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PRESS-RELEASE

Farmers of Narayanpur Block Benefit from Expert Insights on Soil Health and Plant Disease Management

Around 135 cultivators of Narayanpur block in Jamtara district received valuable insights into soil health and plant disease management today, as part of a one-day Treatment Workshop organized by the Department of Management Studies and Industrial Engineering at IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. The event, held at the Narayanpur block office, was led by Prof. Rashmi Singh, Principal Investigator of the project, and aimed at empowering local farmers with scientific knowledge to overcome critical agricultural challenges in the region.

Dr. Arvind Kumar, a renowned soil expert from Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi, provided an in-depth presentation on soil health, sharing effective strategies to improve soil fertility and enhance productivity. Alongside him, Dr. M.K. Burnwal, an expert in plant pathology, discussed prevalent plant diseases in the area and the best mitigation strategies to protect crops.

The workshop, part of the ongoing project “Improving the Economic Well-Being of Scheduled Tribe Communities (ST) Using Game Theoretic and Operations Research Techniques in Jamtara District of Jharkhand State,” offered practical guidance on soil management, the judicious use of fertilizers, improving seed quality, and optimizing cropping systems to boost agricultural income.

Prof. Niladri Das, CO-PI of the project, and other dedicated team members from IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, including Deep Chaudhury, Pawan Kumar, Nilesh Kumar, Sunny, Anand Chandra Sahu, and Sumana Banerjee, were also present. They facilitated discussions on sustainable farming practices and innovative agricultural techniques, ensuring a holistic learning experience for all participants.

“The workshop during which Premanand Marandi, local Mukhiya & Md Reman, Upmukhiya were present served as an invaluable platform for farmers to gain practical insights into sustainable farming practices and advanced agricultural techniques,” said Prof. Rashmi Singh. “This initiative reflects IIT (ISM) Dhanbad’s commitment to rural development and agricultural sustainability, with the goal of equipping local farmers with the knowledge and tools to improve their livelihoods.”

Narayanpur block is a predominantly agricultural region characterized by diverse soil types, including red and sandy soils. However, the area faces significant challenges such as water scarcity, soil degradation, poor fertility, and frequent plant diseases, all of which impact crop productivity. Farmers in the region primarily cultivate paddy, maize, and pulses, but these crops often suffer due to the adverse conditions.

“The focus of the workshop was to address the critical agricultural challenges in the region, particularly related to soil health and plant disease management,” concluded Prof. Singh, summarizing the successful collaboration between IIT (ISM) Dhanbad and Birsa Agricultural University.

This initiative is part of IIT (ISM) Dhanbad’s broader efforts to support rural communities and promote sustainable agricultural practices in the region.

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