

Felicitation of Farmers for Conserving Genetic Resources

28th June 2024, Howrah

In a heartfelt celebration of agricultural heritage and innovation, KVK Howrah (BCKV) and ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Kolkata today jointly honoured six farmers who have received the esteemed Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA) certificates for their dedication to preserving indigenous crop varieties. This event shone a spotlight on the remarkable contributions of these guardians of genetic resources.

Among the honoured farmers, Shri Mohan Pal from Jagatballavpur recognized for farmer's variety Agunban J by PPF&FRA; five more farmers from Shyampur-I: Shri Anath Bandhu Bag for Aush Pakkal RS, Shri Satya Prasad Bhowmick for Sitasal RS, Shri Tarak Prasad Bhowmick for Dudheswar RS, Shri Sahadeb Pal for Shola Patnai RS, and Shri Ashok Kumar Mallick for Jhingesal RS were also recognised.

Chief Guest, Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata, in his inspiring address, commended the virtues of indigenous crop varieties, emphasizing their vital role in ensuring food and nutritional security. Dr. Dey urged the agricultural community to unearth and recognize more such gems among farmers, likening it to preserving the very soul of our agricultural heritage

Dr. K. Brahmachari, Director of Extension Education at BCKV, stressed the need for nurturing and promoting indigenous crop varieties, advocating for the registration and preservation of their invaluable knowledge.

Dr. Ramprasad Ghosh, Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admin.), Howrah, Government of West Bengal, lauded the PPV&FRA registrations as a testament to the diligent support and guidance provided collectively by KVK, Howrah (BCKV) and ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata, which has had a profoundly positive impact on the farming community.

Dr. Sabyasachi Dhar, Head of the Bureau of Indian Standards, Kolkata, eloquently highlighted the importance of fostering a culture of conservation in India.

Dr. K. Barui, Head, KVK, Howrah (BCKV) coordinated the whole programme and delivered welcome address in the inaugural session.



This event, filled with pride and reverence, highlighted the seamless blend of tradition and modernity. It underscored the importance of conserving our agricultural roots while embracing innovative practices for a sustainable future. The honoured farmers, with their steadfast dedication, stand as beacons of hope and inspiration, lighting the path for future generations.

Assistant Directors of Agriculture and Horticulture, GoWB, Deputy Director, BIS and Assistant Director of Extension Education, BCKV also attended the programme along with all KVK Staff.