

Success Story of DAPSC Activities

The activities and interventions conducted under Development Action Plan on Scheduled Caste (DAPSC) by ICAR-NIFMD, Bhubaneswar could create a significant visible impact on the livelihood and economic status of the SC community around the Institute. These include a drastic shift in the mindset and attitude of the beneficiaries towards such flagship programme of the Government of India (GoI). They started believing that such an initiative by the GoI is intended with focused objectives to produce immense benefits for the people in improving their livelihood earnings and financial security. As per the guidelines of activities under DAPSC, the share of resources spent for the benefit of SC community was ensured and an annual technical report generated for each financial year by ICAR-NIFMD was published.

Our interventions could create income generating opportunities where the unemployed or low-income group of people could make themselves engaged in poultry (chick and layer) and goat rearing and tried to improve their financial status. As productive assets, the SC farmers were distributed with goats and poultry that supported their livelihood. The capacity building/development programmes could improve their knowledge and understanding as well as awareness on animal husbandry practices as a source of income including the disease preventive

measures for their animals. The ICAR-NIFMD team also followed up such interventions afterwards with farmers. The PPR vaccination drives conducted by the institute at the door steps of the SC farmers could save the lives of their goats against a dreaded disease called PPR/goat plague.

Between, April 2021 to March 2024, a total of 254 activities were conducted, which included 105 input distribution programmes. Of these 8 goat distribution programmes, 8 poultry chick distribution programmes, 10 study inputs distribution programmes in school, mango spling distribution programme, 38 FMD awareness camps, 31 animal health camps, 33 PPR/goat plague vaccination campaigns, 15 capacity building programmes were conducted. The input distribution programmes could provide benefits to 4359 beneficiaries. The benefits with such programmes they developed more interest towards livestock keeping with a belief that it could be a source of income for their family. Odisha being goat rearing state, the related community is involved in goat rearing extensively. PPR/goat plague has been regarded as one of the most important and dreadful diseases of the small ruminants with very high mortality. As a preventive measure, PPR vaccination campaigns were conducted at the door steps of the farmers of different village for 397 beneficiaries



covering 3710 animals. This intervention was tremendously impactful in drastically reducing the rate of mortality of small ruminants in comparison to the earlier years and has boosted the financial security in many families. Some of the farmers were reluctant to keep goats as they did not have the confidence to rear. After the interventions, when they were given goats with proper guidance, they turned out to be very successful in goat rearing and have now a good number of goats. The backyard poultry

chicks along with poultry feed packets, feeders and drinkers benefitted 461 SC beneficiaries of 7-gram panchayats. This programme could be able to give the farmers a tangible profit along with eggs as good source of protein enhancing their nutritional security as well as income. Effort is now being made to develop Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in the field of Goat and Poultry farming and to strengthen entire goat and poultry value chain in the area.

