

## Empowering Extension Leaders: Final Phase of MDP for Zone-V KVK Heads

27th - 31st December, 2024, Kolkata

ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata Hosts third and final Phase of Management Development Programme (MDP) for five newly recruited Senior Scientists and Heads of KVKs from Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Odisha and West Bengal of Zone-V. The entire program, consisting of three phases was jointly planned and implemented by the Agricultural Extension Division of ICAR, ICAR-NAARM, and ICAR-ATARIs exclusively for the newly recruited Senior Scientist Heads of KVKs.



The trainees explored key topics including the organization and management of ATARI, five-year targets for KVKs, information and knowledge management, and the administration of Central Sector Schemes. They undertook assignments focused on advancing the "One District, One Product" initiative for their respective districts and leveraging their disciplinary expertise for local development. Additionally, they collaborated to design a joint project addressing malnutrition through agricultural systems for potential external funding. As part of the project development process, they visited Sasya Shyamala KVK, Narendrapur, in South 24 Parganas. Reflecting on their experiences from the previous two phases, the trainees shared how these insights have served as a source of inspiration and motivation.

In the valedictory session, Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata, emphasized the need for KVKs to serve as district agri-tech epicenters, promoting nature-friendly technologies to achieve national aspirations by 2047. He highlighted their role in fostering agri-preneurship through value addition and transforming into catalysts for change and convergence during *Amrit Kaal*. Dr. Dey also underscored the pivotal role of innovation in driving economic and social progress, aligning with SDG 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure.

Dr. A. Haldar, Principal Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata coordinated the programme and Dr. S.K. Mondal, Principal Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata delivered vote of thanks. Entire faculty of ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata participated in imparting training.