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## **Press Release**

### **Three-Day Training on High-Quality Millet Cultivation Concludes at Bankura under CSR Initiative of Coal India Limited**

The three-day training programme on *High-Quality Millet Cultivation* concluded today at Salma Gram Panchayat, Saltora Block, Bankura District, West Bengal. The programme was conducted under the **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of Coal India Limited (CIL)** and implemented by **IIT (ISM) Dhanbad** as part of the CSR-sponsored project titled:

**“Designing and Delivering a Capacity Building Programme for High-Quality Millet Cultivation to Empower Tribal Women Entrepreneurs in West Bengal and Creating a Digital Marketing Platform for Effective Delivery.”**

The initiative was aimed at **empowering tribal women entrepreneurs** by promoting sustainable millet farming, enhancing livelihood opportunities, and fostering entrepreneurship. With its strong emphasis on **climate-resilient agriculture, nutrition security, value addition, and digital marketing**, the programme sought to transform millet cultivation into a commercially viable and community-driven livelihood model.

The training sessions were conducted by **Dr. Sibajee Banerjee, Assistant Professor in Agronomy, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, West Bengal**, who trained selected villagers in **scientific cultivation practices, post-harvest processing, and entrepreneurial pathways**.

The training received an **encouraging response from the local community**. Panchayat members, NGOs, *Sachiv* and *Up-Sachiv*, *Krishak Bandhus*, health workers, Anganwadi workers, agricultural officers, and villagers actively participated. More than **100 villagers expressed their interest in taking up millet cultivation**, reflecting increasing awareness about sustainable and nutrition-focused farming.

The project was led by **Prof. Niladri Das (Principal Investigator)** and **Prof. Rashmi Singh (Co-Principal Investigator)**, with the implementation team comprising **Rohit Singh, Sunny Kumar, Sumana Banerjee, and Firdous Ansari** from IIT (ISM) Dhanbad.

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

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