

**Seminar on
"TOWARDS COMBATING CLIMATE ABERRATION IN AGRICULTURE"
Venue: Ram Brahma Sanyal Smriti Sadan Date: 22nd February, 2014**



: Presidium :

Chairman	Shri Pradip Kumar Mazumdar , Advisor to the Hon'ble CM on Agriculture & Allied Sectors
Chief Guests	Shri Becharam Manna, Hon'ble MOS, Agriculture Dr. Paritosh Bhattacharjya, Director of Agriculture, West Bengal
Moderator	Professor Chittaranjan Kole, Vice-Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya
Speakers	Dr. Gokul Chandra Debnath, Director, Regional Meteorological Centre, Kolkata
	Professor Abhijit Saha, Dept. of Agril. Meteorology and Physics, BCKVV
	Dr. Monoj Kumar Nanda, Associate Professor, Dept. of Agril. Meteorology and Physics, BCKVV
	Dr. Sugata Hazra , Director, School of Oceanographic Studies; Jadavpur University



The day's program was inaugurated through sowing of Sesame seeds by the distinguished guests and the President and the General Secretary of SATSA, West Bengal.



Shri Murari Yadav, President; SATSA, WB in his Welcome Address vouched that the Association would always work in favour of the farming community. He expressed his concern over the emission of Nitrous Oxide and Methane from agricultural farms. He also stressed on sustainable agriculture to stabilize production to cater the needs of the increasing population. He criticized the loss of one third of agriculture produce, leaving 70 crore of people in the clutch of hunger. He opined that, the demand of the officers of Agriculture Directorate should be duly considered in recognition of their endeavour in agricultural development.

Dr. Paritosh Bhattacharyya, Director of Agriculture, West Bengal praised the officers for their effort in distributing agri-inputs to the farmers in time. Speaking on the latest development of farming sector, he informed that 145 Automated Weather Stations would be established throughout the State.





SATSA Annual Technical Issue : Volume 18 on “Seed- Hope To Harvest” was unveiled by **Shri Becharam Manna, Hon’ble MOS, Agriculture** .



Professor Chittaranjan Kole, Vice-Chancellor, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya; stressed on the need of Energy Security along with Food Security. He informed that, a rise of 0.2 to 0.3 degree centigrade of atmospheric temperature has been registered over a decade. He advocated for community and participatory farming system for achieving sustainable production.



Shri Goutam Kumar Bhowmik, General Secretary; SATSA, WB expressed his satisfaction over considerable improvement in growth rate of production of food grains, oilseeds, pulses and maize and praised the role of farmers of the State for this achievement. He praised the members of the Association for successfully conducting ‘Krishi Mela’ throughout the state. He expressed his gratitude to the Hon’ble Chief Minister of West Bengal for showing her concern to the need of the officers of the Directorate and motivating them. He gratefully acknowledged the initiative taken by the DAWB, MIC-Agriculture, MOS-Agriculture and Advisor to the Hon’ble CM on Agriculture & Allied Sectors, for timely supply of quality agri-inputs to farmers,

distribution of 23 Lakh Kishan Credit Cards etc. He raised some important issues pertaining to the Directorate and Department of Agriculture.

1. Regularised appointment of Director of Agriculture and Ex-Officio Secretary, West Bengal.
2. Agriculture Department has to additionally provide its service to Ag. Marketing, Horticulture, Fishery in spite of depleting manpower and infrastructure.
3. Need of establishing new agricultural blocks and sub-divisions for expediting administrative work.
4. Filling up of vacant WBAS(Admin) and WBAS(Res) posts.



Shri Becharam Manna, Hon'ble MOS, Agriculture; referred to Krishi Karman Award, conferred to West Bengal by the GoI, as an indication of the achievement of the State in the farming sector. He highly praised the officers of the Directorate for their committed effort in disposing their assignment. He detailed the steps adopted by the GoWB for socio-economic development of the farmers. He opined that the potential of the farming sector can only be exploited by joint venture of the farmers and the agricultural technologists.



Shri Pradip Kumar Mazumdar, Advisor to the Hon'ble CM on Agriculture & Allied Sectors assured the house to consider the long pending justified demands of the Association. He said that integrated farming is the priority of the Hon'ble CM and he appealed for whole hearted support of the officers for its realisation. He informed the house that, three Agriculture Colleges would be established at Bardhaman, Bankura and Dakshin Dinajpur.

:TECHNICAL SESSION:



Dr. Gokul Chandra Debnath, Director, Regional Meteorological Centre, Kolkata described the erratic nature of present climate. He suggested to shift sowing time, change crop sequence, provide short term and long term weather forecast to farmers with the help of a network of weather stations for combating climatic aberrations and securing food production.

Professor Abhijit Saha, Dept. of Agril. Met. & Physics, BCKVV; explained the effect of climate change on crops, soil and water. He reported about reducing quality and productivity of crops, depletion of organic carbon in soil, increased soil erosion etc. he advocated the need for developing stress tolerant varieties, prudent management of inputs, diversification of crops, use of indigenous technologies, crop insurance etc. he stressed on avoiding burning of stubbles, judicious use of nitrogenous fertilizer, increasing area of crops which densely cover up the soil, using bio-energy etc for reducing Green House Gas emission from farm lands ,which presently contributes 13.5 per cent of total emission.



Dr. Sugata Hazra , Director, School of Oceanographic Studies; Jadavpur University shared his experience on Sunderban area. He informed that, over the last 100 years incidence of natural calamity has increased by 26 per cent in India. He mentioned that West Bengal is the most vulnerable state in this issue. He stressed on the coordination of different departments in combating natural calamity. To meet the demand of drinking water, he forecast that, irrigated area would drop to 25.9 per cent from present 72.5 per cent. He cautioned that, ocean would rise at a rate of 12 mm per year due to increasing temperature. He suggested some measures for Sunderban area; like, cooperative farming, increasing area under betel vine, indigenous rice and sugar beet, reducing boro paddy area, improvement of drainage system of the area etc.



Dr. Monoj Kumar Nanda, Associate Professor, Dept. of Agril. Meteorology and Physics, BCKVV; spoke on remote sensing technology and its indispensability in developing accurate weather forecasting system .

After an interaction session, Professor Chittaranjan Kole summed up the day's discussion.

The program was concluded with a vote of thanks by **Shri Goshto Nayban**, Joint Secretary (Press & Publicity); SATSA, WB.