

ICAR-NIBSM organized Plant and Animal Health Camp at Kevtara

As part of the "Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav" (MGMG) initiative, the ICAR-National Institute of Biotic Stress Management (NIBSM), Baronda, Raipur, in collaboration with the Animal Development Department of Chhattisgarh, have organized a one-day "Plant and Animal Health Camp" in Kevtara village, Tilda block, Chhattisgarh on 12 November 2024. The event aimed to provide valuable insights and resources to local farmers, supporting both crop and livestock health management.

Dr. P.K. Ghosh, Director and Vice-Chancellor of ICAR-NIBSM has graced as chief guest, while Dr. Daisy Basandrai, JD-SCRSR and Coordinator MGMG presided over the function. Other notable attendees included Dr. Ramswaroop Verma, Veterinary Doctor; Dr. Sridhar J., MGMG Team Leader; Dr. Lalit Kharbikar, Senior Scientist; Dr. Soumya Dash, Scientist; Dr. Sandeep Adavi B., Scientist; village Sarpanch Sh. Rajini Verma; and Secretary Mr. Milan Sahu.

Series of lectures on plant and animal health by eminent scientists have been delivered for the benefit of the farmers, Dr. Ramswaroop Verma emphasized the importance of animal vaccinations, particularly for diseases such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD). He also discussed the critical role of hygiene in preventing infections like mastitis in livestock. Dr. Soumya Dash highlighted the benefits of adding mineral mixtures to animal diets, explaining that it enhances bone strength, boosts milk production, and ultimately increases farmers' incomes.

Dr. Lalit Kharbikar briefed farmers on common Rabi crop diseases and provided effective management strategies, while Dr. Sridhar J. discussed pest control measures for Rabi crops. Dr. Daisy Basandrai underscored the significance of choosing suitable crop varieties for higher productivity and recommended suitable varieties for chickpea, arhar, and lentils.

In chief guest address, Dr. P.K. Ghosh encouraged farmers to utilize fallow lands for cultivating crops like mustard, lentil, and pigeonpea. He also suggested growing fodder crops like Napier grass to meet the nutritional needs of livestock. Dr. Ghosh shared information about a pilot study involving mineral mixtures to improve animal health and advised farmers on using ICT tools to address crop and livestock issues, with a crop calendar provided to help schedule cultivation practices. A total of 728 animals which include cows, bulls and goat got vaccinated. Mineral mixture was distributed to 61 families for better milk production. A total of 120 farmers have participated and got benefitted by this camp.

The camp concluded with the distribution of mineral mixtures to farmers and FMD vaccinations and antibiotics for livestock. Dr. Daisy Basandrai, Dr. Sridhar J., Dr. Soumya Dash, Dr. Lalit Kharbikar, and Dr. Sandeep Adavi B coordinated the event under the leadership of Dr. P.K. Ghosh, with assistance from Mr. Siva Jalsej and Mr. Bijle Dande. The program ended with a vote of thanks, marking the successful culmination of a day dedicated to enhancing agricultural and animal health in Kevtara village.

Glimpses of Plant and Animal Health camp at Kevtara

