

REPORT

COMMUNITY SEED FAIR

Jalpaiguri, West Bengal

27TH NOVEMBER 2021



Compiled and submitted By

Vikas Arora

Project Coordinator

Public Advocacy Initiatives for Rights and Values in India (PAIRVI)

Under

FAO (ITPGR) BSF-IV Cycle Project for India on

Improving pulse biodiversity in rice fallow areas of tribal belts of Central and East Indian states to bring resilience in the farming practice, provide livelihood support and enhance nutritional level of the tribal population



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

Male	67
Female	63
Total	130

BACKGROUND

The FAO funded project on “Improving pulse biodiversity in rice fallow areas of tribal belts of Central and East Indian states to bring resilience in the farming practice, provide livelihood support and enhance nutritional level of the tribal population”. This innovative project is implemented by PAIRVI, New Delhi in five states including West Bengal. The aim of the project is to enhance the availability and on-farm conservation of resilient varieties of pulses (traditional varieties, varieties procured from gene banks as well as under-utilised species of pulses) and oil seeds for cultivation during the rice fallow season. The project decided to conduct community seeds fair on **27th November 2021** at its project location, **Uttar Dhupjhora, Jalpaiguri**.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this fair is to mobilize the farming community, especially tribal farmers towards diversified pulse and oilseeds cultivation throughout the year in establishing community seeds bank in their locality.

STRATEGIES

Considering these challenging times of COVID19, West Bengal team of PAIRVI prepared the following strategies for conducting the one day “Community Seed Fair” successfully.

1. Effective implementation design for achieving the effective and meaningful seed fair
 - a. Farming community and volunteers at project location played a key role. The project volunteers and farming community members are oriented on how to mobilize the farmers including women during this challenging time of COVID19.
 - b. A dedicated team / Seed Fair Committee consists of community members led by State Coordinator.
 - c. Prior to fair members have communicated through telephone calls, whatsapp calls, door to door visits, miking etc by maintaining the social and physical distancing.
 - d. This event has concentrated to the project villages and adjacent area of the project

location only. The local officials from Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), agriculture department and North Bengal University are invited.

- e. The volunteers and fair committee members selected the respective vendors / suppliers in consultation with State Coordinator in following the proposed budget prepared by PAIRVI team.
 - f. Planned to built low cost decorative stalls and stage for cultural events (tents / pandel) to attract the tribal and other participants.
 - g. Displayed the IEC materials for creating awareness on diversified pulse cultivation and COVID19 among the farmers.
 - h. The responsible persons of fair community taken care of registration, face book live, photography/ video, foods, logistics, sanitization, paper publication, digital news, reporting etc.
2. The rejuvenate project team including fair committee to achieving the following target-
- a. Permission from administration: Verbal permission (10 Nov)
 - b. Selection of fair location: Open ground of Bhimadhura, Uttar Dhupjhora (10 Nov)
 - c. Purchasing of clay pots: For display (12 Nov)
 - d. Finalization of farmers for display at stalls: Both men and women (20 Nov)
 - e. Selection of Vendors / suppliers: Especially for food and tents/pandel(20 Nov)
 - f. Door to door visit: At least 100 farming families (20-26 Nov)
 - g. Awareness and miking: 5 project habitations and adjacent village (26-27 Nov)
 - h. Invitation to local officials: At least 5 members including Govt. ((20 Nov)
 - i. Seeds purchasing: Local, certified and diversified quality seeds based on farmers demand (10-25 Nov).
 - j. Sharing of Banners with PAIRVI, New Delhi: Already discussed (15 Nov)
 - k. Seed bank account opening and seeds distribution: At least 30 farmers (27 Nov)
3. It is mandatory to follow the guideline of the government regarding COVID-19 during the Community Seed Fair (CSF)
- a. Maintaining social distancing during community mobilization and CSF.
 - b. Wearing musk is must by the farmers/participants, volunteers, coordinator, officials etc. Planned to provide mask and sanitizers to all participants (Budget is 1500.00)
 - c. Thermal screening of all the patients is must – we will try to manage it from other agency.
 - d. There will not be more than 5 persons in the queue or any other discussion / gathering or food serving. Volunteers will maintain all these.

- e. All participants will wash their hands thoroughly with soap-water and sanitizer and enter the ground of fair campus. Volunteers will pour sanitizer into their hands in front of main entrance and monitor the whole process.
 - f. Will display the slogan as a part of IEC (Information, education and communication) materials to fight against COVI19.
4. State coordinator talked to the higher official of agriculture department, farm manager, scientist from Agriculture University and KVK, PRI members etc. for ensuring their participation in the fair.
 5. Need to follow the mutually agreed budget. There are flexibilities of budget heads but total budget should not be exceeded or remained same. The 50% of total budget will be advanced prior to fair and rest 50% will be released after reporting. As per FCRA norms there will be cash transaction if it limited within Rs. 2000. More than Rs. 2000 will be transferred directly to the suppliers / vendor's bank account.
 6. Live face book along with reporting with photos/video to PAIRVI including sending of hard copy of the document as soon as event is over.
 7. Publication of fair event at local newspaper and local channel.

COMMITTEE AND PARTICIPATION

There were around 130 farmers from project location and adjacent villages. The following table shows the active participation community leaders to make the community fair successful.

Sl.	Activities (number of responsible persons)	Name of the committee- members	Contact Number
1	Registration (2)	Mithun Roy	
		Mashidullshlam	
2	Logistic team (4)	Bhaswati Roy	7478306444
		Saily Sultana	8101113884
		Neha Roy	7797658115
		Rumpa Khatun	
3	Decoration committee (3)	Mithun Roy	7699331713
		Mashidullshlam	9091183162
		Jugunu Oran	9800610289
4	Cultural committee (10)	Bhado Oran	
		Punai Oran	9738101490
		Sharmita Oran	
		Nirmala Oran	
		Jugunu Oran	9800610289
		Asha Oran	
		Harimonth Oran	
		Pradip Oran	
		Rajen Oran	
		Ajit Oran	
5	Stall response form fill-up (1)	State Coordinator	8637073550

6	Stall response video (1)	Mashidullshlam Purna Chhetri Suman Das	9091954616
7	Face book live (2)	Mahamadlshlam Masihidullshlam Punai Oran	9091954616 9738101490
8	Exit interview video (1)	Mahamadlshlam	9091954616
9	Media / news paper publication (2)	State Coordinator Rohidullshlam	8637073550 9932351344
10	Overall monitoring (1)	State scientist	9475998388
11	Overall supervision (1)	State Coordinator	8637073550

PHOTOS/IMAGES





Photos: Glimpses of fair's photos covering opening speech by researcher from North Bengal University, distribution of seeds and cultural event by women.

FAIR OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS

The following shows the immediate outcome of this event -

- a. There weretotal 8 stalls presented by the farmers and displayed diversified local seeds of 11 crops and 19 varieties. Some of the farmers also exchange their seeds. Table shows the diversification among 8 stalls.

SL	Diversified seeds	Number of variety	Stalls No.
1	Black garm	2	1 to 8
2	Mustard	1	
3	Lentil	3	
4	Til / Niger	1	
5	Sunflower	2	
6	Tishi	1	
7	Khesari	1	
8	Arhar	2	
9	Maize	2	
10	Paddy	3	
11	Peas	1	
	11 crops	19 Varieties	

(For detail see Annexure-3)

- b. There were more than 130 farmers participated including 63 women farmers in the fair and they realized the important of seeds and benefits of pulse cultivation as well.
- c. Almost **35 farmers received different kinds of seeds (½ kg to 1kg) from the project**. The farmers and other stakeholders appreciated this initiative.
- d. The officials and delegates from govt. department, University of North Bengal (Pls. see **Annex 1**) and local governance also participated in the fair. This fair built the relationship among the project team, farming community and service providers. The following table shows the involvement of different stakeholders in the community seeds fair towards promotion of pulse and seeds.

S.No.	Name of the stakeholders	Address
1	Tribal farming community	Project location
2	Farming community from SC/ST/General	Project location and adjacent villages
3	Local Governance/PRI (GP. Office)	Uttar Dhupjhora, Jalpaiguri
4	North Bengal University	Shivmandir, Siliguri
5	Vivekananda Institute of Biotechnology	Nimpith, 24Pgs(S)
6	Agri-Irrigation department	Jalpaiguri

- The self-efficacy among the farmers increased toward pulse cultivation by using traditional and scientific knowledge.
- Two best stalls (Stall no 1 and Stall no 2) are awarded (Rs. 500/- each) by the project due to diversified seeds displayed and good gathering of farmers.
- There were games and cultural events for the participants to mobilize the farming community. Ten (10) women were awarded (Rs. 200/- each) for active participation in the cultural events. The following table shows the list of those women.

Sl	Name	Phone	Award amount
1	Sarita Oran	9800655002	Rs. 200.00
2	Maloti Oran	-	Rs. 200.00
3	Binita Oran	9339061658	Rs. 200.00
4	Sarmita Oran	-	Rs. 200.00
5	Nita Oran	-	Rs. 200.00
6	Karia Oran	-	Rs. 200.00
7	Bhaswati Roy	7478306444	Rs. 200.00
8	Rumpa Khatun	9749516127	Rs. 200.00
9	Bhado Oran	-	Rs. 200.00
10	Suben Oran	9800610289	Rs. 200.00

- The community contributed in providing free wage during miking / fair announcement and leveling/cleaning the fair ground. The community members and local gram panchayat (GP member) also contributed in distributing free masks and sanitization.
- The community especially tribal farmers (98) are benefitted from the community seeds fair in the terms of the following contexts.

Benefited community	Reasons
Farming community especially Tribal Farmers.	Traditionally tribal community is calm and shy. This fair broken that shackle and they actively participated and shared their experiences with others.
	Most of the stalls are owned by tribal farmers. Their hidden knowledge shared and exchanged with others during the fair.
	The ground voice of community and tribal farmers are recognized and respected by the PAIRVI and Media persons. It increased their aspiration level which will also be helping them to adopt pulse and oil seeds at large scale.
	Network and convergence created between community / tribal farmers and other stakeholders.
	The confidence and trust among poor tribal farmers, rich farmers and service providers built which will be supporting tribal farmers to create the self-efficacy.
	Most of the participants including tribal farmers are aware about CSB-community seeds bank located in their locality and it will help them to access the quality seeds easily from CSB.

	The ownership towards the project supported by PAIRVI created among the tribal farmers.
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- Live face book, publication at local news paper and TV news -local channel news etc. disseminated the project purposes and outcomes (Pls. see **Annex 2**).



Photos: Taking interview with stalled farmers (left) and interview of local Panchayat Member by local news paper (Uttar Banga Sambad) and local TV Channel.

WAY FORWARD

- Linkage and convergence created through community seeds fair. The farmers are quite empowered towards pulse cultivation and farmers are planning to cultivate pulses and oil seeds in this winter.
- This seeds fair provided opportunity to the project team to scaling out the pulse cultivation in rice fallow area of different district.
- The project farmers and other stakeholders appreciated the organizer for conducting such unique fair and community seeds bank established by this project is highlighted.

Annexure- 1

Mr. Pranay Sharma (Pls. see photo below), Chief Guest of the Community Seeds Fair.
Researcher, Department of Economics, North Bengal University



Annexure- 2

The following is the excerpt from the news paper, Uttar Banga Sambad.

ডালওতৈলশস্যবীজমেলাউত্তরধূপঝোরায়



চালসা: রাজ্যসহসমগ্রদেশেডালওতৈলশস্যেরঘাটতিরয়েছে।সেইঘাটতিমেটাতেকৃষকদেরআরওবেশিকরেডালওতৈলশস্যচাষকরতেহবে।এইবিষয়েসমগ্রদেশেকাজকরছেনউদিল্লিরপেয়ারভিউসংস্থা।ফুডঅ্যান্ডএগ্রিকালচারঅর্গানাইজেসনেরসহযোগিতায়বিহার, ঝাড়খন্ড, ওড়িশা, মধ্যপ্রদেশওপশ্চিমবঙ্গএই৫টিরাজ্যেকাজকরছেওইসংস্থা।মূলউদ্দেশ্যে, কৃষকদেরডালওতৈলশস্যচাষেরপ্রতিউৎসাহপ্রদানকরা।এদিনেরএইবীজমেলায়কৃষকদেরউৎপাদিতবিভিন্নধরনেরডালওতৈলশস্যেরবীজেরস্টলছিল।

শনিবারওইউদ্দেশ্যেমেটেল্লিকেরউত্তরধূপঝোরাএলাকায়ডালওবিভিন্নতৈলশস্যবিষয়েবীজমেলাঅনুষ্ঠিতহয়।এদিনেরএইমেলায়কৃষকদেরবিভিন্নজাতেরডালওতৈলশস্যএরবিষয়েসচেতনকরাহয়।কিছুকৃষককেদেওয়াহয়ডালবীজ।ফেরারভিউ-এররাজ্যকো-অর্ডিনেটরধনঞ্জয়রায়বলেন, ‘দেশওরাজ্যেপর্যাপ্তডালওতৈলশস্যউৎপাদনহচ্ছেনা।বর্তমানেআমাদেরঅন্যদেশথেকেডালওতৈলশস্যআমদানিকরতেহচ্ছে।সেইকারণেসমস্তকৃষকদেরযাবতীয়বিষয়েপ্রশিক্ষণদেওয়াহয়েছে।মূলততপশিলিজাতিওউপজাতিসম্প্রদায়ভুক্তকৃষকদেরনিয়েইআমরাপরীক্ষামূলকভাবেএইকাজকরছি।কৃষকরাওউৎসাহেরসাথেওইকাজকরছে।’ এদিনউপস্থিতছিলেনউত্তরবঙ্গকৃষিবিদ্যালয়েরপ্রণয়দে, এলাকারগ্রামপঞ্চায়েতসদস্যবাপনরায়প্রমুখ।

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/5mGGakTNpE>

Face book Link: <https://www.facebook.com/IRDCNGO/>

Annexure-3

Stall/Farmer Response Form

Stall No, Name of Farmers with Address	Crop/Seed displayed	Main crop, Millets, Pulses, Vegetables, Oil	Varieties /Local name	Local (L) / Improved (I)	Major, Neglected, Rare, Wild
1 Pradip Oraon Uttar Dhupjhora Jalpaiguri district	Mustard	Oil seeds	-	L	Major
	Black gram	Pulse	Takuri kalai	L	Rare
	Tishi (Flax)	Oil seeds		L	Rare and Neglected
	Til	Oil seeds		L	Rare
	Maize	Millet		L	Rare
2 Ishaful Islam Salbari Jalpaiguri	Black gram	Pulse	-	L	Rare
	Mustard	Oil seeds	-	L	Major
	Brinjal	Main crop	VNR 2012	I	Rare
	Brinjal	Main crop	-	L	Major
	Bitter gourd	Main Crop	Usta	L	Rare
	Cucumber		Khira	L	Rare
3 Jitu Lohar Uttar Dhupjhora Jalpaiguri	Paddy	Main crop	Gourav	I	Major
	Mustard	Oil seeds	-	L	Major
	Black gram	Pulse	Takuri dal	L	Rare
	Til	Oil Seeds	-	L	Rare
	Tishi	Oil Seeds	-	L	Rare
4 Etowa Oran Bhimadhura Jalpaiguri	Maize	Millet	-	L	Rare
	Mustard	Oil seeds	-	L	Major
	Radish	Main crop	-	L	Rare
	Lentil	Pulse	-	L	Rare
	Black gram	Pulse	Takuri Kalai	L	Rare
5 Bado Oraon Bhimadhura Jalpaiguri	Paddy	Major	Bangobandhu	I	Rare
	Paddy	Major	Swarna	I	Major
	Black gram	Pulse	Kalai Dal	L	Rare
	Lentil	Pulse	-	L	Major

6 Amal Oran Batabari Jalpaiguri	Black gram	Pulse	-	L	Rare
	Lentil	Pulse	-	L	Major
	Til	Oil seeds	-	L	Rare
	Maize	Millets	-	L	Rare
	Paddy	Major	-	L	Major
	Potato	Major	Jyoti	I	Major
7 Srinath Oraon Uttar Dhupjhora Jalpaiguri	Tishi	Oil seeds	-	L	Rare
	Maize	Millet	-	L	Major
	Black gram	Pulse	Kalai Dal	L	Rare
	Mustard	Oil Seeds	-	L	Rare
	Til	Oil Seeds	-	L	Rare
	Paddy	Major	Swarna	I	Rare
8 Jugnu Oran Uttar Dhupjhora Jalpaiguri	Tishi	Oil seeds	-	L	Rare
	Til	Oil seeds	-	L	Rare
	Black gram	Pulse		L	Rare
	Arhar	Pulse	-	L	Rare

Annexure-4

Exit-Interview Form

Name of the person	Comments/statement
Binita Oraon	She enjoyed the community seeds fair very much as well as purchased small quantity of til seeds from farmer stall. She would also like to attend the seeds fair in next year. To improve the seeds fair she has suggested the organizer to arrange the drinking water and some snacks for all participants.
Pratima Orann	She enjoyed the fair and once again Pratima will participate in the fair in next year.
Rupani Oraon	Rupani spent good time in the fair and enjoyed it. She will also attend in the next year fair. Rupani purchased small quantity of Arhar seeds from stall for her own trial. She has suggested to include cultural event in the night to improve the seeds fair.
Subain Oraon	He enjoyed this fair and once again he will participate to this kind of seeds fair. He suggested to organize such fair for two days.
Neha Roy	Neha liked this fair very much and will be happy to attend in the next year fair. She has purchased lentil seeds from fair stall. She requested to organize such fair in the middle of village or close to market place for attracting more farmers.
Maloti Oraon	She did not enjoy so much due to open field and hot sun light but one again Maloti will participate if same event organize in next year. She suggested to arrange larger pandel.
Sarita Oraon	She also did not enjoy due to hot weather but once again she will attend in the next year fair. She suggested to select the fair ground where more trees are available.
Bipul Oraon	Bipul enjoyed the seeds fair very much and once again he will be pleased to participate in next year fair. He suggested to include the food stall to make the fair more attractive.
