

GRAMIN VIKAS TRUST WEST BENGAL

Opening of Thirty new Farmers Clubs (FC) in TDF /WADI areas - Purulia, West Bengal

Gramin Vikas Trust, Purulia, West Bengal, has given tremendous effort in mobilizing the farming community through promotion of new Farmers Clubs under its TDF /WADI Project areas, since December'12, with the support and technical guidance from NABARD, Kolkata. On 5th February, 2013, total number of thirty (30) such Farmers clubs were inaugurated in Bandwan (10 nos.), Manbazar - II (4 nos.), Hura (6nos.) and Bagmundi (10 nos.) WADI projects respectively in collaboration with the service area Rural Regional Bank Branches of concerned project areas.



The basic objectives of the Farmers Club are:

- Establishing cohesive relationship between the WADI farmers/villages and the respective service area Bank Branches.
- Ensure dissemination and transfer of location specific cost effective technology in the farm and allied sector - viz, Bio fertilizer, Integrated Pest Management, SRI technology, and contract farming.
- Mobilizing rural savings in the farmers club villages through promotion of SHGs.

- d) Ensure repayment of old / bad loans to reduce NPAs and ensure fresh loan for the farmers.
- e) Establish cordial and effective relationship with PRI, Agriculture, Health department, Animal Husbandry department, NABARD / Respective service area Bank Branches etc.

The said program has evoked an immense response among the WADI farmers / families and has created a trigger off effect among the neighboring communities and other WADI families, where the FC's is scheduled to be launched in next financial year.

The inaugural program of Farmers clubs consisted of Base level Orientation, Training program wherein the rationale, objectives, utility of Farmers clubs were briefed , followed by dissemination of information on various Farm / Allied technology such as IPM, INM, SRI, Lac Development, Sericulture, Vermi composting etc by District Development Manger, NABARD, Purulia, Asst. Director - Agriculture (respective Blocks), KPS, Lac Development expert, Sericulture expert, Agronomist, Horticulturist of the respective Blocks where the FCs were inaugurated.

The spontaneous support, co-operation from the WADI Community through agile participation of more than 7000 farmers / villagers, SHG members (through 30 programs) in the respective project areas along with the value added guidance of NABARD, Block Agriculture Office and other line departments ensured the emergence of strong / vibrant Farmers Organization in the near future of GVTs operational WADI areas. The Agriculture department officials expressed their high level satisfaction regarding GVTs initiative in promoting FCs in a big way and assured their department's support in involving the FCs in all possible Agriculture related development, viz, training, demonstration, orientation, participation in Agri Fair, provision of agriculture equipments to the farmers at the subsidized rates etc. The local Bankers and their Regional Head / controlling officer, Lead District Manager attended those programmes and highly appreciated the effort initiated by GVT with the support from NABARD and confirmed their co-operation in extending all possible supports through provision of financial services (provision of KCC, GCC, Crop Insurance--) to the respective FCs, provided they perform well in disseminating the concept of ***development through credit***. NABARD, DDM conveyed to all the new farmers clubs to maintain cordial relationship with six departments- PRI, Agriculture, AH, Health and last but not the least service area Bank Branches to make the FC effective/vibrant and advised the FCs to include more members of the

concerned villages to spread the concept of FCs to every nook and corner of the villages. He also announced NABRAD's plan to organize a leadership development program on 28th February at Purulia, West Bengal with the involvement of Chief Volunteer and Asst. Volunteer of the FC and the promoting NGOs, Bankers, to teach them the roles / responsibilities of FCs in ensuring enhanced farm productivity and holistic development followed by official documentation formalities of FCs, their future plan; including evolving federal structures like Farmer Organization for making end to end solution of Agric value chains.

Snapshots of the event

	
<p>Shri. Amitava Mitra, District Development Manager, NABARD, Purulia distributing implements to the WADI farmers, Baghmundhi Block, Purulia.</p>	<p>Shri. Amitava Mitra, District Development Manager, NABARD, Purulia – innaugrating Farmer's club, Bandwan Block, Purulia</p>



Participatns - Farmer's Club Innagural Programme, Hura Block, Purulia on 5th February 2013.