



Awareness-cum-Exhibition Programme on Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 was organized on 17th March 2026 at ICAR-KVK, Nadia (Additional), ERS of ICAR-NDRI, Kalyani, West Bengal.



The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Santanu Banik, Head, ERS, ICAR-NDRI, Kalyani, who emphasized the importance of strengthening farmers' awareness on legal safeguards for protecting traditional crop varieties. Subsequently, Dr. S. K. Ray, Senior Scientist and Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, presented an overview of the Protection



of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001, outlining its key objectives along with the

procedures for registration of farmers' varieties. During the session, technical publications on PPV&FRA, in both Bengali and English, were formally released and disseminated among the participants.



Dr. Pradip Dey, Director, ICAR-ATARI Kolkata, underscored the transformative significance of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 in safeguarding farmers' rights, curbing bio-piracy, and catalyzing innovation in plant breeding. He urged farmers to systematically document and register their traditional varieties, highlighting that indigenous landraces are not merely genetic resources but vital pillars of long-term food and nutritional security.



The Chief Guest, along with distinguished dignitaries, inaugurated the exhibition stalls set



up by State organizations, Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), private enterprises, and progressive farmers. The exhibition featured an impressive display of over 200 indigenous varieties of agricultural and horticultural crops—including cereals, pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables—alongside informative

extension materials on plant variety protection and biodiversity conservation. Serving as a vibrant confluence of tradition and knowledge, the exhibition emerged as a powerful platform for sensitizing stakeholders to the richness of traditional crop diversity and the imperative of its conservation.



Technical sessions were conducted by experts including; Dr. M. Ghosh (Professor, Department of Agronomy, BCKV, Mohanpur), Dr. Arup Kr. Chattopadhyay (Dean, Faculty of



Horticulture, BCKV, Mohanpur) and Dr. B. Pradhan (ATMA, Nadia). The sessions provided a comprehensive overview of the status of farmers' variety registration and national recognitions in West Bengal, while offering in-depth insights into the benefits, procedures, and emerging opportunities for

registration—particularly in the domain of horticultural crops.

A quiz competition on farmers' varieties and general agricultural awareness was organized to actively engage participants, fostering interactive learning while reinforcing their knowledge on key agricultural concepts.

The programme culminated in a valedictory session followed by a prize distribution ceremony, marking a fitting close to the event. Winners of the quiz competition and outstanding exhibition stalls were duly recognized, while 25 farmers were honoured with the Indigenous Varieties Conservation Award for their exemplary contributions to preserving traditional crop diversity. Certificates of participation were also presented to all attendees, acknowledging their engagement and commitment to the cause.



The programme witnessed the participation of 200 attendees, comprising farmers, extension personnel, students, representatives from private companies, national awardee farmers, and other stakeholders drawn from nine blocks of Nadia district.

The programme adopted a participatory and interactive approach, integrating audio-visual presentations, group discussions, quiz sessions, and dynamic interactions with progressive farmers, including national awardees, to foster experiential learning and meaningful knowledge exchange.

The programme significantly strengthened awareness of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001, motivating farmers to recognize, conserve, and register indigenous crop varieties. In doing so, it reinforced the twin goals of biodiversity conservation and the empowerment of farmers' rights.

