

Report on Farmers' Awareness Programme on "World Environment Day" (Virtual) on 5th June 2021 at West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences, Belgachhia, West Bengal

● **Proceedings of the Event:**

1) **Name of the Biotech KISAN Hub and its collaborating Institutes**

DBT Mission Mode Programme Entitled "Establishment of Biotech-KISAN Hub" at West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences at Aspirational districts of WEST BENGAL

2) **Title of the event:**

Farmers' Awareness Programme on "World Environment Day" (Virtual)

3) **Date:** 5th June, 2021

4) **Venue:** West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences, Belgachhia, West Bengal (Virtual Mode).

- **Total Meeting link:** Google Meet App link meet.google.com/nph-tvdb-avf live streaming in YouTube with following links <https://youtu.be/u71xou-85v4>

- **Number of Participants:**

129 (male-59, female-70) of West Bengal participated in the training programme. From five aspirational districts (Nadia, Murshidabad, Birbhum, Maldah and South Dinajpur) **75** farmers participated in the training programme.

- **Invited Guests:**

- 1) Prof. Chanchal Guha, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, WBUAFS.
- 2) Prof. Ashoke Kanti Sanyal, Former Chairman, West Bengal Biodiversity Board

- **Invited Experts:**

- 1) Prof. B.K. Das, DREF, & Dean (Actg.), Faculty of Fishery Sciences, WBUAFS.
- 2) Prof. N Ghosh, Dean Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, WBUAFS.
- 3) Prof Biswapati Mondal, Retd. Professor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidalaya.
- 4) Prof. T K Mondal, Professor, Deptt. of Vety Pharmacology and Toxicology, WBUAFS
- 5) Prof. S N Joardar, Professor, Deptt. of Vety. Microbiology, WBUAFS.

● **Brief about the programme:**

In commemoration of 75 years of Indian Independence as '**Bharat ka Amrit Mahotsav**', BIOTECH KISAN HUB, West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences is going to organize a Farmers' Awareness Programme on "World Environment Day" for the farmers of West Bengal especially in the aspirational District (Nadia, Murshidabad, Birbhum, Maldah and

Dakshin Dinajpur) of West Bengal” to create awareness among the farming community about the environment protection of the environment such as marine pollution, global warming, eco friendly animal, fish and dairy products and wildlife crime with an idea of “*Restore Our Earth*”. Since farmers are close to the nature, their role on this special day is to encourage environmental awareness. It plays in helping to protect and preserve the environment and agriculture has a huge role in that and such a farmers’ awareness will certainly create some meanings. For too long, humans have been exploiting and destroying the planet’s ecosystems. Every three seconds, the World loses enough forest to cover a football pitch and over the last century, we have destroyed half of the wetlands. As much as 50 per cent of the world's coral reefs have already been lost and up to 90 per cent of coral reefs could be lost by 2050, even if global warming is limited to an increase of 1.5 degrees Celcius. Ecosystem loss is depriving the world of carbon sinks, like forests and wetlands, at a time when humanity can least afford it. Global greenhouse gas emissions have grown for three consecutive years and the planet is one place for potentially catastrophic climate change. We must now fundamentally rethink our relationship with the living world, with natural ecosystems and their biodiversity and work towards its restoration. All kinds of ecosystems can be restored, including forests, farmlands, cities, wetlands, and oceans. Restoration initiatives can be launched by almost anyone, from governments and development agencies to businesses, communities, and individuals. That is because the causes of degradation are many and varied, and can have an impact at different scales. For instance, degradation may result from harmful policies such as subsidies for intensive farming or weak tenure laws that encourage deforestation. Lakes and coastlines can become polluted because of poor waste management or an industrial accident. Commercial pressures can leave towns and cities with too much asphalt and too few green spaces. World Environment Day is celebrated on June 5, annually to encourage awareness and environmental protection. According to the United Nations, "the celebration of this day provides us with an opportunity to broaden the basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises, and communities in preserving and enhancing the environment."

- **Quotes of Guests attending the event:**

At the beginning of the training programme, Dr. K.C. Dhara P.I of the project has welcomed all dignitaries in the virtual mode especially the farmers of West Bengal who are in distressed condition due to COVID 19 pandemic situation. He has explained about the protection of Nature and natural resources and how to maintain our environment a good one. In the address of chief guest, Prof. **Ashoke Kanti Sanyal, Former Chairman, West Bengal Biodiversity Board** has emphasized about some important and valuable points for our environment to be healthy and need of awareness development among the farmers especially the farm women. He has said that we are not sincere about our surrounding environment, so we must think about our environment at every level of nature to become a beautiful one by the way of restoration of our ecosystem. He also advised all the participants to maintain their duty to protect and give value to our Biodiversity as well as our total environment. He expressed his high level of satisfaction for organizing such awareness campaign. During inauguration of the programme, the **Vice chancellor of WBUAFS, Prof. Chanchal Guha** has released the first issue of fortnight E-farm journal of Biotech KISAN hub named "**KISAN BARTA**" and told that such publication will cater the need of the farmers of West Bengal. He urged that, due to deforestation oxygen level is decreased in the environment but in present pandemic situation more oxygen supplementations are essential in the environment. Moreover, water is also an important component of our life but if we don't aware of its proper uses, it will be more problematic in Human life. He also said that it is our duty to reserve our Water resource and also plantation should be done actively in proper way.

- **Quotes of speakers and experts attending the event:**

As an expert, Prof. B.K. Das, DREF, & Dean (Actg.), Faculty of Fishery Sciences, WBUAFS, said that protection of environment is very much important for us as biodiversity is declined. Simultaneously, protection of Reservoir is also an essential thing as it is also destroyed due to our lifestyle and livelihood. Proper usage of organic fertilizer in the land and pond, less wastage of water will surely balance our Nature to protect our natural resources. Prof. S N Joardar, Professor, Deptt. of Vety. Microbiology, WBUAFS, emphasises about the protection of plant and animal resources in various field through a relationship in between farmers and ecosystem and biodiversity. Protection of different variety of animal resources, mainly the small animals is need of the hour so that it should not to be extinct. Such awareness programme among the farming community will creates an impact on restoration of ecosystem

biodiversity which is in stake. Prof Biswapati Mondal, Retd. Professor and former pro Vice Chancellor of Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidalay, emphasized about the importance of conservation of the plant and animal resources which are lost now-a day due to man-made environmental hazards. The principle of sustainable agriculture is to cover the human needs for food without damage to the environment. Most of farmers declared a good knowledge of good agricultural practices and of balanced fertilization and the awareness of threats issuing from their activities. The microbial loss of soil due use of pesticides creates decrease in carbon level in the environment. Agri-environmental practices for managing fertilizers on farms help minimize the environmental impact of agricultural activities. Although the Agricultural Operations Regulation (REA) does not stipulate the practices farmers should adopt, it does set out certain standards for the management and spreading of livestock waste and other fertilizing materials. Prof. T K Mondal, Professor, Deptt. of Vety Pharmacology and Toxicology, WBUAFS make causations about extensive use of pharmacological products for its effect to the environment. Pollution of water and soil due to the use of different types of medicines and spray and antibiotic drugs and due to the presence of antibiotic drugs in the water, the bacteria present in the water are eradicated. Dispersal of medicine in a proper way and autoclave the medical and chemical products in pharmacological field are to be practiced for better environment. Prof. N Ghosh, Dean Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, WBUAFS concluded the session and express the need of fresh environment for the betterment of our next generation.

- **Quotes of beneficiaries attending the event:**

At the end of the programme, all the farmers who have attended on this programme expressed their satisfaction over such an awareness and educative programme. Mir Ali, a progressive goat farmer from Maldah said that he will plant more trees in his backyard on this auspicious occasion. On the occasion of World Environment Day, it is essential for all to realize that every little deed matters when it comes to saving the environment. No matter how small a step someone is taking to lead a greener lifestyle, it does make a difference. Because, if everyone starts doing little deeds one by one, it will turn into something big. As the saying goes every drop makes an ocean, it is true in this case as well.

