

**Proceedings of 4th District Level Steering Committee Meeting in Bankura on
“Enhancing Adaptive Capacity and Increasing Resilience of Small and Marginal
Farmers of Bankura and Purulia Districts of West Bengal”**

**Date 18th April 2017
Venue: District Magistrate Office, Bankura**

Honorable District Magistrate and Chairman of the steering committee presided over the meeting. She requested Shri Sujit Kr. Mitra convener cum project coordinator to initiate the discussion. Shri Sujit Kr. Mitra made his welcome address to the members and conveys good wishes to all for Bengali New Years. At the very outset he apprised the house about the rain fall scenario of the district through power point presentation. It appears from the presentation that the rain fall percentage has been increasing but due to very limited planning with regard to conservation of water the top soil erosion is increasing. He also presented before the house about some measures taken under this project to conserve rain water and to stop erosion of top soil.

He informed the house that out of 3500 targeted families 2139 families have been included in this project and remaining 1361 families will be covered within six months. He also informed the house that 72 farmers group and 102 women self-help groups have already been formed and opening of bank account of each group is going on. Apart from that two separate watershed development committees for two Gram Panchayets have been formed consisting with the member's representative from the SHG and farmers group and separate bank account have been opened to carry on various activities of the project even after the completion of project period.

He informed the house that the Jadavpur University is extending their technical support in preparation of GP level micro planning particularly selection of site for pond excavation, ditch digging, and dug well through GIS tracking. Shri M.K Mandal, Asst. Director of Agriculture (Soil and Water) participated in the discussion and requested to send the data related to this work.

Shri Mitra informed the house that the 3 automated weather stations, installed in the project area are working satisfactorily. By this time 2500 mobile numbers have been registered and we are sending weather forecast and agro advisory directly to the farmers in Bengali version so that they can understand the message and take suitable measure.

He presented few case studies who are benefited through this system/service. Shri Mitra stated that the accuracy level of weather prediction is 87%. He said that Senior Officer from Environment Department of Govt. of West Bengal has visited for feasibility study of the AWS and meet the villagers to know about their views.

Shri Sujit Kr. Mitra apprised the house that initiative has been taken for eco system based agriculture and importance has been given for cultivation of indigenous and strategic variety crops.

Shri Mitra has informed the house that for soil and water conservation some programme has been taken up. At present excavation of 4 step pond are going on in Bankura Project. A part from that trenches has been excavated across the slope area to ensure ground water recharge and thereby increase water level and also creation of bio mass in the field.

He also informed that Integrated Farming System models have been developed among the small farmers fields as model of dryland farming systems.

He informed that creation of Nutrition Garden in each farmer family has been continuing as regular programme to ensure supply of nutritious food to each farmer family. He presented a case study of Mangali Kisku on Nutrition Garden before house and member interacted over it. Initiative has been taken to cultivate strategic crop like Greater Yam, elephant foot yam, wild forest species,etc. which can be used as staple food during lean period. He also informed the house that motivation as well as hand holding trainings are going on to educate the farmer about organic farming, by this time 175 hectare has been brought under organic cultivation and as the part of this activity yellow sticky paper, pheromone trap, organic manure, vermin compost, and bio fertilizer like PSB, Rhizobium etc. has been distributed among the beneficiaries.

He also appraise the house about the other activities under the progress like micro irrigation facility, organic agriculture practice with mixed cropping, introduction of climate resilient crops. DRCSC has established energy efficient model like bio gas plant, smokeless oven, as alternative energy and has introduced appropriate technology such as low cost water filter, community based drinking water facilities etc..

After presentation, Officers from line department raised some questions and they suggested that

- a. The slope of step pond / ditch should be 45 degree instead of 90 degree as stated.

- b. Members particularly line departments expressed that information on all micro irrigation intervention of the project activity with it GPS to be sent to concern Govt. Department for avoiding duplication.

Hon'ble District Magistrate suggested that Vetiver grass may be cultivated on the banks of excavated pond & ditches to prevent soil erosion. She also suggested that co-ordination of DRCSC with the local Gram Panchayats and Block Level to be increased and participation of DRCSC in Govt. programme to be ensured.

Sri Sujit Mitra and the team noted the suggestions from the meeting and the meeting was concluded with note of thanks.

**Signature of Chairperson
District Magistrate
Bankura**



**Sujit Kumar Mitra
Project Coordinator & Convenor
DRCSC**