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PRESS-RELEASE

IIT (ISM) Dhanbad Organizes Three-Day Training Program on High-Quality Millet Cultivation under CSR Initiative of Coal India Limited at Bankura, West Bengal

A three-day training programme on *High-Quality Millet Cultivation* commenced today at Salma Gram Panchayat, Saltora Block, Bankura District, West Bengal. The programme is being conducted under the **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of Coal India Limited (CIL)** and implemented by **IIT (ISM) Dhanbad** as part of its *Capacity Building Programme*.

The initiative is designed to **empower tribal women entrepreneurs** by promoting sustainable millet farming, enhancing livelihood opportunities, and fostering entrepreneurship. With a focus on **climate-resilient agriculture, nutrition security, value addition, and digital marketing**, the programme seeks to establish millet cultivation as a **commercially viable, community-driven livelihood model** for tribal households in Bankura.

The training sessions are being led by **Dr. Sibajee Banerjee, Assistant Professor in Agronomy, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya**, an expert in sustainable agriculture and millet-based value chains. Over three days, Dr. Banerjee will train selected villagers on **scientific cultivation practices, post-harvest processing, and entrepreneurial pathways** to strengthen millet-based livelihoods.

The initiative has drawn an **enthusiastic response from the local community**. Village officials and stakeholders—including Panchayat ward members, NGOs, *Sachiv* and *Up-Sachiv*, *Krishak Bandhus*, health workers, Anganwadi workers, agricultural officers, and local villagers—are actively participating. Encouragingly, **over 100 villagers have already expressed interest in adopting millet cultivation**, reflecting growing awareness of sustainable and nutrition-focused farming.

The project is being spearheaded by **Prof. Niladri Das (Principal Investigator)** and **Prof. Rashmi Singh (Co-Principal Investigator)** from Department of Management Studies and Industrial Engineering of IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. The on-ground implementation team comprises **Rohit Singh, Sunny Kumar, Sumana Banerjee, and Firdous Ansari**.

This initiative highlights the strong commitment of **Coal India Limited (CIL)** towards **inclusive and sustainable rural development**, with a focus on strengthening capacity building, promoting livelihoods, and empowering tribal communities in West Bengal.

Rajni Singh

Dean (Corporate Communications)