

**IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)-
ICARDA (International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas)-
VISVA-BHARATI PROJECT**

on

*“Enhancing Food and Nutritional Security and Improved Livelihoods
through Intensification of Rice–Fallow System with Pulse Crops in South
Asia (Bangladesh, India & Nepal)”*

Field Day Programme

A ‘Field Day’ programme was organized by Palli Siksha Bhavana (Institute of Agriculture), Visva-Bharati on 20-01-2020 (Monday) at Akamba village, Illambazar Block under IFAD-ICARDA-Visva-Bharati project. In this programme 165 progressive farmers participated from different villages like Akamba, Sugar, Raghunathpur (Illambazar block), Kamalakantapur (Bolpur-Sriniketan block) and Poduma (Dubrajpur block). Dr. Ashutosh Sarker, Regional Coordinator, ICARDA-South Asia & China Regional Programme and Food Legume Breeder, CGIAR Complex, NASC Complex, New Delhi was present for this field day programme accompanied by Prof. Rajib Nath, Department of Agronomy, BCKV, Mohanpur, Nadia. Team members of the project and Monirul Islam, ADA (Seed Certification), Govt. of West Bengal, Suri, Birbhum were also present in this programme.

ICARDA Scientist Dr. Ashutosh Sarker and other experts visited the crop fields of farmers and interacted with the farmers. Farmers mentioned their problems in growing pulse crops and getting good market price. Prof. Rajib Nath expressed his experience in this field to the farmers. Dr. Asutosh Sarker delivered an elaborative speech to the farmers addressing the problems and prospects of pulse cultivation in rice-fallow for livelihood improvement and nutrition of farm families. Dr. Subrata Mondal (Co-PI) gave welcome address and conducted the whole programme with vote of thanks to the participants at the end. Prof. A.K. Barik (P.I. of the project) explained the necessity of good crop management for higher yield particularly of certified seed production in pulse crops. Prof. B.K. Saren (Co-PI) and Dr. S.K. Maity (Co-PI) interacted with the farmers and advised to follow improved technologies of pulse cultivation for obtaining better crops.

Seed production plots under this project were also visited. Monirul Islam addressed the farmers about various types of seeds and their post harvest processing for good quality seeds. The whole programme was covered by Doordarshan, Santiniketan, WB and AIR, Santiniketan, Birbhum, WB.

The participant farmers were happy after interaction with experts and expressed their satisfaction in growing pulse crops on residual soil moisture after *kharif* rice. They expressed their interest to cultivate more area under pulses in next year rice-fallow as well as village base seed production of pulse crops.



P.I. of the project

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