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**PRESS RELEASE**

**IIT (ISM) faculty members guide farmers of Jamara to evolve as farm based entrepreneurs**

Altogether 20 villagers of Nalhatti village of Nala Block of Jamatara district led by Ajit Murmu, Mukhiya disused the existing pattern of farming and animal husbandry activities with the expert faculty member of IIT (ISM) and explored the possibilities of improvement in the income and upgrading their livelihood with the help of government schemes.

The occasion was their interaction with the team of Department of Management Studies and Industrial Engineering of IIT(ISM) led by Prof Rashmi Singh as part of Department of Science and Technology Sponsored ongoing project, titled, “**Improving the economic wellbeing of Scheduled Tribe communities using game theoretic and operations research techniques**” during which the participants, all of whom belonged the scheduled tribe communities also apprised the visiting team of IIT (ISM) about lesser rainfall and scarcity of irrigation facilities.

The IIT (ISM) team comprising of other member Niladri Das, Associate Professor of the Department of Management Studies who is also the co-principal investigator of the project, meanwhile also apprised the gathering about the government schemes meant for them, like PM Kisan Samman Nidhi and Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAGY).

“The village spread over 94 hectares has around 60.36 hectare of unirrigated area and main crops cultivated in the village including paddy while wheat, potato, tomato, brinjaj etc are also grown” said Prof Singh.

“Large number of villagers work as part time laborers to support the family income and we apprised them about the ways of diversification to increase their income and to emerge as farm based entrepreneurs” said Prof Singh who is also the Principal Investigator of the project and said they would also rope in the agriculture experts of Birsa Agriculture University (BAU), Ranchi to apprise the farmers about the soil quality, texture etc.

Notably, the experts of BAU had already tipped the farmers of Gopalpur village of Jamatara on November 17 during a special programme as part of IIT (ISM) project.

Ajit Murmu, Mukhiya of the village said, “We came to know about the IIT (ISM) faculty members ongoing support to the farmers as part of a project and invited them to our village which also faces low agricultural output and due to scarce rainfall and lack of other facilities of irrigation”

Shyamlal Soren, a farmer who participated in the meeting with IIT (ISM) team, “We came to know about the various other activities associated with agriculture during workshop which can help us to emerge as entrepreneurs like bamboo crafts making etc”

Notably, the IIT (ISM) team is conducting the workshop in villages of Jamtara as part of the project since July last year.



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