

A New Paradigm Shift: Natural Farming

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sepahijala, CAU (I), Tripura and ICAR-National Research Centre For Integrated Pest Management, New Delhi, jointly organized Farmers' one day seminar in hybrid mode on “**A New Paradigm Shift: Natural Farming**” at Latiacherra, Jampuijala block, Sepahijala Tripura on 3rd January, 2023 under the technical guidance of Dr Anupam Mishra, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, CAU, Imphal and Dr. Mukesh Sehgal, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NCIPM, New Delhi. The objective of the programme was to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, the indiscriminate use of which pollutes the environment, and to promote good agronomic practices with basic principle of Natural farming.

Dr Shatabhisa Sarkar, Senior Scientist & Head of this KVK welcomed the dignitaries, farmers, farm women, rural youth and others. Prof (Dr.) Ratan Kumar Saha, Dean, College of Fisheries, Lembucherra, while giving a preamble speech highlighted various path-breaking ways for doubling of farmers' income through natural farming practices and encouraged for safe & rational use of chemical pesticides.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr Sunil Chandra Dubey, Assistant Director General (Plant Protection & Biosafety), ICAR, New Delhi (virtual mode) accentuated on the importance of natural enemies such as predators, parasitoids, beneficial micro-organisms and highlighted the different perspective of chemical free farming etc.

Dr. Subhash Chander, Director, ICAR-NCIPM, New Delhi (virtual mode) highlighted the importance of the project and importance of natural farming for healthy food and to prevent the adverse effects of using chemical fertilizers/pesticides.

Dr Dipak Nath, Deputy Director of Extension Education, Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur (virtual mode) enlightened on different issues regarding natural farming for food security etc.

Sri Kabiray Debbarma, Deputy Director, Department of Horticulture & Soil Conservation, Sepahijala, Govt of Tripura encouraged the farmers to adopt natural farming and highlighted various path breaking ways for doubling of farmers' income through chemical free farming.

Dr. Mukesh Sehgal, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NCIPM, New Delhi (virtual mode) emphasized the importance of chemical free farming, agro ecology based diversified farming system and shared his experience on natural farming.

Dr. Utpal Dey, SMS (Plant Protection), KVK, Sepahijala, Tripura gave an insight into the importance of chemical free farming for protecting soil and providing safe food products for a healthy society.

Smt. Sharmila Debbarma, Natural Farming farmer, Pramodnagar VC, expressed her experience on jeevamrut, beejamrut and nemastra in different crops.

A publication of Natural farming entitled “Preparation of jeevamrut” was released by the chief guest and other esteemed guests.

Practical demonstration on preparation of Jeevamrut, Beejamrut etc. and poster campaign was also organized by Dr Utpal Dey, SMS (Plant Protection), KVK, Sepahijala for an easy understanding of the farmers. A total of 60 farmers, farm women and rural youth from different villages of Sepahijala district actively participated in the programme and interacted with the specialists.

