cum demonstration programme which was held at Barbhag (Nalbari district) along with other resource persons namely, Homeswar Mazumdar, KVK Nalbari and Er. Kabyasree Choudhury, AICRP on IWM. The training programme which was held at Solmara (Nalbari district) was led by Er. Kabyasree Choudhury along with other resource persons Dr. Ambika Charan Sarma & Homeswar Mazumdar from KVK Nalbari and Ranjana Deka, AICRP on PHET, Jorhat.

Empowering Women Group toward Income Generation - An initiative of KVK, Bongaigaon

As one of the goals of SHGs is to make the rural women economically sound, KVK, Bongaigaon under the discipline of Community Science has taken initiative to strengthen the women SHGs of different Villages of Bongaigaon district in various fields such as processing and preservation of locally available fruits and vegetables, cutting and tailoring, preparation of value added jute product etc. Bajitpara is a village under Boitamari block of Bongaigaon district. KVK Bongaigaon empowered RAMDHENU SHG of this village by imparting training on Value addition in Mushroom as well as processing and preservation of locally available fruits and vegetables in the month of January, 2022. Ms. Roshmi Rekha Saikia, SMS (Community Science) imparted the training which covered labeling and marketing of the prepared products. Special focus was given on value addition in mushroom as "Oyster mushroom" is produced by the farmers in a large scale in this village. After completion of the training programme the members of this SHG developed the skills of preparing the products like mushroom pickles, jam, jelly, squash, Sauce, pickles from locally available fruits and vegetables etc. The RAMDHENU group consisting of 15 women has now started preparing and selling the products in local village shops, different Melas, rural Mart etc. KVK, Bongaigaon helped them in labeling of their products through online registration under Food Safety and Standards authority of India (FSSAI) for the product. On the occasion of International Women's Day held on 8.3.2022





at North Boitamari their product was launched with the brand name "SHIVA". Now the Ramdhenu SHG started earning @ Rs 20000/- per month through selling of nearly 1500 nos. of bottles of net weight 100 grams and 200 grams .

External Sponsored Training Conducted by KVK, Chirang

1. 1st batch of Training of Agricultural Input dealer was held at KVK-Chirang from 21st September to 7th October, 2021. The training was attended by 25 numbers of participants from Chirang district. 2nd batch of training of Agricultural input dealer was held at KVK Chirang from 17th February to 3rd March 2022. The training was attended by 25 participants. Various topics related to agriculture and marketing was delivered by various resource persons. 6 days Skill training for Rural Youth under MANAGE on 'Piggery rearing and management' was held at KVK Chirang from 13th to 18th September, 2021 with the participation of 28 numbers of progressive farmers.

2. 5 numbers of Capacity buildings programme were conducted by KVK, Chirang on Pig rearing and management (18-20th January, 2022), Commercial management of scientific goat farming (7-9th February, 2022), Production and Scientific management practices of Dairy farming (10-12th February, 2022), Production and scientific management practices of poultry and duck farming (7-9th March, 2022) and Disease management in livestock including vaccination schedule. 40 numbers of practicing farmers from different parts of Chirang district attended in each training programme.

3. Another training on Cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants was organized by KVK Chirang during 23rd and 24th March, 2022 in the conference hall of KVK Chirang. 25 numbers of farmers and rural youth from various villages of the district participated in the training.



Vocational Training programme conducted

1. A five days vocational training on Entrepreneurship development of rural women through processed food products made from locally available fruits and vegetables was conducted from 17-21st August, 2021 at KVK Chirang. 20 numbers of participants participated in the training programme.

2. A six days vocational training programme on Mushroom cultivation for economic upliftment was conducted during 7-12th January, 2022 at KVK Chirang. 25 numbers of practicing farmers participated in the training programme.

15 days training programme for Agricultural Input Dealers

A 15 days training programme for Agricultural Input Dealers was successfully completed at KrishiVigyan Kendra, Sonitpur campus from 20th September, 2021 to 4th October, 2021. The training was jointly organized by Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat and District Agriculture Office, Sonitpur. The dealers were taught about different agricultural aspects like Suitable cropping systems for existing agro- ecological situations, Macro and Micro nutrient deficiencies in soil and their symptoms and managements approaches, Different type of fertilizers and their methods of applications, Classifications of pesticides, Integrated Nutrient Management –principles and practices etc. and many other topics like different types of farm machineries and their component, repair and maintenance of farm implements and machineries, Rural credit- Micro finance, crop insurance etc. A day long field visit to Farm Machinery Testing and Training Institute (FMTTI), Biswanath Chariali was organized and practical demonstrations were also conducted. Two numbers of examinations were also conducted among participants during the training programme. In the last day, Manoj Kr. Narzary, Sr. ADO delivered a lecture on "Rural Credit- Micro Finance, Crop insurance, Introduction to PMFBY" to the participants.

In the Valedictory session, Mr. Prakash Borah, DAO, Sonitpur congratulated all the participants for successful completion of the training programme and wished that the knowledge gained by the participants during the training would be helpful for them in near future. Speaking in the valedictory, Mr. Hareshwar Das, Assist. Director of Agriculture, said that this handful of knowledge gained by them were the basics of agriculture and participants have to be aware about agricultural inputs in future. Mr. Diganta Thapa, SDAO, Sonitpur also congratulated the input dealers for completing the training programme successfully and thanked them for their co-operation. A training Manual was also inaugurated and distributed among the dealers. Mrs. Sanjukta Saikia, I/C Head, KVK, Sonitpur thanked the participants for their co-operation during the training programme. She also thanked the Deptt. Of Agriculture, organizers of the training programme, all the ADOs, who delivered the lectures during the training. At the end, certificates for successful completion of training programme were distributed to the dealers. The Valedictory session was anchored by Dr. Roji Chutia, SMS (Agronomy), KVK, Sonitpur and Course Co-ordinator of the programme and the whole training was supervised by the Course Director, Dr. Namita Dutta, SMS (Soil Science), KVK, Sonitpur.

Participatory varietal field day of Rice variety cafeteria conducted under KVK Sonitpur

A participatory varietal field day of Rice variety cafeteria was conducted under APART, KVK Sonitpur at village Borpathar, Jamugurihat under Naduar development block. The programme was attended by 35 farmers from the village and nearby areas. A total of 10 varieties viz., Ranjit-sub 1, Bahadur-sub 1, Swarna-sub 1, Jalpania, Kola Joha, Kunkuni Joha, Chokuwa Kumol, Lucky Sali, Nol Bora and Shrabani were transplanted in a 2000 square



meter area in the village with a purpose to evaluate the best varieties amongst them on the basis of plant height, tillering ability, disease and pest resistance, grain type, lodging resistance and grain yield. Dr. Roji Chutia, Subject Matter Specialist (Agronomy) of KVK Sonitpur welcomed the participants and discussed briefly about the objectives of the programme. Mr. Dibyarishi Bhattacharjya, Junior Researcher of International Rice Research Institute discussed about the significance of the diverse group of varieties including stress tolerant rice varieties (STRVs), local varieties and some premium quality rice varieties (PQR). The participants were asked to evaluate the best varieties amongst all based on the above attributes and were thereby asked to include them in their seed production system. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Miss Rupsikha Goswami, Assistant Project Scientist under APART. Mr. Goutam Borah and Mr Debajit Bhuyan, Research Technicians under APART also actively participated in the programme. The farmers were very much benefited from such programme and provided their valuable feedback at the end.

Training on post harvest machineries and field day on Sali paddy organized by KVK Sonitpur

A training programme on post harvest machineries and field day on Sali paddy was organized at village Naharani under APART by KVK Sonitpur with technical support from International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). The main objective of the training was to impart knowledge to the farmers about different technologies which are required to be adopted during harvesting time and after harvesting. A total of 35 farmers from the village and nearby areas attended the training programme. Palash Thengal, Project Associate under APART welcomed the participants explained the basic objectives of the programme. Rupsikha Goswami, Assistant Project Scientist under APART explained the importance of proper post harvest management in increasing farmer's income. Dibyarishi Bhattacharjya, Junior Researchers of IRRI acted as a resource person for the programme and was assisted by Goutam Borah and Debajit Bhuyan, Research Technician under APART of KVK Sonitpur. In his lecture, he gave a brief overview of the stress tolerant rice varieties introduced in the village under APART. Also, he emphasized on importance of proper time and maintenance of proper moisture level of paddy during harvesting. Different machineries that can be used during harvesting and after harvest were also introduced to the farmers. Towards the end of the programme, the farmers were aware about paddy procurement centres and minimum support price for sale of paddy at a profitable price. A demonstration of paddy harvesting with the help of a paddy harvester was also showcased in the field of Niren Kurmi, a progressive farmer of Naharani village. The farmers were satisfied with such kind of training programme and provided their valuable feedback at the end.

FPO formation

FPO on Dairy farming promoted by KVK, Sivasagar with the financial assistance from NABARD was inaugurated at Sologuri on 27th Nov. 2020. The FPO reported good performance in production and marketing of dairy products since its inception by including 156 farmer members.

Celebration of Agricultural Education Day by KVK, Sonitpur

Indian Council of Agricultural Research had decided to celebrate the birthday (3rd December) of First Indian Union Agriculture minister and the first President of independent India, Bharat Ratna Dr Rajendra Prasad as Agricultural Education Day in India. In connection to this Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Sonitpur also celebrated this special Day at Panchmile Higher Secondary School of Tezpur. Dr Arifa Momtaz Begum, in charge Head of KVK, Sonitpur explained the significance of celebrating the day and highlighted about the various facets and relevance of agriculture in country's development and encouraged the students towards agricultural sector. Mrs Porismita Baruah, Graduate teacher (Arts) of Panchmile H S School acted as resource person and she emphasized on modern Agricultural Education which is the backbone for successful agricultural sector in the country. She also made them aware about different agricultural institutions of the country. Dr. Namita Dutta, Subject Matter Specialist (Soil Science) highlighted on different agricultural technologies showcased by KVK, Sonitpur in the district. Dr Bhriku Kumar Neog, Subject Matter Specialist (Animal Science) encouraged the students to become Agri-Entrepreneurs in the future. The Principal of the school Mrs Biswajyoti Borah and Vice Principal Mr Parama Hazarika, of Panchmile H S School, Mrs Sanjukta Saikia, Subject Matter Specialist (Plant Protection), Mrs Sarmistha Borgohain (PA, Computer) and Mr Sanjeev Kaman (APS, APART) of KVK, Sonitpur actively cooperated in the programme. An open quiz was also organized among the students and they were very much cooperative.

Training programme conducted by KVK, Sonitpur

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur organized two numbers of training programme namely "Production of Quality Milk Products" and "Importance of Green Fodder and Economic Feeding of High Yielding Dairy Cattle" under the "Capacity building of farmers through training programmes on profitable dairy farming and livestock management" from 22-27 February, 2022 at KVK, Sonitpur campus. Dr Arifa Momtaz Begum, in charge Head of KVK, Sonitpur was the Dr Ranjit Bordoloi, Subject Matter Specialist (Fishery Science) and Pompy Bora, Programme Assistant (Community Science) of KVK, Sonitpur acted as course coordinator for both the programmes. Pompi Bora, Zhamak Upadhyay Sonali Roy Gupta, a local entrepreneur of cooked food items and sweets were the resource persons for the first training while Dr. Roji Chutia, Subject Matter Specialist (Agronomy), Rajib Deb, Zhamak Upadhyay, a dairy entrepreneur were the resource persons for the second training. A total of 40 participants for each training including farmer, farm women, and rural youth actively participated in the training programme and expressed their satisfaction about the programme. Method demonstrations were also given to the participants in connection to the training programmes.

Celebration of National Girl Child Day"

KVK, Sonitpur celebrated the National Girl Child Day on 24th January, 2022 through online mode. A webinar was conducted to spread awareness on girl child. More than 20 participants including students actively participated in the webinar.





NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY CELEBRATION AT SONITPUR, NAPAM

Sonitpur, February 28: National Science Day was observed by the B.Sc. final year students of Assam Agricultural University undergoing Rural Agricultural Work Experience Programme (RAWEP,2022) at Napam MV School, Sonitpur on 28th February, 2022 to mark the discovery of the Raman effect in 1928 by Indian physicist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman. Mr. Bipul Gogoi, Head Teacher of the school presided over the function. This event, organized on account of National Science Day for the students of Napam M. V. School was led by Sri Lakhyadeep Chetia under the guidance of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur, Napam. The celebration included public speeches, Quiz competition and a drawing competition among the students of the school in two categories.

Every year, NSD is celebrated to widely spread a message about the importance of science used in the daily life of people. It is also celebrated to discuss all the issues and implement new technologies for the development in the field of science. The theme of the year 2022, "Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for a sustainable future" was exclusively discussed for the benefit of the students and farming community of the locality.

Progressive farm women from Tawang visits KVK, Sonitpur

A group of progressive farm women guided by L. Zimba, Agronomist cum Project Director Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur on 8th December, 2021 as a part of the interstate exposure visit programme under ATMA. Dr Arifa Momtaz Begum, in charge Head, KVK, Sonitpur welcomed the group and emphasized on value addition of agricultural produces. Dr Bhrigu Kr Neog, Subject Matter Specialist (Animal Science), Sanjukta Saikia, Subject Matter Specialist (Plant Protection), Angana Sarmah, Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture), Dr. Namita Dutta, Subject Matter Specialist (Soil Science), Dr Roji Chutia, Subject Matter Specialist (Agronomy) from KVK, Sonitpur interacted with the farm women in different agricultural technologies. The farm women showed interest on floriculture, potato cultivation, mushroom cultivation and value addition. They visited the demonstration units of KVK, Sonitpur including vermicompost unit, Azolla unit, potato cultivation under net house, toria field, Horticultural model nursery, bamboo nursery, Goatery unit and IFS. The group also visited Kanyaka Bahumukhi Pam, situated at Jamugurihaat and Defence Research Laboratory at Tezpur and very much impressed by their activities.

KISAN DIWAS

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur observed Kisan Diwas or National Farmers Day on December 23rd to praise the farmers as they are the backbone of the Indian economy. The day was observed to mark the birth anniversary of "Champion of Indian Peasants" former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh and his contributions towards the upliftment of farmers and the development

of agriculture in the country. In light of this KVK, Sonitpur also took the initiative to honor the contributions of the Indian farmers as well as to glorify their significance in building the country. Dr Kasturi Sarmah and Kaustabh Jyoti Goswami, budding agripreneurs of Kundarbari, Tezpur were being felicitated by KVK, Sonitpur for their contribution in the field of agriculture including farm mechanization. They shared their experiences of their journey to become an agripreneur. Dr Arifa Momtaz Begum, in charge Head, KVK, Sonitpur congratulated and encouraged them for their initiative to take agriculture as an income generating avenue. Diganta Thappa, SDAO, Agriculture, Manoj Narzari, Senior ADO, Sanjukta Saikia, SMS(Plant Protection), Dr Namita Dutta, SMS(Soil Science), Sarmistha Borgohain, PA(Computer) also congratulate them and interacted with the participants of the programme.

Awareness on Natural Farming organized in KVK, Sonitpur

A day long awareness programme on natural farming was organized in KVK, Sonitpur campus on 29th March, 2022. Natural Farming is a chemical-free traditional farming method which is considered as agroecology based diversified farming system which integrates crops, trees and livestock with functional biodiversity. In India, Natural farming is promoted as Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati Programme (BPKP) under centrally sponsored scheme-Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). In the programme, scientists from various disciplines of KVK Sonitpur interacted with the farmers and delivered lectures on natural resource based technologies to increase farm yield and improvement of soil health. Various components of natural farming that included plant based insecticide, use of farm yard manure, vermicompost, pitcher drip irrigation which uses earthen pots to irrigate fruit trees, were discussed. The programme was attended by more than thirty numbers of villagers from Napam and other nearby villages of Sonitpur District.

Three days training on strengthening of Farmer Producer Company (FPC) on Mat type nursery and mechanical transplanting of rice conducted by KVK Sonitpur

A three days training on strengthening Farmer Producer Company on Mat type nursery and mechanical transplanting of rice was held under APART at KVK Sonitpur. The training was attended by members of Shyamal Farmer Producer Company of Sonitpur district and the members of FPC of Lakhimpur district. Addressing the participants, Dr. Roji Chutia, Subject Matter Specialist (Agronomy) stressed that mechanization is a must for today's farming and thus it can be further utilized for improving the agriculture scenario of Assam. She further stated that Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur will provide technical guidance and help to the Farmer Producer Company. Ms. Rupsikha Goswami, Assistant Project Scientist of APART welcomed the participants and advised the farmers to cultivate stress tolerant rice varieties (STRVs) through mechanization which will further increase income of the farmers. Mr. Vivek Kumar, Specialist of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) acted as resource person for the training and guided the farmers in establishing a resource efficient crop production system through preparation of Mat nurs-



ery and usage of mechanical rice transplanter. Mr. Dibyarishi Bhattacharjya, Junior Researcher of IIRI also provided technical guidance to the farmers regarding mechanisation and also highlighted the economic benefit through adoption of such technologies. Mr. P. Srichandan, Research Technician of IIRI demonstrated the preparation of Mat nursery and mechanical transplanting in field and explained different parts of the transplanter and their usage to the farmers. He was assisted by Goutam Borah and Debajit Bhuyan, Research Technicians under APART during the entire programme. During the three days training, technicians of RI Agriculture company also actively participated and explained different parts and functioning of the rice transplanter. The farmers expressed their satisfaction over such training programme for smooth running of their FPC and provided their valuable feedback at the end.

Litchi seedling distribution by KVK, Sonitpur

One of the most famous organic produce of Assam is Tezpur litchi. Litchi flourishes in the moist conditions of Tezpur. This attractive red coloured fruit was accorded the Geographical Indication Tag (GI) in 2015. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur took the initiative to distribute litchi seedling among the farmers on 26.03.2022 with an aim to expand the litchi growing area and for nutritional security under NEH component. Dr Rajesh Kumar, Director ATARI, Zone VI was the chief guest of the seedling distribution programme. He advised the farmers for inter cropping of short duration crops with the litchi plantations. Dr Arifa Momtaz Begum, in charge Head of KVK, Sonitpur also emphasized on litchi cultivation for nutritional security. The programme was coordinated by Dr Roji Chutia, Subject Matter Specialist (Agronomy). Dr. Ranjit Bordoloi, Subject Matter Specialist (Fishery Science), Dr. Namita Dutta, Subject Matter Specialist (Soil Science), Angana Sarmah, Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture), of KVK, Sonitpur interacted with the farmers. Prior to this, Dr Rajesh Kumar visited the demonstration units of KVK, Sonitpur which was guided by Pompy Bora, PA (Community Science), Rupsikha Goswami and Krishna Bezbaruah, APART staff. He also visited the litchi plantation of farmer's field.

AAU STUDENTS FROM CLASSROOM TO FIELD

As a part of the Rural Agricultural Work Experience Programme (RAWEP), a group of B. Sc. (Hons.) agriculture final year students from Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat were placed at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sonitpur. The Program Supervisor Angana Sharma acknowledged that the RAWEP programme will help the B.Sc.(Hons.) Agril. final year students to learn about the practical aspects of crop production, farming situation, field activities and to identify the problems of farming community by working with the farmer's family besides gaining practical wisdom from experienced traditional farmers. This two way interaction will also help the

farmers to learn about the improved Agricultural technologies developed by the university to boost agricultural production in a sustainable manner. Three villages namely Amolapam, Napam Chapori and Juglani were selected for the RAWEP activity.

World Pulses Day organized by KVK, Sonitpur

KrishiVigyan Kendra, Sonitpur observed "World Pulses Day" on 10th February, 2022 with the theme "Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agri-food systems". It was observed with an aim to make the farmers and students aware about the importance of pulse crops to maintain household food security and to build economic stability. Dr. Arifa Momtaz Begum, In charge Head of KVK, welcomed all the participants and discussed about the importance of pulse crops for a balanced diet. Significance of "World Pulses Day" was elaborated by Dr. Roji Chutia, Subject Matter Specialist (Agronomy). To popularize the cultivation of pulse crops, KVK, Sonitpur organized three numbers of training on scientific cultivation and post harvest technologies of pulse crops. In the context "World Pulses Day" an extempore speech competition was organized among the participants. The competition was supervised by Angana Sarmah, Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture). Dr Namita Dutta, Subject Matter Specialist (Soil Science) in her speech emphasized on the usefulness of these crops in climate change mitigation since they can reduce dependence on artificial fertilizers for inducing nutrients such as nitrogen into the soil. She also highlighted that these legumes also improve the soil fertility and soil biodiversity and keep harmful pests away. Rangoli was prepared by Pompy Bora and Sarmistha Borgohain with different pulses to give practical knowledge of identifying the same. An exhibition was also organized where different pulse varieties were showcased to have knowledge on cultivation practices, uses and value addition. The students under Rural Agricultural Work Experience Programme stationed at KVK, Sonitpur also participated in the programme and shared their knowledge on pulse crops.

NEWS FROM ATIC

Farmers' visit : A total of 951 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

EDITORIAL BOARD : Chairman : Dr. P. K. Pathak, Director of Extension Education

Editor : Dr. R. K. Saud, Assoc. Director of Extension Education (P&I)

Members: Dr. A. K. Das, Joint Registrar (Acad); Dr. B. K. Sarmah, Joint Registrar (Acad), Khanapara; Ms. Nawal Nagi, Asstt. Prof.(English), Dept. of Extn. Edn., FA

Published by the Directorate of Extension Education, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat.

Phone : 0376 - 2340029; Fax : 0376 - 2340001, 2310708; Email : dee@aau.ac.in; Website : <http://www.aau.ac.in>. Printed at : AAYAN'S WORLD, Jorhat