

Farmers trained to opt for Maize based system over Eucalyptus plantation: A special training for tribal farmers of Nabrangpur (Odisha)

As a follow up action of the visit of ICAR team in the areas of increasing eucalyptus plantation in Odisha in place of the annual crop; a special training on the “Speciality corn for improving livelihood security and farm profitability” was conducted at IIMR. The ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research organized a special National Level training



programme for 50 tribal farmers of Odisha to enrich their skills in respect of latest maize production technologies, specialty corn and value addition in maize under TSP scheme during 2nd - 4th March, 2017 at Pusa Campus, New Delhi. During the training programme, ICAR-IIMR also organized a field visit to the zero tillage

maize production systems on the institute farm at Pusa Campus where farmers convinced with technology which saves input and enhances soil health and cropping intensity so that farmers can get more from unit land. A visit to the successful villages of speciality corn i.e. baby corn village Aterna and sweet corn



village Manuli and its

processing industries established by a farmer in Sonipat district of Haryana was also made during training. The farmers were impressed to see the large-scale cultivation and processing of baby corn and sweet corn and prosperity driven by their cultivation.

In order to enhance more profitability and nutritional security at farmers level, a visit to a viable and productive farming system established at IARI, New Delhi was also made where enterprises like duck rearing, poultry, fishery, vegetables, flowers, fruits, baby



corn, dairying, biogas, annual grain crops (wheat, maize, mustard), intercropping of baby corn with pea under zero tillage, etc were seen in integrated manner with Rs 1000 per day income from one hectare land which was appreciated by farmers to replicate at their field.

During the programme, input (10 kg hybrid maize seed and one knapsack sprayer, one hand maize sheller) and value added maize products (quality protein maize *kheer* mix, maize chips and processed baby corn) were distributed to each farmer in order to make their interest towards maize cultivation and NOT to go after eucalyptus. The feedback from the farmers was also obtained and 2-3 farmers told that they were not expecting and imaging to have such profitability in agriculture specially in maize base systems and they showed their interest to develop baby corn and sweet corn hub in their district. The programme was much appreciated by the officers of the state government of Odisha, Mr Anshuman Pattnaik and Mr. Srikant Sahu accompanying the farmers. On the occasion closing ceremony, Dr. A.K. Vyas, ADG (HRM), ICAR while speaking as Chief Guest of the Programme also urged farmers to not to go after eucalyptus and the options like zero-tillage, farming system and specialty corn must be explored to enhance farm profitability with minimal environmental footprint towards overall sustainability of the farming. The training was sponsored by Tribal Sub plan programme of ICAR and organized by Dr. S.L. Jat as Course Director.

