Eastern Regional Station of ICAR-NDRI, Kalyani organized Livestock-cum Agricultural Mela in Bolpur of Birbhum District, West Bengal on 6th February, 2020

Eastern Regional Station of ICAR-NDRI, Kalyani organized Livestock-cum Agricultural Mela in Hatrasulganj under Raipur-Supur Gram Panchayat (near Bolpur) of Birbhum District, West Bengal on 6th Feb., 2020 under NDRI-TSP and SCSP Component. The Mela programme was chaired by the Dr. A. K. Tyagi, Joint Director (Research), ICAR-NDRI, Karnal. The Mela was organized in support with Bolpur Manab Jamin, one NGO of Birbhum District. Dr. T. K. Dutta welcomed all delegates, scientists, experts of different Institutes/KVKs/Organizations and farmers of Birbhum district and highlighted the purposes of organization of such Mela. One hundred and fifty (150) Black Bengal goats (140 female and 10 breedable male, 9-12 months old) were distributed to the resource poor 75 Tribal (one each) as well as 75 Scheduled Caste farmers (one each) of the district with one month health care support. Four thousands (4000) Banaraja chicks (28 days old) were distributed to 400 farmers of different villages of Birbhum district (200 Schedule Tribe and 200 Scheduled Caste Farmers) with 10 chicks to each farmer. 40 quintals of poultry feed were also distributed to the beneficiary farmers in order support the farmers to maintain the nutritional status of the growing chicks. Cattle, goats, chicks and ducks with different ailments were treated by the expert Veterinarians of ERS-NDRI, Kalyani in the treatment camp. Cattle, goats and chicks/ducks were also vaccinated by the expert team members of ERS-NDRI, Kalyani in the vaccination camp. Rooted slips/cuttings of hybrid perennial grasses were also distributed to the Farmers for better nutritional security of their livestock. Total beneficiaries in the organized Mela programme was around 700. There was animal competition in different categories of animals (dairy cattle, heifer, calves, female goat, breedable male goat, kids, poultry, duck) which were judged by the expert committee members and prizes were also distributed to the winners. Different ICAR Institutes, namely, ICAR-Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres (CRIJAF), Barrackpur, ICAR-National Institute for Natural Fibre Engineering and Technology (NINFET), Kolkata, KVK, east Bardhaman, ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute-ERS, Kolkata, ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute-ERS, Kalyani, different NGOs (including Bolpur Manab Jamin) and Self-Help Goups (SHGs) participated the Mela for technology demonstration of their Institute/Organization to the farmers of Birbhum District. During the Scientists/Experts-Farmers interaction session farmers were appraised of different scientific technologies/processes which may be easily implemented at farmers’ field for enhancing the return from their livestock farming and agriculture practices. Dr. A. K. Tyagi, Joint Director (Res.) emphasized the need of scientific livestock rearing in the integrated model of agriculture for increasing the livelihood security. Dr. M. K. Ghosh, Pr. Scientist opined that balanced feeding and scientific management practices followed by the farmers may increase the production potential of dairy cows, goats and poultry in the district. Other Scientists of NDRI also advised the farmers on different aspects of modern animal husbandry practices which may boost income of the farmers with nutritional security of the family. Different technology display stalls were also evaluated by the committee and winners were awarded by NDRI. The entire programme in the Mela was anchored and coordinated by Dr. Asif Mohammad, Scientist and I/C, Extension of ERS-NDRI, Kalyani.