

Celebration at Khandagar Village in Barang Block of Cuttack district

ICAR-CIWA celebrated Women in Agriculture Day on 04-12-2016 at Khandagar Village in Barang Block of Cuttack district in which 100 farmers including farm women from four villages namely Khandagar, Raipur, Dheosahi and Chamarpada participated. On this occasion, deliberations on role of women in agriculture and allied activities were made and it was emphasized that the role played by women in all activities related to agriculture is crucial to agriculture production and food and nutrition security of households. Although, women play an important role in the different activities, their role and contribution remain unrecognized and they are not considered an important stakeholder in the agricultural development programmes. For inclusive agriculture and increasing the productivity in all spheres of agricultural including animal husbandry and fisheries, there is need to recognize the role women play, the constraints they face and provide an enabling environment for them to realize their potential in these sectors. Only empowered women can bring about a sustainable change in agricultural development process because of the increasing feminization of agriculture. On this occasion, the importance of imparting agriculture education especially to farm women was also highlighted as ICAR has also decided to celebrate Agriculture Education Day on Dec 03 every year. It was emphasized that educating farm women to take up the challenges in agriculture needs greater emphasis on developing extension materials depending on the literacy level and skill of women in different parts of the country. A quiz competition was organized in which questions were asked on topics related to prevalent agricultural practices in the region and the winners were given away prizes to motivate them and come forward for greater interactions between the scientists and the farming community. The villagers were also sensitized about the need for cleanliness and sanitation for the overall human development. They were appraised about the ongoing national programme of Swachh Bharat Mission and the team of scientists along with the villagers also carried out a cleanliness drive in the village. The programme was coordinated by a team of scientists and technical officers from ICAR-CIWA namely, Drs. Anil Kumar, L.P.Sahoo, Ananta Sarkar and Sujit Kumar Nayak.

