



Rathindra Krishi Vigyan Kendra
Palli Siksha Bhavana (Institute of Agriculture)
Visva-Bharati
Sriniketan, Dist. – Birbhum, West Bengal – 731236



ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata and Rathindra Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati jointly organized Zonal Workshop on “Out Scaling of Natural Farming through Krishi Vigyan Kendras”

Two days Zonal Workshop on “Out Scaling of Natural Farming through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)” was jointly organized by ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata and Rathindra Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati at Rathindra Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, Birbhum, West Bengal – 731236 on 16 – 17 February, 2024 under the chairmanship of Prof. Sanjoy Kumar Mallik, Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, represented by in-person Prof. A. K. Barik, Principal, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, Birbhum, West Bengal – 731236. All the Thirty-Four (34) KVKs of Zone – V, ICAR-ATARI implementing the Natural Farming project (16 nos. KVKs of West Bengal viz. Cooch Behar, Darjeeling, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda, Bankura, Purulia, Hooghly, Howrah, Jhargram, Murshidabad, Murshidabad (Addl.), North 24 Paraganas, North 24 Paraganas (Addl.), South 24 Paraganas, South 24 Paraganas (Addl.); 17 nos. KVKs of Odisha viz. Angul, Balasore, Baragarh, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Jagatsinghpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj-II, Nayagarh, Puri, Sundargarh-II, Sambalpur and One KVK from Andaman & Nicobar Island viz. Port Blair participated in this programme.

At the start of the programme on 16.02.2024, Dr. P. Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata welcomed all the participants to this august place of learning called Visva-Bharati, founded by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. Dr. A. Haldar, Principal Scientist and Nodal Scientist of Natural Farming of ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata presented a brief overview on Natural Farming being implemented by ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata. Prof. Prabhat Kumar Pal, DEE, Uttar Banga Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Cooch Behar noted the works undertaken by KVKs of his University under this Project. Dr. Hardik Lakhani, Expert, Natural Farming, MANAGE, Hyderabad gave a synoptic view of the concept of Natural Farming. Prof. A. K. Barik, Principal, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan put forward the well wishes conveyed by Prof. Sanjoy Kumar Mallik, Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati and also communicated his thoughts for out scaling the concept of Natural Farming through KVKs in his capacity as Principal, Palli Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati. Dr. Subrata Mandal, Senior Scientist and Head, Rathindra Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Birbhum presented the “Vote of Thanks” on this occasion.

After the Inaugural Session, Technical Sessions commenced under the chairmanship of Dr. P. Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata along with Dr. Hardik Lakhani, Expert, Natural Farming, MANAGE, Hyderabad as Co-Chairman of the Technical Sessions with a Presentation by him on “Why Natural Farming?” and presentations by nine KVKs of West Bengal and Odisha at Technical Session – I.

At the after-lunch session i.e. Technical Session – II, Eight KVKs of West Bengal and Odisha presented on the activities of Natural Farming Project of their respective KVKs. In this session, Dr. Goutam Chatterjee, Assistant Professor, RKMVERI, Narendrapur presented on “Untangling the science of Natural Farming: A Microbiological perspective”. In the Evening, a rich cultural programme encompassing Tagore’s creations and local Folk culture was organized.

On Day – 2 i.e. 17.02.2024, Poster on Natural Farming was presented by all the thirty-four participating KVKs implementing the project and Best Posters were judged and awarded. Also, on 17.02.2024, Technical Session – III was organized. In all these Technical Sessions, Dr. A. Haldar, Principal Scientist and Nodal Scientist of Natural Farming of ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata was the Convenor.

Sixty-Two (62) participants including Director and Principal Scientists of ICAR, MANAGE, Principal and Faculties of Visva-Bharati, Director and Faculties of various Universities of West Bengal, Heads of KVKs, Nodal Subject Matter Specialists, Senior Research Fellows, Young Professionals of KVKs and ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata were present in this workshop. The Staff of the Rathindra KVK, Visva-Bharati were actively present at this Programme.



Inauguration of Zonal Workshop on "Out Scaling of Natural Farming through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)"



Welcome Address by Dr. P. Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata



Participants of Zonal Workshop on "Out Scaling of Natural Farming through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)"



Dignitaries of the Zonal Workshop on "Out Scaling of Natural Farming through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)"