



Farmers Awareness Programme on Makhana Value Chains, KVK, Supaul, Bihar

Under MIDH, NIAM is working for integration of farmers in value chain of Makhana in Bihar.

A two days Programme was held on 07-08, February, 2018 at KVK, Raghapur, Supaul. On the occasion the Chief Guest Hon'ble Minister Energy and Prohibition, excise and registration Govt. of Bihar Sri Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Special Guest

invitees, Sri Anirudh Prasad Yadav, MLA Nirmali, D.M. Supaul, SP, Supaul DAO, Supul, Associate Dean-cum-Principal BPSAC, Purnea and MBAC,



Agwanpur, Saharsa graced the occasion.

In the programme Scientists of KVK Supaul, Dr. B.K. Mandal, Sr. Scientist & Head, Sunil Kumar Choudhary (Ag. Extn.), Er. Pramod Kumar Chaudhary (Ag. Engg.), Dr. Manoj Kumar (Agronomy), Scientists of BPSAC, Purnea Dr. Paras Nath, Associate Professor-cum-Sr. Scientist (Entomology), Dr. Anil Kumar, Asstt. Prof.-cum-Sr. Scientist (Horticulture) & P.I. Makhana Research Project, Dr. Pankaj Kumar Yadav, Asstt. Prof.-cum-Sr. Scientist (Soil Science), Scientist of MBAC, Agwanpur, Saharsa, Officials of line department and more than one thousand farmers participated in this programme.

On the occasion the Chief Guest Hon'ble Minister Energy and Prohibition, Excise and registration, Sri Bijendra Prasad Yadav said that traditional crops are well suited to the region since long and needs to be promoted and conserved. Makhana is one of the ancient traditional crops of the low lying waterlogged and pond in Mithila and Kosi region. This crop needs attention by the scientists, officers, policy makers for enhancing not only production and productivity but the net income from the crop to the Makhana growers. He focused to develop high yielding variety, Organic Makhana production system, mechanization of harvesting for drudgery reduction. He also said by virtue the region has plenty of ground water and administration will ensure supply of electricity through Agriculture Feeder in near future so that the irrigation cost can be reduced by electric based water supply system to reduce the production cost as well as enhance productivity and net income from different crops. He has also instructed to the District Agriculture Department and Scientists of BPS Agricultural College, Purnea and KVK, Raghapur, Supaul to chalk out the detail plan and submit the DPR for overall development of "**Organic Makhana Corridor**" in low lying waterlogged and wetland area of Supaul and adjoining district.

A publication regarding production technology of Makhana published by BPSAC Purnea was also released on this occasion. The programme was attended by one thousand participants including, Agriculture Coordinators, Kisan Salahakar.



District Magistrate Supaul in his address highlighted the importance of Makhana crop and its product. This crop can be the best cash crop by utilizing waterlogged/wetland area. It will bring the prosperity among the farmers and livelihood to the rural people. He also assured support from district administration for overall development of Makhana crop.

Progressive farmer Sri Ram Chandra Yadav, village Balha, Supaul urged Hon'ble Minister, Officials and Scientists give special attention for the development of Makhana crop as this crop has immense potential in the district as cash crop. He has also highlighted that mechanization of harvesting of Makhana is need of hours to reduce drudgery.

On this occasion, 06 (six) stalls by different companies were exhibited. Syngenta Agro Pvt. Limited, Aries Limited, Bharti madhu, Saraigarh, Himalayan Herbal & Aromatic Pvt limited, Birpur, KVK Supaul and BPSAC, Purnea displayed their products and disseminated information.

On 8th Feb, programme was conducted at Sadanandpur village of Saraigarh Block. In which makhana farmers meeting is organized and more than eighty farmers had participated. Further a field visit of makhana cultivated area was organized with the participating farmers. The farmers expressed their concern about the unused area where makhana cultivation can be carried out. At present makhana cultivation is carried in 40 Acres of land. Where as potential area is about 200 Acres.

CCS NIAM in collaboration with Bihar Agriculture University plans to organize farmers awareness programme for integration of farmers to enhance value realization.

