

# PROCEEDINGS of THE 6<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL(61<sup>st</sup> Annual) GENERAL MEETING

## DAY 1:



6<sup>th</sup> Biennial General Meeting of State Agricultural Technologists' Service Association (SATSA), West Bengal, held on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at R.N. Choudhury Auditorium of the Biduyt Bhawan, Salt Lake, was inaugurated by Sri Goutam Bhowmik, General Secretary, SATSA WB through hoisting the flag of the Association in presence of a record attendance of 950 members followed by lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the President, Vice Presidents and General Secretary of SATSA, WB.



SATSA, WB gratefully remembered contribution of the deceased members and paid homage to all great souls who have passed away during the last two years.

Sri Shakti Bhadra, Joint Secretary, Establishment read out the condolence message and the House observed a minute's silence in memory of the departed.



Welcoming the members from various corners of the State, **Sri Murari Yadav, President SATSA, WB**; reminded the members that strength of an association lies in quality of participation and not in mere numbers. So, he invited for thoughtful interaction from the members in every discipline of their service as well as in associational activities. He also briefed the members about the special achievements made by the Department during

these two years especially in reaching out to the disaster affected farmers of the state, generation of soil health card, bringing farmers under the ambit of institutional loan etc. But he also pointed out that there is tremendous pressure on the members in executing these arduous tasks amidst dwindling manpower. He reiterated the importance of fellow feeling

and unity of the members for acquiring to combat all odds. He welcomed the Krishi Rabi recipients, representatives of print and electronic media on this occasion. He hoped that the general meeting would be a great success with active and quality participation by all.



Speaking on this occasion, **Sri Goutam Bhowmik, General Secretary SATSA, WB** greeted all the participants. He presented the "Note" on behalf of Central Executive Committee indicating about social issues, climate change and its drawback in agriculture, government contribution in terms of policy support, increase in farmers' income, popularization of alternate crops, spread of organic agriculture, improvement in farm mechanization, generation of soil health card, invention of arsenic and salt tolerant varieties, efforts taken in achieving self sufficiency in seed production and

timely supply of quality seed and other inputs in government schemes and modernization of infrastructure at all levels. He also praised the State Government's policy and active role in mitigating farmers' issues like distribution of input subsidies to the natural calamity affected farmers, standing by the side of the affected farmers of Singur project area through conversion of project land to agricultural land & other means. He narrated about the success of SATSA in realizing the issues like; imparting administrative training to the new entrants, regular awarding of MCAS benefits, publication of confirmation order. He also informed the members that Scale Linked Designation (SLD), a long pending demand of the association is yet to be consented by the Government despite of being agreed upon by the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and the Additional Chief Secretary. He announced that a holiday home, at Digha would soon be operational for the members. Pointing to the social accountability achievements of the association, he stressed about the SATSA publications which acclaimed special niche in the literary world.



**Sri Dakshina Ranjan Baidya, Central Treasurer; SATSA, WB** put up the financial details of assets and liabilities of the association for the year 2015 & 2016 and proposed the budget for the year 2017.

**Special Guest of honour Sri Pradip Kumar Mazumdar, Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal on Agriculture and Allied Sectors** was cordially greeted by the house.



**FELICITATION OF FARMERS BY SATSA, WEST BENGAL**

**KRISHI RABI – 2017**



**KAPIL MANGAR THAPA  
DARJEELING**



**BAKUL MIYAN  
JALPAIGURI**



**ABDUL KADER SARDAR  
COCHBEHAR**



**ABU SYED AHMED  
UTTAR DINAJPUR**



**NANIGOPAL MAHATO  
DAKSHIN DINAJPUR**



**BIKASH RANJAN SARKAR  
MALDAHA**



TAMAL PAL  
MURSHIDABAD



NIHAR SARKAR  
NADIA



SAMAI HEMBRAM  
BARDHAMAN



MANABENDRA NATH GHOSH  
HOOGLY



RABINDRA NATH MANDAL  
UTTAR 24 PARGANAS



JIAUDDIN MOLLA  
DAKSHIN 24 PARGANA



**KASHINATH MANNA**  
**HOWRAH**



**AMIYA KUMAR SAHU**  
**PURBA MEDINIPUR**



**SHISHUGOPAL BHARARI**  
**BIRBHUM**



**GOPAL CHANDRA MAJHI**  
**PURULIA**



**CHHATNA AGRO PRODUCER GROUP**  
**BANKURA**  
:Represented by:  
**SIDDHESHWAR CHINA & TAPAS DAS**



**MAREDI MARAR BAHA S.H.G**  
**PASCHIM MEDINIPUR**  
:Represented by:  
**KAMALA TUDU & BASANTI TUDU**



**The Annual technical issue of SATSA Vol-21, titled "Climate Smart Agriculture" was inaugurated by Sri Pradip Kumar Mazumdar.**

Sri Goutam Bhowmik, the GS; SATSA duly recognized the benevolent role of the State Government and the role of Sri Pradip Majumder, Advisor to the Hon'ble CM in resolving critical policy issues of the Government. In his deliberation Sri Bhowmik drew attention on the achievements and bottlenecks of the Department and



Directorate. He emphasized on the success in agriculture sector during the last two years and opined that under able guidance of the Government the agriculture of the State is progressing towards prosperity despite all odds. He also pointed out that there was significant increase of farmers' income during the periods 2011 to 2015 where the average income increase from Rs. 91011 to Rs. 158939 . The Soil Health card programme, though started very slowly but picked up appreciable speed and reached out to 17 lakh farmers, he

added. Bringing back the land of the affected farmers of Singur project area to normal cultivation as per commitment of the Hon'ble Chief Minister was also a very admirable work and he thanked the member of Hoogly district for making this feasible. Seed is the most vital pre-requisite for agricultural production, he opined and he reiterated that a lot of effort had to be put in this sector for achieving the goal of self sufficiency in seed. The West Bengal State Seed Corporation would need able policy support for this and the state seed

certification programme would also need adequate infrastructure as well as manpower, he opined. He also expressed concern about the poor manpower provided during establishment of new Alipurduar Agricultural District and promised to raise this issue at proper forum so that the incidence might not repeat again. Lastly, he emphasized that the demand for SLD was very important to the association and pointed out that it would not put additional financial burden of the Government but boost the morale and social status of the officers working in the Directorate.

**Sri Pradip Kumar Mazumdar, Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister;** commenced his valuable speech by informing that the Hon'ble MIC Agriculture could not attend the meeting owing to his illness. He commemorated past incidences of setting up Agricultural University at Kalyani and the struggle that was faced by the agriculture students and the resultant success achieved in 1976. He also narrated past incidences of creating opportunities for newly passed out agriculture graduates in banking service after the bank nationalization. He stressed on the importance of learning extension and delivering the art to the farmers in today's context where a lot of new graduates had entered the service. He also indicated the ways to fulfill the Hon'ble Chief Minister's vision of doubling the farmers' income through coordinated planning effort - stopping import of food grains from outside states, increasing import of non scented rice to other counties, promoting crop diversification, minimizing post harvest loss of produce, ensuring steady market for produces and ensuring institutional credit flow to each farmer being some of those. He also briefed the house about success stories of farmers under able guidance of the Agricultural Technologists through adoption of zero tillage, SRI, increasing area under pulses, maize and oilseeds during the tenure of this Government. He also thanked the state government officers for standing beside the calamity affected farmers and efficient distribution of the input subsidy worth Rs. 1200 crore to those farmers.



In the post lunch session, **Sri Sujan Kumar Sen, Office Secretary; SATSA, WB** presented the Official Resolution of the Association. **Sri Suman Sen, CS Member;** then placed the proposals for amendment of the



Constitution of SATSA, WB.



On his arrival, the **OSD & Ex-Officio Director of Agriculture, Dr. Paritosh Bhattacharyya** was greeted by the President and GS, SATSA. He briefed the house about the recent incidences of wheat blast disease in Murshidabad and Nadia districts of the State. Considering the chances of spreading this disease to Northern part of India in wheat belts, utmost caution and quarantine measures would be required, he opined. He also stressed on the achievements made in the fields of SRI, Zero

Tillage, and crop diversification through pulses, oilseeds and maize. In view of the recent trends of climatic aberrations and uncertain rain, he advised adoption of resource conservation technologies and creation of water harvesting structures in the state. He also stressed on adoption of relay cropping to promote pulses in rice-fallow cropping systems. During his speech, he also mentioned about recent developments of organic agriculture, ATMA activities. He appealed to the officers to follow the path of truth and work with zeal to fulfill goals.



The General Secretary invited the members to have meticulous discussion on proposal of official resolution, constitution amendment and budget proposal. Replying to all the issues raised during the discussion on the GS briefed that still some hurdles remained in getting benefit of SDL. He informed that additional manpower would be recruited shortly under ATMA and KPS recruitment is under process. Four new agricultural blocks have been created in the state and rest was under process, he informed. He urged the members to be patient and stop making comparison between service conditions of different state cadres. He promised to raise the pertinent issues to the appropriate authority. Regarding recruitment of farmers' friend, he opined that the remuneration of the farmers' friend is too meager to attract the potential candidates. The proposed official resolution, constitution amendment proposals and budget proposals were approved and accepted by the house.

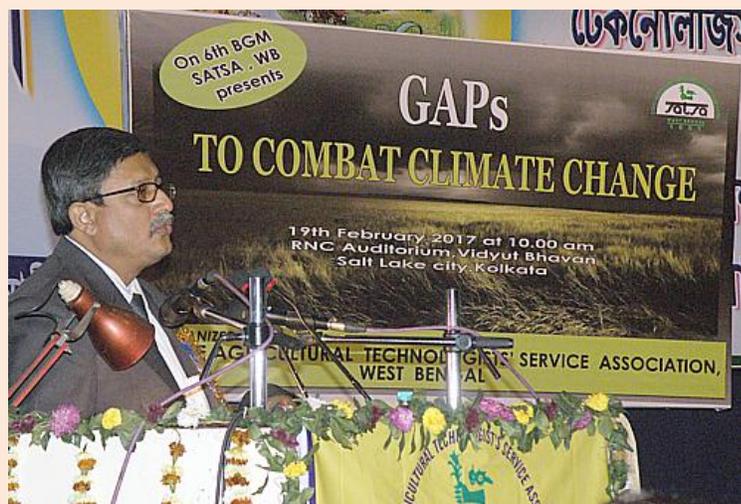
**The day's proceedings came to an end after announcement of the new committee for 2017 & 2018 by the President; SATSA, WB.**



**DAY 2:** A one day seminar on “GAPs to Combat Climate Change” was organised at the same venue on the 19<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2017. **Dr. Chirantan Chattopadhyay, Vice- Chancellor, UBKV, Pundibari, Coochbehar, Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Director, ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack, Dr. Soumya Badyopadhaya Scientist /Engineer SG, ISRO HQ, Bangalore and Sri Jayanta Chakraborty, General Manager, Indofil Chemicals Ltd** were present at the Seminar.



All the guests were felicitated by Sri M. Yadav, President SATSA, WB and Sri G.K.Bhowmick, General Secretary, SATSA, WB.



**Dr. Chirantan Chattopadhyay, Vice- chancellor, UBKV** was requested to chair the technical session of the seminar. He conveyed thanks to SATSA WB, to give him the opportunity and shared his experience in this regard. He focussed on improved co-ordination of all sectors including research institutes like CRRI, ISRO, extension wing and the Industry , with an aim to double farmer’s income by integrating various means.

**Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Director, ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack** vividly discussed on the topic in the context of West Bengal. He described climate as the primary determinant of agricultural productivity and every effort of farmers may go in vein within hours as a result of sudden change in climatic factors. Over past few decades man-induced changes in climate have intensified the risk of climate dependent crop production and of which most imminent

change is the increase in atmospheric temperature due to increase in level of the Green House Gases emissions in atmosphere. Globally Carbon dioxide concentration in atmosphere also increases by 100 ppm (from 0.03 % to 0.04%). Our aim should be not only to manage the threats but also to harness the opportunities. Increasing frequency of extreme events like droughts, melting of glaciers, rising sea levels, uncertainties in occurrence and distribution of rainfall etc are common manifestations of climate changes. Depending on soil and climate variation West Bengal has six agro climatic zones, each of which will face specific problem due to climate aberrations which includes reduction in yield, shortage of water, irregularities in onset of monsoon, drought, flood, cyclone, rising sea level, decline in soil fertility, loss of biodiversity and infestation of newer insects, weeds and diseases etc. The most vulnerable areas are coastal part, western part & Hilly regions of West Bengal.



Yield decrease of kharif rice due to increase in temperature by 1 degree centigrade (both Maximum and Minimum) is in the tune of 300 kg / ha which will affect the poor farmers directly, though they have very little contribution to climate change. Developed countries are mostly responsible for accelerating the change. It was estimated that only 1% of Global GHG emission is contributed from India. Dr. Pathak suggested some adaptation strategies to climate changes which included

development of climate ready crops, crop diversification, changes in land use management practices, adjusting cropping season, efficient use of resources, relocating crops into alternate areas, harnessing the ITKs of farmers, better forecasting system, crop insurance and improved pest management etc. Technology is available for getting better production even under the changed condition, but capacity building is necessary to adopt these techniques. He concluded that if properly designed and implemented, adaptation and mitigation options can help future agricultural progress and development in the face of climate change



**Dr. Soumya Badyopadhaya**, Scientist, ISRO HQ, GOI, focussed on space technology applications for climate resilient agriculture. He informed that space technology is now an extremely powerful tool in many areas of national development including disaster risk reduction as well as studying global climate changes. The information generated from Earth observing satellites, INSAT

satellites & Navigation satellites help in mapping and monitoring of agricultural crops, crop acreage and production estimation, watershed development, identification of cultivable wastelands, types of land degradation and desertification, crop intensification and diversification, agro meteorological services, drought and flood damage assessment and generating informatics for agriculture. Polar orbiting satellites like *Resourcesat-2*, *2A*, *SARAL*, *Megha-Tropiques* etc. provide valuable data towards monitoring of earth environment and climate whereas INSAT series of satellites viz *Kalpana-1*, *INSAT 3D/3DR* are providing data for generating various geophysical parameters required for weather forecasting. He also narrated how Satellite data are extensively used in many disaster situations for damage assessment and taking mitigation measures whereas data from microwave satellite are used in mapping flood inundation areas. He emphasized on the need for developing early warning system for hydro-meteorological disaster. He opined that comprehensive strategies need to be evolved and adopted by employing suitable technologies and strategies in optimal combinations and space technology, geographical information system, mobile technology along with contemporary modelling techniques can synergistically improve the capabilities for monitoring and management of agro ecosystem, thereby building required information base for climate resilient agriculture.

**Sri Jayanta Chakraborty**, General Manager, Indofil Chemicals Ltd conveyed thanks to the farmers of our country for shouldering responsibilities of feeding 120 crores of people of India but they will have to feed around 200 crores of people by 2050. The increase in production is the only way with the help of new technologies but those



technologies should be environment friendly and suitably adapted with climate change. As climate change affects food security in complex ways influencing crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture etc. and can cause grave social & economic consequences in the form of reduced income, eroded livelihoods, trade disruption and health impairment. Hence to

achieve the goal of sustainable agriculture for achieving food and nutritional security, transfer of agro ecosystem specific GAPs to the farmer's field is the best option.

After deliberation of the guest speakers, the session was opened for interaction. **Mr. Jayanta Basu**, a journalist by profession raised a point that those issues are not properly represented at International platform, moreover there was a controversy during 2011 regarding, whether to accept mitigation or adaptation. Dr. Pathak opined that first to accept mitigation followed by adaptation. It is very difficult to mitigate 25% of methane emission from paddy fields in India as demanded by the developing countries due to uncertainty in rain etc. Due to limited scope, our country did not accept the mitigation process in agricultural sector, still negotiation is going on. Promoting neem coated urea in our country is a good step to reduce methane emission from rice field.

**Sri Dhiman Barman** of Soil Salinity Research Institute expressed his views that we should integrate Agriculture with other allied sectors in a holistic manner to identify the GAPS. He shared an experience of Vietnam, where crop was replaced by brackish water aquaculture in coastal areas.

**Mr Sujit Mitra** raised some issues related to action taken for Soil health improvement, micro-level planning etc. Dr Pathak discussed the issue in details and said that in spite of presence of several good policies implementation and acceptance by the farmer is poor. Awareness building is an utter requirement now.

**Dr. S. Alam**, member SATSA interacted with some queries viz. Whether effect of climate change would be beneficial for European countries? And is it possible to adapt smart agriculture in this context? Speakers unanimously agreed that though there might be some improvement but overall effect of climate change would be detrimental and adaptation of smart agriculture is also possible.

**Sri Srikanta Samanta**, of Inland fisheries, ICAR expressed his concern over lack of research work on effect of climate change on air and water. Mr Mehfuz & Mr L.K. Jana member SATSA, enquired respectively about any suitable e-surveillance module of pest diseases and existence of any variety suitable for higher CO2 concentration. It was informed by the Scientists that web portal had been developed and already been linked up with mobile app for the pest disease issue and to harvest the beneficial effect of higher CO2 concentration several research module is in pipe line.

After a day-long brain storming discussion **Dr C. Chattopadhaya, Chairman**, summed up the outcome of the seminar. Climate is totally unpredictable. Though scientists have gathered lots of information on various aspects of climate change but still yet to be gathered more. Eastern part of our country may harvest some advantages of Climate change in the field of Agriculture but instead of aiming at mere increase in production, overall management with good agricultural practices (GAPs) to increase the income of our farmer friend should be focussed in the context of climate change. He thanked SATSA to unite scientists, industry personnel, extension workers, farmers and other stakeholders in a common platform to develop a road map to combat Climate Change with good agricultural practices.

The two days' programme was ended with vote of thanks conveyed by **Sri G. Nayban, Jt. Secy. (P&P); SATSA, West Bengal**.

