

REFLECTION

ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11



**Agricultural Training Centre
&
State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute**

RAMAKRISHNA MISSION ASHRAMA

NARENDRAPUR, KOLKATA - 700 103



**Let New India a rise-out of the peasants' cottage, grasping the plough;
out of the huts of the fisherman, the cobbler, and the sweeper**

— Swami Vivekananda

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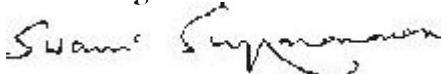


Foreword

Agriculture is becoming day by day more important. We have to feed everyday some 50,000 new mouths. The task is very tough and it requires well-thought-out planning of efficient use of limited resources. On the one hand, cultivable land is shrinking every year. On the other hand, farmers are not getting fair prices of their produce. They are becoming now less interested in continuing agriculture. With continuous use of chemical fertilisers, the soil is gradually losing productivity. In such a situation, innovations, upgradation of technologies etc. are definitely important, but the more important task is developing the total human resources related to agriculture.

The knowledge and skill development of the farmers as well as the extension and managerial skill development of the extension functionaries of different levels are very important at this point of time. We are proud that our Agricultural Training Centre (ATC) and the State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI) are sincerely working to upgrade the information level, knowledge and skill of the agricultural stakeholders to make critical intervention so that the available technologies may reach the farmers within time and marketing and other aspects of the post-harvest operations may be dealt with smoothly for the ultimate benefit of the farmers as well as the consumers.

For more than four decades the ATC has been helping the farming communities to earn their livelihood and also promoting the overall development of agriculture in the State. The main function of the ATC is to train up the grass-root level extension workers of agriculture known as the Krishi Prayukti Sahayak (KPS) during their pre-service and in-service periods. Along with the KPS, the Centre has been engaged in skill development of the farmers' sons in operating Agricultural machinery. In the recent past, the institute, for its excellence, has been empowered as State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI) with wider responsibilities of human resource development of the officers of the department of Agriculture, Animal Resource Development, Food Processing Industries & Horticulture, Fisheries etc. Along with conducting different training courses at Narendrapur, its faculty members provide training to those engaged in different agricultural development activities in the villages of different districts.



(Swami Suparnananda)

SECRETARY

Preamble

The January month in every year becomes very colourful for our Agricultural Training Centre. This is not for the seasonal flowers bloom during this month or the good winter crops, the reason is all the concerned persons of the centre prepare themselves for the institution to celebrate the annual function on the occasion of its birthday on 19th January. About 45 years have gone, and the ATC from its former form of Gram Sevak Training Centre have witnessed the development of agriculture for last four decades and have taken part in that development process. It tried to extend its sincere support to thousands of farmers. Now it has been given the responsibility of State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute having wider scope to serve better the state and so to the nation.

During last two years our state has witnessed unprecedented blow on agriculture. During 2009 the severe Cyclone 'Aila' affected more than 2 lakh ha and in 2010 severe drought in 11 districts resisted agricultural activities in about 11 lakh ha out of total cultivated land of about 54 lakhs ha. The drought was estimated to reduce the food grain production of about 27 percent. It is needless to say that in such situation special thrust is needed to maintain the pace of growth and development a specially keeping eyes on food security of more than 9 crore of estimated population. The need for the contingency planning along with thrust on information, knowledge and skill development of farmers as well as the extension functionaries seems to be very important. The ATC and SAMEETI have carried out their responsibilities in this critical situation along with other IIRD institute and extension agencies of the state.

The institute has been performing different types of IIRD and extension activities throughout the year. Though the major part is pertaining training to the different clients of the agricultural and allied sectors; visit of the farmers, demonstration, trial, quality seed production, organizing groups in production and extension, implementing different extension schemes etc. are also some important contribution of the institute. During 2010-11 (April-March) only 45 types of on station training courses have had been organized in which 1928 farmers, group members etc., 852 grass root level extension workers, 1137 block and district level extension functionaries have participated.

In this mission the institute has strong collaboration and support of state level, national level and also international level institutes and organizations. It is worthy to express that in performing this huge responsibilities different agri and allied departments of the state of West Bengal related to Agriculture, Animal Resource Development, LPI & Horticulture, Fishery, Agricultural Marketing, Panchayat and Rural Development etc. have extended the major supports. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Govt. of India and MANAGE, Hyderabad are the other major supporter. Besides, different Universities, Agriculture Departments and SAMEETIs of other different states, different agriculture related Private companies, number of NGOs, rural CBOs and groups have joined their hands in need.

As agriculture is a dynamic subject and the state is adding almost 14 lakh population every year, there is no scope of recess of development, particularly when the agrarian community is facing continuous challenges. Being under Ramakrishna Mission, the masses have great expectation from this institution. With the support from the Government, other developmental organizations, general masses and above all with the inspirations and blessings of Sri Ramakrishna, Ma Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda, we are confident enough to meet the challenges in a sustainable way.

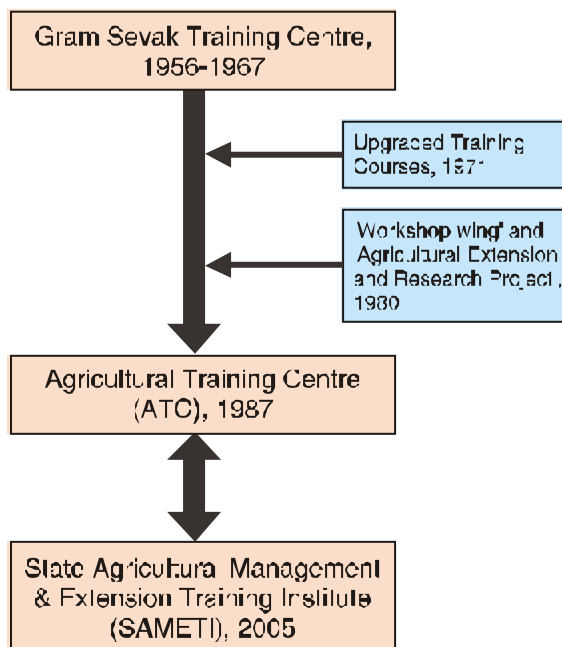
Manas Ghosh
PRINCIPAL & DIRECTOR

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Introduction

For continuous updating and development in the sectors of agricultural information, knowledge and skill of the extension functionaries at grass root level, seven Agricultural Training Centres (ATC) are in operation in West Bengal. The Agricultural Training Centre under Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur, Kolkata-700103 is one of those seven ATCs, whereas the others are situated at Fulia-Nadia, Burdwan-Burdwan, Chinsurah-Hooghly, Malda-Malda, Balurghat-Dakshin Dinajpur and Coochbehar-Coochbehar. The main feature of the ATC, Narendrapur, the fully sponsored institute by the Department of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal, is managed by the Ramakrishna Mission whereas the other six ATCs are directly run by the Department of Agriculture itself. Being within Ramakrishna Mission, the Narendrapur ATC has developed some special



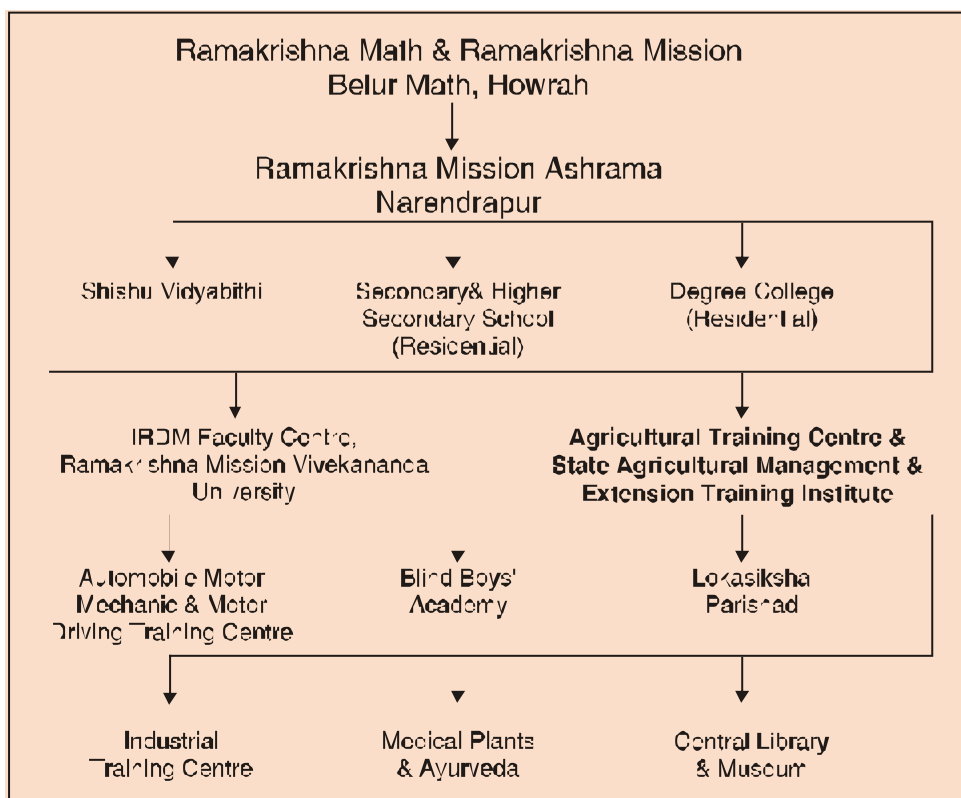
characteristics. This ATC is enriched by inheriting the motto of Ramakrishna Mission, “Atmano mokshartham jagaddhitayecha” (For one’s own liberation and for the welfare of the world) and following the path laid down by Swami Vivekananda, “Work is worship”.

The Agricultural Training Centre, which was previously designated as ‘Gram Sevak Training Centre (GSTC)’ came in to operation in the 1967 with the approval from Department of Agriculture

and Cooperation, Govt. of West Bengal by its order of 1965. At that time an agricultural fair with demonstration on advanced agricultural technologies was used to be held at this Ashrama arena mainly to inspire the farmers of neighbouring villages. Many farmers, agricultural personalities, departmental officials used to visit that demonstration cum fair for its innovativeness and attraction. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation offered one GSTC to Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur on experimental basis along with establishment of other GSTCs directly under the department. With the time, the Narendrapur GSTC, under the guidance of Ramakrishna Mission, proved its efficiency and effectivity for the rural mass and became one of the prominent Centres for agriculture and rural development. The Government offered facilities to the fullest extent in terms of staff and other facilities at par with other ATCs.

The evolution of the GSTC of 1967 happened through its up-gradation in the year 1971 and addition of new wings like 'Workshop wing' and 'Agricultural Extension and Research Project' in the year 1980. In the year 1987 it was re-designated as 'Agricultural Training Centre' for giving thrust on the agricultural development. During 1990s, it had been a cry for reforms in the sector of extension in the country to cope up with the changing agricultural scenario. As a result of the success of pilot testing of the model extension through National

**(Institutional charts of RKM with interrelation between
ATC-LSP-IRDM- Medicinal Plant Unit)**



Agricultural Technology Project (NATP), the Centrally sponsored Scheme on 'Support to State Extension Programme through Extension Reforms' (popularly known as ATMA programme) emerged and a State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institutes (SAMETI) were formed as autonomous institute at every state for human resource development in agriculture and allied sectors during the 10th Five-year Plan period. In case of West Bengal, the Agricultural Training Centre under Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur, Kolkata- 700103 was given that important responsibility for performing as State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI) in the month of June, 2005.

At present the Institute covers a wide domain of activities being the 'Agricultural Training Centre (ATC)' as well as the 'State Agricultural Management & Extension Training Institute (SAMETI)' in the area of human resource development and extension for the development of agriculture and allied sectors. In one side the institute is conducting training for the farmers, farmers' sons, group members, group leaders, grass root level extension workers for technology dissemination. On the other side it is fulfilling the mandate of extension and managerial skill up-gradation of the group leaders, agricultural and rural entrepreneurs; extension functionaries of panchayat level, block level and district level. The other important aspects of the institute are 'need identification' of HRD issues for different levels of agricultural stakeholders, field extension, evaluation, publication etc. to have a complementary effect and mutual benefits within the activity domain.

The Agricultural Training Centre and SAMETI are among 11 different institutes within Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur within an area of about 150 acres. The institutes like Residential Schools, College, Blind Boys' Academy, Commercial Institute etc. are known for their academic excellence, whereas the ATC/SAMETI along with Lokasiksha Parishad, Faculty Centre for Integrated Rural Development and Management and Medicinal plant units are well known for their efforts for agricultural and rural development. All these institutes, related to the agricultural and rural development, in collaboration and coordination not only share the existing resources to the fullest extent but also complement in the process of ITRD from picking issues from the grass root level and move up to the research and implementation of planned intervention with professionalism. Values and ethics are considered as essential parts in this whole process of HRD, which makes the result sustainable.

Programme Profile

Agriculture is a ever-changing subject and it is obvious that continuous innovations and updating is necessary for the agricultural developments. The country like India is characterised by agriculture—dependent population and agriculture dependent economy. Again the Indian agriculture is in a critical situation, where in one side crisis of sustainability and on the other side loss of interests of the farmers in this major way of livelihood are in expression.

It is needless to say the importance of Human Resource Development in agricultural sector, specially in such a situation. The HRD here means the development or change or updating of information, knowledge, skill and obviously the attitude of the concerned personnel. The capacity building or in more common term training is one of the most important part of HRD where mainly the development or updating of skill is in focus. The term ‘*training*’ refers to the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and competencies as a result of the teaching of vocational or practical skills and knowledge that relate to specific useful competencies.

At present situation along with acquiring technical skill, management skill also becomes very important to mobilize the potential resources and the process falls within the training component. Again people within many professions and occupations may refer to this sort of training as professional development.

The State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI)/Agricultural Training Centre, as a part of its core activities, is offering various types of human resource development activities through different level of training courses, seminar, workshop in close co-ordination with the departments of state government and others. The total programme organized in this year can be looked from various angles.

From the point of view of extension management, here in this report the nature of participants along with area or purpose of activities have been given importance and categorized as:

- i) Farmers, unemployed youths, group members, group leader, rural entrepreneur etc. as ultimate users.
- ii) Grass root level extension workers as key advocates, supporters or disseminators.
- iii) Block and district level Extension functionaries as technical experts, decision makers, master trainer etc.

The major training courses under Category-I, i.e. Farmers etc. are:

Farmers skill development training for SC, ST, General, women and men category of farmers, Poultry and dairy course for rural unemployed youth, Farm mechanization for agricultural farm labours, Scientific nursery management training for the SHG group members, Operation & maintenance of irrigation pump set for rural mechanics, Quality seed production, Vermicomposting for progressive farmers, rural unemployed youths etc., Use of market information for the progressive farmers/group leaders and other courses. Totally 77 such training courses in this category have been conducted (including field level training) and 1928 farmers, rural youths etc. have participated.

Similarly under the Category-II, i.e. for the grass root level extension workers, the major courses are:

Use of ICT in agricultural extension, Use of farm machinery for the Krishi Prayukti Sahayak (KPS), Bio-intensive farming for KPS, Orientation of the Icebika Sevak for Panchayat and Rural development Dept.

“The brain and muscles must develop simultaneously. Iron nerves with an intelligent brain — and the whole world is at your feet.”

—Swami Vivekananda

extension worker, Orientation programme of horticulture field consultant, Refreshers course for the Prani Bandhu for extension workers under Animal Resource development, Refresher course for the Krishiak Mitra for HFCO extension workers. Totally 30 such training courses in this category have been conducted and 852 grass root level extension workers have participated.

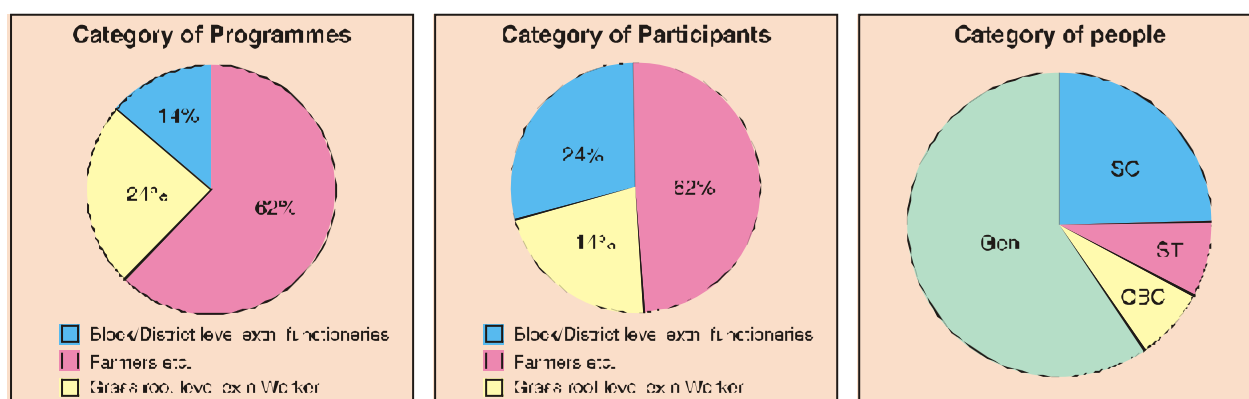
For Category-III, i.e. for the block and district level extension functionaries, the major courses conducted are:

Sustainable agriculture, Participatory Rural appraisal (PRA) and its use in project planning, Market-led extension, Group-led extension in animal husbandry, Mainstreaming gender, Bridging knowledge gap of agricultural extension through ICT, Farm business management etc. and other courses for the officers of agriculture and allied departments along with NGO executives, KVK resource persons, Agri-clinic & agri-business persons etc. Besides those training courses several workshop and seminars for these category have also been conducted and some of them are- State level workshop on 'Efficient water use and water harvesting in agriculture – activities and campaign', State level orientation cum review workshop on 'Modified Extension reform scheme', Seminar on 'Indigenous technology and conservation of traditional seeds', Seminar cum workshop on 'Hybrid paddy seed production technology', Seminar on 'Problems and prospects of agricultural marketing and export in West Bengal', etc. Totally 30 such programmes for category-III have been conducted and 1137 Extension functionaries have participated (including seminar-workshop).

Overview of all the programmes can be given as follows:

Programmes for different level	No. of Programmes	No. of Participants
Farmers etc.	77	1928
Grass root level Extn Worker	30	852
Block/District level extn. functionaries *	30	1137
Total	137	3917

* Including workshop, seminar & other programmes-13



“One should desire of God desirelessness. Desire is the obstacle to liberation.”

— Sarada Devi

1. TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR FARMERS

Farmers are the backbone of Indian agriculture, society and economy. For development of agriculture it is very important to update the skill and knowledge of the farmers. On the basis of need, last year the institute has arranged different types of on-station courses as well as field level training programme.

There are twelve types of training programmes conducted for the farmers, progressive farmers, women SHG members-group leaders, rural unemployed youths, farm labours, details of which are given in the Table-I.

In these 12 types of training courses totally 77 training programmes were conducted during the year 2010-11. A total of 1928 heads received those training, out of which 876 were female and 1052 male candidates.

Title of the Training Course	Target group	Duration (day)	No. of course	Total participant
1 Farmers' Skill Development Training	Rural Farmers, youths etc.	5	36	1080
2 Running, maintenance and repairing of irrigation pump set	Farm labours, Village youths	5	2	32
3 Soil Testing	Unemployed village youth	15	1	4
4 Poultry and Dairy Training for the Tribal Farmers	Women poultry grower	3	3	90
5 Induction programme on 'Scientific Dairy Culture'	Dairy Farmers	2	7	164
6 Quality Seed Production	Progressive Farmers	2	1	19
7 Vermicomposting	Progressive Farmers, rural youths	2	2	60
8 Mushroom Cultivation and Entrepreneurship Development	Progressive Farmers, rural youths, entrepreneur	4	1	16
9 Market information and market-led extension	SHG leaders, Progressive farmers	3	5	127
10 Advanced Rice Technologies	Progressive farmers, NGO representatives	2	1	22
11 Promotion and Mobilisation of SHG	SHG leaders, SHG members	2	1	15
12 Field level Training *	Farmers, Rural Youths	1	17	674
Total			77	1928

* Including outside training programme

“All the wealth of the world cannot help one little Indian village if the people are not taught to help themselves”

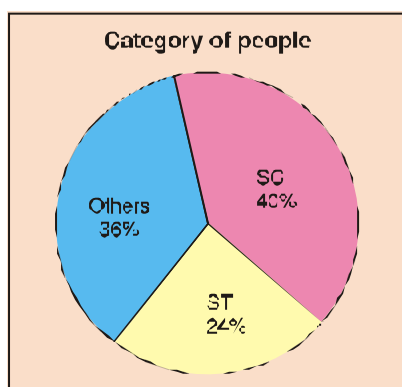
—Swami Vivekananda

1.1 Farmers' Skill Development Training

The Department of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal has taken a special step to orient the farmers of all sectors through a formal 5-day course with the objective of better and sustainable production along with better livelihood of farm families. In this 5-day course different modules are formed for male and female and also for different sectors (SC/ST etc.) on the basis of need. The course includes concept building and practical demonstration of updated technologies like vermin composting, mushroom culture, SRI and drum seeder technologies of rice culture, non-chemical pest management concept, efficient water utilization in plants etc. along with one day exposure visit. Updated information related to Kissan Call Centre, Tathya Mitra Kendra, information kiosk are also provided to the farmers during these five days residential programmes.



In the year 2010-11, totally 36 such courses were conducted, of which eight were out-station programmes in different Krishi Vigyan Kendras, capable NGOs, Agri-clinic & Agri-business Centres etc. Totally 1080 farmers were trained including 600 women, 480 men, 423 SC and 254 ST candidates. Among those the exclusive courses for different categories of farmers are given in the following table.



Category of the participants	No. of exclusive course	Participants from the districts	Total no. of participants
ST Women	1	South 24	Male 480
ST Men	2	pgs, East	Female 600
SC Women	3	Medinipur,	SC 423
SC Men	5	Hoochly,	ST 254
General Women	7	Burdwan,	OBC 18
General Men	15	Birbhum,	Gen 385
TOTAL	36	Purulia, Barkura,	Total 1080

1.2 Training programme on 'Running, maintenance and repairing of irrigation pump set'

Pump set for irrigation in the agricultural field is widely used through out West Bengal and so there is good demand for mechanics for repairing of such pump sets. Observing the demand amongst the village youths for such skill, a 5-day training programmes was organized on 'Running, maintenance and repairing of irrigation pump set' for the village youths. The course includes orientation on different types of pump sets and their characteristics, mechanism of running engine and practical on dismantling and assembling of pump set parts, common faults in pump sets: symptoms, diagnosis and their repairing, and general maintenance. In one such course, 17 village youths participated.

“Agriculture is the noblest of all alchemy; for it turns earth, and even manure, into gold, conferring upon its cultivator the additional reward of health.”

—Paul Chatfield

Target group	Duration (day)	No. of course	No. of participants		
			Male	Female	Total
Farm labours, Village youths	5	2	32	-	32

1.3 Training programmes on ‘Soil Testing’

Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama through its rural development activities established a number of water testing laboratories in collaboration with UNICEF and Dept. of Panchayat and Rural Development. The laboratories are equipped with necessary equipments and manpower to run the laboratories. The potentiality of acting as soil-testing laboratories along with water testing laboratories has been explored in the existing laboratories in Purba Medinipur, South 24 Parganas and Paschim Medinipur districts at block level. On the basis of that existing infrastructure, Dept. of Horticulture agreed to support some of the laboratories to act as soil testing laboratories also. A workshop on *Soil testing extension* was held on 24th February, 2010 for formulation of modalities in the process of extending the services of soil collection-testing-recommendation and the sustainability of such services. More than 30 participants including Executive members and analyst of those laboratories joined the workshop. Along with faculty members of ATC/SAMETI, the related personnel from Lokasikshaparisad and representative from horticulture Dept. were present.

As a follow up of the result of workshop on ‘Soil testing extension’ on 24th February, 2010, a 15-day training programme on ‘Soil testing’ was organized during 20th November – 4th December 2010. For running soil testing laboratories under the NGOs, four such laboratories are supported by the Horticulture Department. Eight rural youths, who will act as analysts of those laboratories were gone through a 15-day course covering basic chemistry related to soil testing, physical properties of soil, orientation about soil testing equipments, theory and practical of soil testing like P¹¹, Electrical conductivity (for salinity), Organic Carbon, Phosphorous and Potassium available in the soil etc. The course also includes the process of soil sample collection and process of motivating farmers for soil testing.

Target group	Duration (day)	No. of course	No. of participants		
			Male	Female	Total
Unemployed village youth	15	1	4	-	4

1.4 Farmers’ Induction Programme on Dairy

The Milk Federation of West Bengal, a wing of National Dairy Development Board in the State is in a mission of upgrading their group/federation members in the sector of breed up gradation through artificial insemination as well as scientific maintenance of dairy animal for enhanced production. Based on the need assessed, the SAMEITI in collaboration with Milk Federation has formulated a two day orientation course on ‘Farmers’ induction programme on dairy’ for the women members of different districts of West Bengal. During this year the following courses have been conducted by the institute.

Target group	Duration (day)	No. of course	No. of participants		
			Male	Female	Total
Dairy Farmers	2 days	7	46	118	164

“Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.”

—1st Earl of Chatham, William Pitt

1.5 Training Programme on ‘Quality Seed Production’

Quality seed is considered the most important input for agricultural production and that’s why ‘quality seed’ is the thrust area of the time for food security and higher agricultural growth. The farmers still keep the seed of the crop in traditional way and no special care is taken for its production and preservation. On the other hand many farmers’ groups have potentiality in quality seed production, particularly towards a venture of entrepreneurship development. In such situation a 2-day orientation course on ‘quality seed production’ is formulated for group members/leaders etc., which includes discussion on procedure of quality seed production, process and criteria for seed certification etc. The course is formulated in collaboration with State Seed Certifying Agency.

Target group	Duration (day)	No. of course	No. of participants		
			Male	Female	Total
Progressive farmers	2	1	19	-	19

1.6 Training on ‘Vermicomposting’

Vermicomposting is one of those technologies, which has large potential of quick adoption by farmers as well as act to support the sustainable agriculture. A 2-day skill development course with another a day for follow up is formulated for the farmers. The module deals with different steps of vermicomposting. Besides preparation of raw materials, use of cow dung/slurry, vermin culture etc.; different low cost models with local resources. At the end of the training each farmer was provided with 100 quality earth worms (*Isenia sp.*) so that the farmers could start the practice after returning their home.

Target group	Duration (day)	No. of course	No. of participants		
			Male	Female	Total
Progressive Farmers, rural youths	2	2	60	-	60

1.7 Training On ‘Mushroom Cultivation and Entrepreneurship Development’

Mushroom cultivation is gaining popularity as there is increasing demand through out the year, specially, in the city and suburban areas. Scope of entrepreneurship development among the youth of the suburban and rural areas is becoming prominent. Based on such demand a course of 3-day on ‘Mushroom cultivation and



“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

entrepreneurship development has been formulated. Use of local raw materials, procedure to cultivation, maintenance, first hand processing along with information on different types of edible mushroom and way to entrepreneurship development are included in the course.

Target group	Duration (day)	No. of course	No. of participants		
			Male	Female	Total
Progressive farmers entrepreneurs, SHG members	4	1	9	7	16

1.8 Market information and market-led extension

On asking about their problems, most of the Indian farmers raise the matter of market and remunerative price of their produces. The same produce which is glut with very low price in one place, in another place it is found to be scarce with high price. This is a very common phenomenon in Indian agricultural market. To bridge the gap and to provide the farmers profitable price, many steps are being taken. One of the important steps is to disseminate market information among the farmers. Last year SAMBITI conducted a master trainers training on this issue in collaboration with



Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, GOI. As a follow up field level programme for the SHG leaders are being done for promotion of market information and market led extension.

Target group	Duration (day)	No. of course	No. of participants		
			Male	Female	Total
SHG leaders, Progressive farmers	3	5	116	11	127

1.9 Training on 'Advanced Rice Technologies'

Rice is the main crop of West Bengal and the state supports the country with its production. When food security is one of the main concerns, rice takes the highest importance not only in West Bengal but also in the country. Though the technology of rice culture is well known by the farmers, in recent time intervention in the traditional rice culture method becomes inevitable due to the factors of cost-benefit consideration, efficient water use, labour crisis, diversification needed etc. Covering all these concerns a 2-day training course on 'Advanced Rice Technologies' for the progressive farmers is formulated. The advanced concept of water use, age of seedling, spacing, irrigation, fertilizer management etc. along with the methodology of SRI, Drum Seeder etc. are included in the course.

Target group	Duration (day)	No. of course	No. of participants		
			Male	Female	Total
Progressive farmers, NGO representatives	2	1	22	-	22

"As long as I live, so long do I learn."

—Sri Ramakrishna Dev

1.10 Training on 'Promotion and Mobilisation of SHG'

West Bengal is the state where developmental activities related to agriculture and rural development through SHG is significant. Large number of SHG/FIGs are generating income as well as providing service to the societies in many ways. At the time of need identification for capacity building, it was revealed that the potentialities of these groups are tremendous and can be explored further if mobilized properly. The 'Promotion and Mobilisation of SHG' is a 2-day orientation course for SHGs including process of group mobilization, process of business opportunity identification, way to entrepreneurship development etc. One of the integral parts of the course is 'presentation success stories by the achiever SHG'.



Target group	Duration (day)	No. of course	No. of participants		
			Male	Female	Total
SHG leaders, SHG members	2	1	8	7	15

1.11 Field Level Farmers Training

Providing training to the farmers at the institute does not satisfy the purpose in many cases, particularly when the objective is to transfer skill to the farmers and supporting them in their field problems. As a follow up of on-station farmers training/workshop and as a part of different extension service by the institute, different field level programmes of 1-2 days are conducted at the place of ultimate users. During reporting period the major field trainings were on pest management, diversification of crops, dairy and poultry development, seed production, rice cultivation etc. In total 15 field training programmes have been conducted outside the institute (skill development training) in which 299 farmers, progressive farmers, village youths attended the programmes, of which 72 are female. The important aspects among those were: SRI and Drum-seeder rice cultivation technology, cultivation of white sesame, improved package of practices on pulse and oilseed, seed village programme, quality paddy seed production methodology, etc.

Related Training to Different Crops	Place : Village / District	Total Course	Total Participants
1 Pest Management to different Crops	Baharda of Purba Midnapur	1	75
2 Improved package of practices of crops	Balageria of Purba Midnapur & Parulda of South 24 Pgs	4	140
3 Dairy & Poultry development	Kustia, Ranchandrapur, Maasar, Sonarpur of South 24 Pgs	4	110
4 Improved technology on rice cultivation	Sibkalinagar, Gobindarampur, Patarpattina of South 24 Pgs	2	31
5 Quality seed production of crops	Sibkalinagar, Ghola, Dakshin Sibganj, Pathar Pratinna, Baharda of South 24 Pgs & Purba Midnapur	6	318
Total		17	674

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."

—Rabindranath Tagore

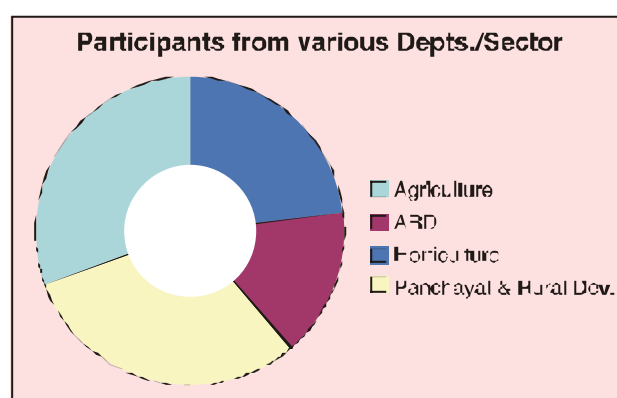
2. TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR GRASS ROOT LEVEL EXTENSION WORKER

Knowledge and skill development of the grass root level extension workers is one of the prime thrust areas of the institute. They are the personnel, who directly link different departments and the rural end users. The crying needs of the villagers, the gap in technology dissemination etc. are reflected through their experience sharing, feedbacks, group work etc. On the basis of the need following training courses were conducted during last year for the grass root level extension functionaries like – Krishak Mitra, Krishi Prayukti Sahayak, Horticultural field consultant, Jeebika Sevak, Prani Mitra, Prani Bandhu, NGO extension workers etc.

Title of the Training Course	Target group	Duration (day)	No. of course	Total no. of participant
1 Orientation on advanced horticultural technologies	Horticultural Field Consultant	2	6	186
2 Training on Anima Husbandry	Prani Mitra	15	1	28
3 Refreshers on 'Artificial insemination of dairy animals'	Prani Bandhu	3	4	96
4 Orientation on 'Panchayat level developmental activities'	Jeebika Sevak (P&RD)	5	8	247
5 Implementation of SRI technologies	Krishak Mitra (HFCO)	1	1	10
6 Market information and market-led extension	SHG leaders, Progressive farmers	3	6	132
7 Use of Computer and ICT In Agricultural Extension	Krishi Prayukti Sahayak	3	1	18
8 Bio-Intensive Farming	Krishi Prayukti Sahayak	3	2	60
9 Eco-friendly Pest Management	Krishi Prayukti Sahayak	3	1	25
10 Outside training programme	Block level extension functionaries	1	1	50
Total			30	852

In these nine types of training courses, totally 29 training programmes were conducted in the year 2010-11 and 802 grass root level extension workers received the training, out of whom 58 were women, 744 men and 43 persons are schedule caste and 17 are scheduled tribe. Four training courses are specially for the KPS, in which 103 heads attended in nine programmes.

Grass root level Extension functionaries attended in different programmes are as follows:



*“Let New India a rise-out of the peasants’ cottage, grasping the plough;
out of the huts of the fisherman, the cobbler, and the sweeper”*

—Swami Vivekananda

2.1 Orientation on Advanced Horticultural Technologies

Horticulture holds a very important place in the Agricultural and Rural development sector in West Bengal. For dissemination of the horticultural techniques, information etc. the Horticultural Field Consultants are working at block level. For speedy and effective implementation of horticultural activities at grass root level, the need for skill and knowledge up gradation of these Horticultural Field Consultants are felt essential. In collaboration with the Directorate of Horticulture a 2-day module for these candidates has been formulated. With the support



of National Horticultural Mission, all field consultants went through the course. Different sessions like, NIM scheme and convergence of NREGA, Model nursery and orchard layout, Propagation of fruit and flowering plants, Production technology of different fruits, Vermicomposting, Protected cultivation, Pest and disease management in horticultural crops etc. are in the module. During this year six such programmes have been conducted, details of which are given below:

Target group	Duration (day)	No. of course	No. of participants		
			Male	Female	Total
Horticultural Field Consultants from 15 districts	2 days	6	170	16	186

2.2 Training on Animal Husbandry

The Self Help Group Leaders related to Animal Husbandry with the aim of increasing production and economic productivity is being trained on different aspects of animal husbandry. Breed up gradation of cattle and poultry, procedures and management of rearing, health aspects, feed and fodder etc. are being discussed in this 15-day course. The module contains practice along with the discussion sessions in poultry and dairy farm. The SHG leaders will act as master trainers under Panchayat and Rural Development Department structure and are named as 'Prani Mitra'.

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

—Mahatma Gandhi

Target group	Duration (day)	No. of course	No. of participants		
			Male	Female	Total
Pranimitra	15	1	-	28	28

2.3 Refreshers on 'Artificial insemination of dairy animals'

Up gradation of the local breed of cow is one of the missions of 'White Revolution'. This mission is being carried out by 'Paschim Banga Go Sampad Unnayan Sanstha' in collaboration with the Dept. of Animal Health and Animal Resource Development. The key actors in this sector are the 'Pranibandhu', the Panchayat level extension workers. A 3-day refresher course was formulated for such functionaries. The need for the Artificial Insemination (AI), process of AI, causes of success and failure of the AI, maintenance of the pregnant cows and feed & health management of the upgraded generation are included.

Target group	Duration (day)	No. of course	No. of participants		
			Male	Female	Total
Pranibandhu	3	4	96	-	96

2.4 Orientation Training of 'Jeebika Sevak'

The Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) is designed to redress regional imbalances in development. In West Bengal, Dept. of Panchayat and Rural Development (P&RD) is running this BRGF programme in fourteen districts. For proper implementation of different rural development schemes, Panchayat level extension workers have been engaged with the designation 'Jeebika Sevak'. For orientation to the Jeebika Sevaks on different rural development schemes like MNREGA, SGSRY, IGAY, NFSM, RKVY etc., implementation procedure of these schemes, use of the agricultural technologies,



basic concept about the three-tier Panchayati Raj Institute System, responsibilities of office bearers at different levels of PRTI etc., a 5-day course module has been prepared in collaboration with the Dept. of P&RD.

Target group	Duration (day)	No. of course	No. of participants		
			Male	Female	Total
Jeebika Sevak (P&RD)	5	8	245	2	247

"The Man who works for others, without any selfish motive, really does good to himself."

—Sri Ramakrishna Dev

2.5 Training on ‘Implementation of SRI Technology’

A one day programme was organized on 10th October, 2010 on ‘Implementation of System of Rice Intensification technology’ for the grass root level extension workers of IICCO (Krishak Mitra) as follow up of last year’s one week training. The constraints faced and the methodology to overcome for successful implementation of SRI in different selected village was thoroughly discussed. Ten trainees participated the programme.

2.6 Market information and market led extension

On asking about their problems, most of the Indian farmers raise the matter of market and remunerative price of their produces. The same produce which is glut with very low price in one place, in another place it is found to be scarce with high price. This is a very common phenomenon in Indian agricultural market. To bridge the gap and to provide the farmers profitable price, many steps are being taken. One of the important steps is to disseminate market information among the farmers. Last year SAMETI conducted a master trainers training on this issue in collaboration with Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, GOI. As a follow up field level programme for the SHG leaders are being done for promotion of market information and market led extension.

Target group	Duration (day)	No. of course	No. of participants		
			Male	Female	Total
SHG leaders, Progressive farmers	3	5	116	11	127

2.7 Use of computer and ICT in Agricultural Extension

The Information and Communication Technology is providing a tremendous boost to all sectors of development in recent times. In agriculture also the ICT becomes a big support, particularly, to the extension wing. The farmers now can have any information on agriculture being in their village or may have probable solution of their field problems, if the person knows the way of searching. In spite of such potentiality, the possibilities still remain unexplored. The main reasons for this are unawareness about this modern system, lack of little skill to



“I tell you one thing - if you want peace of mind, don not fault with others.”

— Sarada Devi

handle and obviously the attitude. To tackle the problems a 3-day training course on ‘Use of computer and ICT in Agricultural Extension’ was organized for grass root level agricultural extension workers (KPS). Items like role of computer and ICT in agriculture, basic knowledge on computer and easy handling, handling internet and e-mail, and web searching etc. are in the module. Use of the Common Service Centre, use of mobile in extension etc. are also included. Eighteen agricultural extension functionaries (KPS) participated in one such programme.

2.8 Bio-intensive Farming

Consciousness and cautiousness about use of chemicals, particularly toxic chemical, in food materials are rapidly increasing among the general mass. Demand of no use of chemical or minimum use of chemicals is in demand. This is now becoming the face of sustainable agriculture also. A 5-day training course on ‘Bio-Intensive farming’ has been formulated for the grass root level agricultural extension workers (KPS). Concept



and status of organic farming in West Bengal and India, method of organic farming, certification of organic farming, vermi composting, preparation of different organic farming support materials, use of bio-fertilizer, bio-pesticides etc. along with process of organic certification and entrepreneurship development are the different topics of discussion. Presentation of success stories by the farmers along with field visits is also included. Details of the programmes conducted during the reporting period are given below.

Target group	Duration (day)	No. of course	No. of participants		
			Male	Female	Total
KPS	5	2	60	-	60

2.9 Eco-Friendly Pest Management

A 3-day training programme on ‘Eco-friendly pest management’ was organized for 25 grass root level agricultural extension functionaries (Krishi Prayukti Sahayak) of South 24 Parganas district. Present scenario of agricultural pests and their management was discussed. The new and safe molecules for controlling pest, use of botanical pesticides, microbial pesticides, pheromones were discussed. Experience sharing through group discussion and making decision is also included.

“You can’t cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water.”

—Rabindranath Tagore

3. TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR BLOCK AND DISTRICT LEVEL EXTENSION FUNCTIONARIES

The block and district level officers of the Government are the crucial persons for agricultural extension. They are the key persons in making technical recommendations, implementing Government schemes, planning project proposals for their area and ultimately managing the development system related to them.

Based on the feedback throughout the year 8 types of different courses have been formulated for these extension functionaries and totally 17 courses have been conducted.

A total of 569 officers from Department of Agriculture, Animal Resource Development, Horticulture, Fishery, and Agricultural Marketing along with KVK personnel and NGO executives joined in the training programmes. A regular course on Post Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Extension & Management (PGDAEM) is also in run through this institute which is supported by the MANAGE, Hyderabad. A detail of the PGDAEM course has been presented separately. A brief of the officers training is given below:

Sl. No.	Title of training	Duration	Target Group	Representative districts	No. of Course	Male	Female	Total
1	PRA findings in project formulation	5 days	Districts Fishery Officers	All 18 districts	1	24	-	24
2	Sustainable Agriculture	5 days	ADAs	South 24 Parganas, Uttar Dinajpur, Burdwan, Coohbhar, Birbhum and Purba Medinipur	1	22	-	22
3	Master trainers training on 'Market Led Extension'	3 days	KVK, state govt., Agri-clinic, NGO exc.	Darjeeling, Burdwan, Hoogly, Malda, Bankura, Paschim Medinipur, South 24 Pgs,	2	25	-	50
4	Gender Mainstreaming	5 days	Block level extension functionaries, NGO executives	Howrah, South 24 Pgs, Purba Medinipur, North 24 Pgs, Paschim Medinipur, Birbhum, Hoogly, Burdwan	1	19	2	21
5	Hybrid paddy seed production technology	29 th April, 2010	ADAs, KPS, Progressive farmers, Seed dealers, Rice stations, University	Howrah, South 24 Pgs, Purba Medinipur, North 24 Pgs, Paschim Medinipur, Birbhum, Hooghly, Burdwan	1	46	0	46
6	Promotion of Agri-Commodity Export	Dec 2-3, 2010	Block, dist. level IBI, agri-entrepreneur	South 24 Pgs, Darjeeling, Nadia, Purba Medinipur, N=24 Pgs, Malda.	1	18	2	20
7	Farm Business Management	21-25 Feb 2011	Block-District level Officers	West Bengal, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala	1	30	-	30

"The brain and muscles must develop simultaneously. Iron nerves with an intelligent brain — and the whole world is at your feet."

—Swami Vivekananda

Sl. No.	Title of training	Duration	Target Group	Representative districts	No. of Course	Male	Female	Total
8.	PGDAEM— (Contact Class— Semi I&II, Exam— Semi I&II, working		District level officers	West Bengal	9	534	22	356
	Total				17	543	26	569

3.1 Application of PRA Findings in Project Formulation

Planning is a process, which is required for any work, specially for a programme/scheme etc. But methodological planning often is ignored and that is one of the most frequent causes of unsatisfactory implementation/failure of a project or scheme. At present planning through participation of the villagers is regarded most important. It is found that the whole process of 'planning to implementations' of project, which are planned through such 'Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)', are found to cause more satisfactory, efficient and effective and sustainable result. But to follow this process, skill of the facilitators is one of the most important factors. A one week duration course was formulated along with the Department of Fishery to equip their district level officers in this process.



Sessions on 'Concept of PRA and methodology', 'Application of different tools of PRA', 'Steps of project formulation' etc. were discussed in detailed. After every discussion session, group work was done to exercise the matter. A day was totally dedicated in a village to gather data and information using different PRA tools in participatory method and to take suggestion on thrust areas of development of that particular village. After analysis of the information and data, the officers presented the plan of development of the particular village.

3.2 Sustainable Agriculture

Sustainable agriculture is one of the most important aspects in Indian Agriculture, while there is tremendous pressure on increasing production for food security and on the other side natural resources are not responding in desired level. Willingness of the farmers to remain in farming sector as well as availability of market and remunerative price of produces are also critical considerations. In such a position sustainability of agricultural

"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."

— Albert Einstein

production and standard livelihood of agricultural community is to be considered. A 5-day course was organized on 'Sustainable Agriculture' in collaboration with the National Institute for Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. All together 22 block and district level officers from different districts interacted in different sessions like: Sustainable approach for soil fertility management, Alternative pest management, Climate change and its impact, Development of wasteland for sustainable use, Organic farming- potential and strategies and extension approaches for sustainable agriculture etc.

3.3 Master Trainers Training on 'Market Led Extension'

'Alone good production is not sufficient for standard livelihood of the farming community and so to the agricultural growth of the country' has been felt critically during the last two decades. Processing of agricultural commodities and its marketing are the other two components to be emphasized on priority basis. Considering these factors, Govt. of India has started a venture to make awareness among the extension functionaries about the agricultural marketing information and to percolate it down gradually in the farming communities. A 3-day course on 'Master trainers training on market led extension' was organized for the district/block level extension functionaries of the state. Different aspects of agricultural marketing, marketing network, way to easy access of marketing information, AGMARKNET website, commodity exchange, future marketing etc. were included along with a half-day exposure visit. 30 number of officers from different KVKs, State Govt. Departments, NGOs, Agri-clinic- agribusiness Centres participated in two training courses.



Different aspects of agricultural marketing, marketing network, way to easy access of marketing information, AGMARKNET website, commodity exchange, future marketing etc. were included along with a half-day exposure visit. 30 number of officers from different KVKs, State Govt. Departments, NGOs, Agri-clinic- agribusiness Centres participated in two training courses.

3.4 Training on 'Mainstreaming Gender'

Emphasis is being given on utilization of human resources in proper way for increasing growth of the country. Mainstreaming Gender is one of the issues in this respect, particularly in agricultural sector. A 5-day training course on 'Mainstreaming Gender' was organized in collaboration with National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management', Hyderabad during 3-7 th. May, 2010. Different aspects of gender mainstream (Gender issues in Agriculture, Gender Analysis frame work-livelihood Analysis, Application of PRA for Gender Analysis, Gender Budgeting, Govt. initiatives on Gender, Nutrition & Health



"Finish the few duties you have at hand, and then you will have peace."

—Sri Ramakrishna Dev

Issues for farm women, Women and Land Rights- Implication on Livelihoods) were discussed in participatory mode. Twenty one participants from the district of Paschim Medinipur, North 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly, Birbhum, South 24 Parganas, Burdwan etc. comprising block level extension functionaries from the Dept. of Agriculture, Animal Resource Development, Agril. Marketing, Fisheries and NGOs participated the programme. Theoretical discussion, group exercise, experiential learning process and field exercise were the methods of the training.

3.5 Hybrid paddy seed production technology

The productivity of the individual crops, particularly, the food grains have reached to a level through their genetic exploration through the High Yielding Varieties. To cope up with the population growth further increase in productivity is needed and the scientists have invented different hybrid varieties of crops. Though the hybrids of vegetables are very popular, cultivation of hybrid of the food grains, like rice, is still not so common. One of the bottlenecks of cultivation of hybrid rice is availability of hybrid seeds. Production of hybrid seeds of rice



need some more careful culture and skill which our farmers, even the extension workers of all levels are also not equipped with. Keeping the scenario in view, a seminar cum workshop on 'Hybrid paddy seed production technology' was organized at SAMETI in collaboration with State Seed Certifying Agency of the Department of Agriculture on 29th, April, 2010. More than 40 participants including the Additional Directors of Agriculture, KPS, progressive farmers, seed dealers joined the programme. Experts from the Regional Rice Station, University etc. shared their experience and interacted with the participants.

3.6 Training Programme on 'Promotion of Agri-Commodity Export'

Agricultural marketing is one of the important branches of agricultural economics. Farmers have one commodity or the other in surplus. This surplus has to be disposed off or sold so as to earn some money to satisfy other needs, which cannot be satisfied on the farm or in the village. In modern commercial agriculture, the surpluses with farmers are steadily rising so also their family needs are changing with the change in lifestyle. Therefore, agricultural marketing has assumed important place. Traditionally, market is place or building where buying or selling of goods takes place. But in modern times with fast and long distance communication facilities like telephone becoming



"Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind."

— Albert Einstein

available, market is no more restricted to particular place only, but it has become wider and has assumed regional, national or even international status. Keeping this in mind a two day training programme was organised on 'Promotion of Agri-Commodity Export' for the district level officers of the state. Export strategy & product planning, Basic principles of export marketing, APEDA export procedure, Foreign trade policy & global environment for export, packaging & its importance etc. are the points of discussion during these two days training programme. Sri P.K Pramanik, Director of Horticulture, Govt. of West Bengal, Sri Anup Dutta, Exporter, Sri Umesh Kumar, In-charge APEDA, Kolkata, Director of Indian Institute of Packaging, Kolkata were delivered their inputs to the participant.

3.7 Training on Farm Business Management

In one side it is observed that the farmers are loosing interest in agriculture and on the other side the business men and corporate sector wants come in the agricultural production. The truth is agriculture as business is profitable if it is done in proper way. The managers of the agricultural farms are in need that knowledge and skill along with the support of modern technologies including Information and Communication Technology. Based on this view a 5-day programme on 'Farm Business Management' was organized in collaboration with MANAGE, Hyderabad during 21-15 February, 2011. Concept of the Farm



Business, understanding farm resources, performance assessment of farm enterprises, intensification and diversification of farming system, market orientation of agricultural products, cost reduction in agriculture, application of ICT in farm business etc. were dealt during the five days. Half day was kept for field exercise on application of farm business management methodologies. Total 30 Government officials (district and block level) from Jhachal Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa and West Bengal joined the training programme. Experts from MANAGE, Hyderabad; SAMETI, West Bengal, State Agricultural Universities, Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, India Institute of Foreign Trade, West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences, NIIC, Private sector (PepsiCo) etc. took different sessions.

4. WORKSHOP - SEMINAR

Besides training for skill and knowledge development, the institute has conducted various workshop and seminars on different burning issues or issues, on which conclusion, follow up action/road map or decisions are needed.

In the year 2010, the institute organised various workshop for different levels of participants. Keeping the objective in mind, sometimes the mode of the workshop has been changed to training-workshop mode or seminar-workshop mode. This year in total 13 number of such programmes have been organised in which a total of 858 participants attended. Information at a glance on workshops/seminars organized is given in the following table.

"He alone is the true teacher who is illumined by the light of true knowledge."

— Sri Ramkrishna Dev

Sl. No.	Title	Date	Target Group	No. of Participants
1	State-level Orientation cum Review workshop on 'Modified Extension Reforms Scheme'	20 Aug, 2010	PD, ATMA officers, KVK, SAU-Depr. Heads, ATC principal, Progressive farmers, PGDAEM candidates	87
2	State Level Training cum Workshop on 'Efficient Water Use and Water Harvesting in Agriculture: Activities and Campaign'	6 th July, 2010	Assistant Directors of Agriculture related to training and information of all the districts	31
3	Workshop on Agri-clinic- Agri-business Centre	23 rd July, 2010	AC/ABC candidates	15
4	Sub-divisional workshop on operationalisation of FIAC (Out station-Tarakeswar, Hooghly)	28 th Apr., 2010	BTT members, FAC Chairman and members, PRI representatives	50
5	Review and Planning Workshop on ISOIOM	1-2 nd July, 2010	Progressive farmers, CBOs executives, Govt. extension functionaries	63
6	Review & planning workshop of Agricultural Training Centres of WB	26 th April, 2010	Faculty members of all ATCs	31
7	Seminar on Climate change and Agriculture	19 th Jan, 2010	Govt. Extension functionaries, NGO executive, University students	140
8	Indigenous Technology and conservation of traditional seeds'	29 th May, 2010	FIG leaders, rural entrepreneurs, Grass root level extension workers, NGO executives and extension workers	151
9	Seminar on 'Zoonotic Diseases'	22 nd July, 2010	Farmers	80
10	New Era of Plant Protection: Seminar and opening of Books on Plant protection	31 st Dec., 2010	District level officers of Ag, Pvt. Sectors: All the dists	81
11	Seminar on: Problem and prospects of agril. Marketing in WB	20 th Jan., 2011	KPS, Horti field consultant, Prog Farmers, ADA: S 24 Pgs, N=24 Pgs, Howrah, Hooghly	98
12	Staff development workshop (Taki)	25 th Jan. 2011	Staff of ATC/SAMET	19
13	State Training Calendar Preparation workshop	11 th Mar., 2011	Officers from different. Depts. ATC staff	15
	Total			858

4.1 State level Orientation cum Review Workshop on 'Modified Extension Reforms Scheme'

Since 1990s with the start of NAIP and the ATMA programme in pilot stage, many changes have occurred in the Support to the State Extension Scheme (ATMA programme) to accommodate the felt need and suggestions time to time. Recently Govt. of India has made some major modification in ATMA guidelines based on the experience of implementation and feedback from different stakeholders of the scheme. After a National level workshop on modified ATMA guidelines at New Delhi during 3-4 August, 2010, it has been felt that a State level orientation is needed for better implementation of the scheme. On 20th August, 2010 a 'State level Orientation cum Review Workshop on Modified Extension Reforms Scheme' was organized to orient all the

Men are more valuable than all the wealth' of the world

—Anonymous

state level key stakeholders on the changes made in the scheme as well as review of the activities of the scheme in past years. Dr. A.K. Agarwal, Principal Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal chaired the session. Among the other dignitaries presented their views were: Prof. Saroj Sanyal, Vice Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya; Swami Suparnananda, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur; Dr. A.K. Singh, Zonal Coordinator, ICAR; Dr. Kamala Kanta Saha, Director of Animal Resource Development; Dr. Paritosh Bhattacharya, Additional Director of Agriculture (Research) etc.



The participants of the workshop were the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Administration) & ex-officio Project Director of ATMA along with other officials of all the districts, Programme Coordinators of all the KVKs, Joint Directors of the Research stations under State Agriculture Directorate, Deputy Director of Agriculture (Training) of the Agricultural Training Centers, Agricultural University Unit heads, progressive farmers and SAMETI Faculties. To fulfill the objective of the workshop, presentations were made on: 'Modified guidelines highlighting the changes', 'Role of the SAU and KVK in ATMA scheme implementation', 'Farm School and its modified activities' and the SWWP for the year 2010-11. Besides, three Farm School Headmasters and three PGDAEM candidates expressed their experience highlighting the importance of the respective activities within ATMA programme. A thorough discussion on different aspects through interactive session was held with the participation of all level of stakeholders and a road map for implementation of the modified scheme was formed.

4.2 State Level Training cum Workshop on “Efficient Water Use and Water Harvesting in Agriculture: Activities and Campaign”

Water is now becoming '*Limited resource from resource of plenty*'. The Indian agriculture is largely dependent on the mercy of nature and economic growth is predicted on the basis of good, normal or bad monsoon. Out of the total water utilized in India, more than 85 percent is used as irrigation water. On the other hand erratic rainfall, lowering of ground water table along with the threat of arsenic contamination has pushed the Indian agriculture to think wisely for its proper and judicious use. In this context Govt. of India started a campaign throughout the country to ultimately reach to the farmers to make them conscious about the sustainable use of water. A “*State Level Training cum Workshop on Efficient Water Use and Water Harvesting in Agriculture: Activities and Campaign*” was organized during 6-7 July, 2010 at SAMETI as part of ATMA activity. The



“The brain and muscles must develop simultaneously. Iron nerves with an intelligent brain — and the whole world is at your feet.”

—Swami Vivekananda

Assistant Directors of Agriculture related to training, information etc. of all districts was invited in that 2-day programme. Prof. Saroj Kumar Sanyal, Vice Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya chaired the inaugural session. The Joint Directors of Agriculture related to water use issues like Water Management, Soil Conservation etc. presented their views. The important issues like 'Irrigation and arsenic pollution in agriculture', 'Water harvesting structures', 'Judicious water management in agriculture', 'Zero tillage cultivation', 'SRI paddy cultivation' etc. were discussed in different sessions. Besides, group discussion session on 'Water literacy campaign for the farmers' was also conducted and as outcome the participants produced a draft of leaflet/folder, module for training of extension functionaries and farmers, slogans etc. related to efficient and judicious water-use. At the end of the programme a road map showing how to reach the farmers with those entire messages was chalked out.

4.3 Workshop with Agri-Clinic & Agri-business Centre

The trained graduates of Agriculture and allied sectors have been given opportunity to establish them through a Govt. of India sponsored innovative scheme in the name 'Agri-Clinic Agri-business Centre (AC/ABC)'. This venture is now considered under ATMA programme. In West Bengal, though there are more than 350 trained graduates, most of them are engaged either in Govt. or Corporate/Private sectors. Few enthusiastic persons remain in this venture. SAMBHI use to sit with those candidates to give a platform for their promotion and support. On 23rd July, 2010, the AC/ABC members interacted with different Private sectors dealing with agriculture related business with the objective of mutual benefit as well as service to the farmers. SREI-SAHAI, IKSL, SRACHI agri-implementation, Astha etc. interacted in that training cum workshop.

4.4 'Sub-divisional level workshop on Operationalisation of FIAC'

Through the need assessment, it was found that for successful implementation of the ATMA programme, the block and Gram Panchayat level stakeholders are to be properly oriented on operational aspects. To tackle that lacunae, a series of 'Sub-divisional level workshop on Operationalisation of FIAC' are being conducted since last year. During the reporting period, a programme was organized at Tarakeswar, Hooghly districts on 28th April, 2010. Fifty participants including BTT convener, block level officers from different departments, the subdivision level Additional Director of Agriculture (Administration), the Chairman of FIAC, the PRI representatives, the women representatives etc. participated the workshop.

4.5 Review and Planning Workshop of ISOPOM

As part of the extension programme the ATC is implementing the ISOPOM programme in different districts for promotion of intensive pulse, oilseed and maize cultivation in collaboration with the Dept. of Agriculture. Different village level youth organizations are supporting in this implementation and supervision. A 'Review and Planning Workshop of ISOPOM' was organized during 1-2 July, 2010. The NGO executives, farmers from



*“Let New India a rise-out of the peasants’ cottage, grasping the plough;
out of the huts of the fisherman, the cobbler, and the sweeper”*

—Swami Vivekananda

different districts and the Govt. officials participated the programme. Group discussion on different implementing issues as well as planning was held with the farmers. Over all 63 participants took part in that programme.

4.6 Review & Planning Workshop of All ATCs of West Bengal

In West Bengal eight Agricultural Training Centres (ATC) are performing for capacity building of the Krishi Prayukti Samayak (KPS), the grass root level extension workers of the Dept. of Agriculture, through 6-month duration Pre-service and In-service training courses. Besides those other different courses for KPS, Progressive farmers, Farmers of different categories (SC/ST/General, Men/Women), Farmers' sons etc. are now also part of the regular curriculum. For smooth conduction of those courses, feedback and exchange of views for further betterment of the courses are highly essential. For that purpose a Review and Planning workshop of all the eight ATCs of West Bengal was held on 26th April, 10. In the inaugural Session Sri Sibabrata Ghatak, Deputy Director of Agriculture (Trg), Head Quarter, Govt. of West Bengal and Swamy Suparnanandaji Maharaj, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur were present. Activities of the ATCs were reviewed and plan of the training on the basis of the feedback was made for the ATCs as final output of the workshop.



For that purpose a Review and Planning workshop of all the eight ATCs of West Bengal was held on 26th April, 10. In the inaugural Session Sri Sibabrata Ghatak, Deputy Director of Agriculture (Trg), Head Quarter, Govt. of West Bengal and Swamy Suparnanandaji Maharaj, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur were present. Activities of the ATCs were reviewed and plan of the training on the basis of the feedback was made for the ATCs as final output of the workshop.

4.7 Seminar on 'Climate Change and Agriculture'

Climate change is the hottest topic of the moment. The agricultural sector is certainly to be largely affected by this change which is considered the most important economic, social, cultural factors of livelihood of Indian mass. A Seminar on 'Climate change and Agriculture' was organized on 19th January, 2010. Sri N. K. Das, Special Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture and Co-operation, Govt. of India, presided over the Seminar. Sri Das delivered speech on 'National Strategy to mitigate the climate change effect on agriculture'. Dr. R.N. Basu, former Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University and Chairman, State Agricultural Commission, West Bengal; Dr. Pijush Pramanik, Director of Horticulture and Dr. S. Mishra, retired Agricultural Meteorologist discussed on different aspects of climate change and its effect on agriculture in Global, Indian and West Bengal perspective. The block and district level extension functionaries from different districts, NGO executives, University students etc. participated the seminar.



“Try not to become a man of success. Rather become a man of value.”

— Albert Einstein

4.8 Seminar cum workshop on 'Hybrid Paddy Seed Production Technology'

The productivity of the individual crops, particularly, the food grains have reached to a level through their genetic exploration through the High Yielding Varieties. To cope up with the population growth, further increase in productivity is needed and the scientists have invented different hybrid varieties of crops. Though the hybrids of vegetables are very popular, cultivation of hybrid of the food grains, like rice, is still not so common. One of the bottlenecks of cultivation of hybrid rice is availability of hybrid seeds. Production of hybrid seeds of rice need to learn some additional techniques, more careful culture and skill which our farmers, even the extension workers are also not equipped with. Keeping the scenario in view, a seminar cum workshop on 'Hybrid paddy seed production technology' was organized in coLaboration with State Seed Certifying Agency under the Department of Agriculture on 29th, April, 2010. More than 40 participants including the Additional Directors of Agriculture, KPS, progressive farmers, seed dealers joined the programme. Experts from the Regional Rice Station, Agricultural University etc. shared their experience and interacted with the participants.

4.9 Seminar on 'Indigenous Technology and Conservation of Traditional Seeds'

After green revolution and with adoption of some disproportionate and injudicious technologies, our country has lost large number of traditional varieties of different crops and traditional knowledge system. In recent time the total society has felt the importance of conserving those valuable inputs and knowledge, which are found to be highly important not only for sustainability but also for high profitability in terms of marketing and scientific values. A Seminar on 'Indigenous Technology and conservation of traditional seeds' was organized on 29th, May, 2010 in coLaboration with Lokasiksha Parishad. More than 200 participants, who were mainly rural development and extension workers in rural areas of 12 districts of West Bengal, associated with different rural Community based organizations and NGOs actively participated in the seminar. Sri Anupam Paul, Assistant Director of Agriculture (Training), a well known worker in the sector of conservation of traditional varieties and traditional knowledge, acted as main resource person. Two progressive farmers, who are practicing Indigenous technologies and culturing traditional varieties with profitability and one trader, who basically promoting marketing of rice out of traditional varieties also shared their experiences.

4.10 Seminar on 'New Era of Plant Protection'

Agricultural pest situation is an ever-changing subject. Farmers are in need in update recommendation to tackle the pest situation in their field. An initiative was taken by the Plant Protection wing of the Govt. of West



Bengal to publish a comprehensive recommendation for all types agricultural pest in integrated manner, prevailing in West Bengal. After mountainous work in collaboration with the experts from Agricultural Universities, SAMETI, Private companies, Research wings of the state; ultimately a publication in the name of 'Integrated Pest Management: Plant Protection Schedule' was published on 31st, December, 2010 through a Seminar entitled with 'New Era of Plant Protection'. On this occasion different dignitaries

"Agriculture is the noblest of all alchemy; for it turns earth, and even manure, into gold, conferring upon its cultivator the additional reward of health."

—Paul Chatfield

like, Prof. Sarej Kumar Sanyal, Vice Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya; Sri Sarthak Barma, Director of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal, Dr. D. Konar, former Director of Agriculture & Ex-officio Secretary of Agriculture along with renowned Plant Protection Scientists like — Prof. A. Som Chowdhury, BCKV; Prof. K. Baral, Visva Bharati University etc. addressed the audience. A colour album on the pest and natural enemies for easy identification was also released. Seventy one district level Plant Protection Officers from all the districts, representatives from the agri-input Pvt. Sector, students of University participated in that seminar.

4.11 Seminar on ‘Problems and prospects of agricultural marketing and export in West Bengal’

Agricultural marketing is pointed as one of the areas to be emphasised in current time for flourishing of agriculture and also the national economy. On 20th January, 2011, a Seminar on ‘Problems and prospects of agricultural marketing and export in West Bengal’ was organised. Dr. Pijush Kanti Pramarik, Director of Horticulture, Govt. of West Bengal, made a presentation on ‘West Bengal Horticulture: Scope of marketing and export of horticultural produce’.



Sri A.K. Das, Senior Assistant Director, National Horticulture Board, Govt. of India delivered a speech on ‘Process of quality-agri-produce marketing and export and the trends in West Bengal’. Dr. Manas Ghosh, Director, SAMETI discussed on the aspect of ‘Speciality of agricultural produces in relation to market’. The “important aspect of the seminar was presentation of experience of an exporter. Sri Babla Biswas, who is at present exporting the tube rose to Netherlands. The District Horticultural Officers, Assistant Directors of Agriculture, Krishi Prayukti Sahayak, Horticultural field Assistants, Progressive Farmers and University students participated in that Seminar. About 100 heads participated in that seminar.

4.12 Stalls development workshop

One day Staff Development workshop of the institute has been organised at Taki of North 24 Parganas on 25th January, 2011. Through the day the staff members present in the workshop, are involved in various discussion related to staff development. In the afternoon the staff members visited the field of the area to observe the present situation of the field. Sri Swapan Pal, the ex-student of the institute (at present KPS Hasnabad) were present in the workshop and guided the field visit. The staff members enjoyed the workshop discussion and the field visit.



“Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.”

—1st Earl of Chatham, William Pitt

4.13 State Training Calendar Preparation workshop

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. Ministry of Agriculture is giving emphasis, on human resource development throughout the country in the strategic way. Every state is preparing their training agenda of the year covering all allied sectors of agriculture. A one day workshop was conducted on "State level Training=need assessment" for the sectors of agriculture, animal resources development, fisheries, horticulture, marketing etc. on 11th. March, 2011. Dr. P. Bhattacharya, Additional Director of Agriculture (Research) and also the State Nodal Officer of the ATMA scheme presided over the workshop. The process of need assessment of training was presented. Individual department presented their training needs and training plan of the year. Ultimately a State training plan has been prepared and be sent to the DAC, GOI.

5. OTHER PROGRAMMES

5.1 RAWE Programme by BCKV B.Sc. (Ag.) Hons. final year student

The Final Semester B.Sc (Agriculture) students of Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya were on an orientation programme (23rd - 30th, April, 2010) to learn how to channelize the knowledge for the service to the agricultural communities as part of their *Rural Agriculture Work Experience (RAWE)* programme. The students went through the programme mostly through interaction, participation and visits. Besides learning the applicability of different programmes of Agricultural Training Centre/SAMETI, Lokasiksha Parishad etc., they



have experienced the mode of service of the Medicinal Plant unit=Ayurvedic section, dairy farm and its management, seed processing unit, commercial cultivation of horticultural crops etc. The students visited the villages to experience the extension programmes and activities of farmers group. They interacted and shared their views on agricultural and rural development with the students of Integrated Rural Development and Management faculty centre. Twenty three students presented their learning at the end of the programme.

5.2 18th State Science & Technology congress

The Agricultural Training Centre and SAMETI has taken part in the exhibition on the occasion of 18th State Science & Technology Congress of West Bengal, held at the Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur during 28th. February - 1st. March, 2001. The State Science Congress was organized by the Department of Science and Technology in collaboration with the Paschim Banga Vigyan Manch and Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur. Dr. Surya Kant. Mishra, Honourable Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Debesh Das, Honourable Minister of Dept. of Information and Bio-technology, West Bengal; Principal Secretary of Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of West Bengal; Swami Suparnananda, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur, along with other dignitaries graced the inaugural session and

"I can't contain myself when one draws near me and calls me Mother"

—Sarada Devi

open the exhibition. Among 70 different stalls from different research institutes etc., ATC/SAMETI displayed and demonstrated different agricultural technologies, appropriate to the farmers in the context of the present agricultural scenario. Demonstration of drip irrigation and vermicomposting attracted the mass. The agricultural implements like manual transplanter and power reaper created interest. More than 300 scientific papers were presented and about 5,000 scientists, students, technicians and interested people visited the exhibition in two days.



EXPOSURE VISIT

5.3 Farmers Visit

Visit is one of the extension tools for diffusion and adoption of technologies. In case of farmers this tool is mainly used to inspire them by showing success, critical technologies, process etc. The ATC/SAMETI itself includes different types of field demonstrations, trials in relations to different modern technologies of field crops, horticultural crops, dairy-poultry, food processing etc. Lot of farmers from different parts of West Bengal as well as neighboring states use to visit those model demonstrations etc. Besides, the institute also organize exposure visit of the farmers to other different places. During the reporting period 26 farmers visit were organized in which totally 987 farmers participated.

5.4 Exposure visit of Tripura-ATMA extension functionaries

Interaction and exchange visit of the extension workers is one of the ways to upgrade their information, knowledge and exchange their attitude. In a visit programme they gather information & ideas which can be fruitfully utilized in the process of adoption of technologies and diffusion of innovations. An exposure visit of the ATMA key functionaries of Tripura was organized in West Bengal in collaboration with SAMETI. Tripura from 22-24 June, 10. Fifteen extension functionaries including BTT Convener, BTT members, FAC Chairman and other different stakeholders of ATMA from Agriculture and allied departments of Tripura participated in the programme. Besides field visits, a full day interaction with the SAMETI faculty members of West Bengal and representatives of ATMA from districts of West Bengal was organized on implementation procedure, status of implementation, impact so far, constraints faced and way of overcome etc.

5.5 Exposure – outside

Dr. Ashutosh Das, faculty of ATC/SAMETI attended 3rd International Rice Congress organized jointly by International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and Asia Congress, held at Hanoi, Vietnam from 8-12 November, 2010 along with about 3000 other rice scientists and researchers. About 800 papers were presented including 500 poster papers in the said Congress.

“As long as I live, so long do I learn.”

—Sri Ramakrishna Dev

A research paper entitled “*Opportunities for Improving Productivity in the Saline Coastal areas of Eastern India*” by Dr. Das was accepted by the Congress for presentation. The paper was prepared based on the experience of our Training Centre in connection with direct seeding technology of rice in coastal saline zone of the State.

5.6 Visit of Eminent Personality:

Being at Ramakrishna Mission many renowned personalities visited the institute, its farms, dairy units etc. Among them the eminent persons are Sri P.K. Basu, Secretary to the Govt. of India for Dept. of Agriculture and Cooperation; Dr. S. Ayappan, Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research; Dr. A.K. Agarwal, Principal Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal for dept. of Agriculture etc.



*“I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service.
I acted and behold, service was joy.”*

—Rabindranath Tagore