



COOCHBEHAR KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA

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INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Empowerment of SHG and FPO through rice seedling factory

Innovative technology conceptualized by Dr. F.H. Rahman, Principal Scientist and Nodal Officer, NICRA, ICAR-ATARI, Kolkata; Dr. Bikash Roy, Senior Scientist and Head, Cooch Behar KVK;

Technology developed by Mr. Amal Roy, CEO, Satmile Satish Club O Pathagar, (FPC, POPI), Coochbehar.

Brief details of the technology:

Coochbehar district has been experiencing farm mechanisation process at a good pace compared to other district of West Bengal. Majority of the farm mechanisation in the district is involved in rice cultivation starting from land preparation, transplanting and harvesting and this is being done mostly through Custom Hiring Centres established in the district. The advent of the farm mechanisation particularly in rice transplanting activity has given rise to a problem of new dimension i.e. scarcity of rice seedling raised in seedling trays which is a pre requisite for mechanical rice transplanter. At the same time the Custom Hiring Centres are not in a position to raise and supply such a huge quantity of rice seedlings required for mechanical rice transplanter which are in operation in the district. Moreover, it is also not possible for individual farmer to raise such rice seedlings in trays who desires to use mechanical rice transplanter in their field due to involvement of fixed capital cost (procurement of seeder machine, seedling trays etc.). This situation obviously could threaten the pace of technology adoption process due to the unavailability of one of the critical inputs.

Upscaling of technology and wide scale adoption:

At present, 30 numbers of SHGs and FPOs in the district are acting as service providers with participation of around 1600 members and are actively engaged in producing tailor made rice seedling of different varieties raised in trays suitable for rice transplanter as per demand of farmers.

Economic configuration:

This single innovative marketing endeavour has been facilitating to bring almost 2100 ha of land under farm mechanisation through rice transplanter with a total financial turnover of around Rs. 1.29 crore (seedling raising and transporting up to the doorstep of the farmers) with a net profit of around Rs.60.0 lakh which is equally distributed amongst the group members. This single marketing initiative has also been able to create an instant out put benefit in reducing cost of rice cultivation to the tune of Rs. 94.50 lakh from 2100 ha. that too only from two operations i.e. raising seedlings and transplanting. The synergistic effect of the intervention in other intercultural operations are many folds.

Additional role of KVK in terms of implementation of the technology:

The problem prompted the Coochbehar KVK to intervene into the matter to find a solution in a Win- Win situation. Coochbehar KVK in association with Satmile Satish Club O Pathagar (SSCOP), the leading FPC and POPI (formed and nurtured by Coochbehar KVK) initiated skill training on raising rice seedling in trays to the SHGs and other FPOs. Govt. subsidies and bank loan were arranged to the trained groups and few groups were supported with critical inputs like seeder machine and seedling trays by Coochbehar KVK from SCSP budget head. Coochbehar KVK has been actively engaged in the process right from formation of SHGs, FPOs besides technical support through training, linking groups with financial institutions and input support through funding from SCSP in some cases.



Plate-1: Visit of ICAR-IGFRI Scientist



Plate-2: Marketing of rice seedling



Plate-3: Marketing of rice seedling



Plate-4: Demonstration unit



Plate-5: Preparation of seedling tray



Plate-6: Preparation of seedling tray