

'Meet the Farmers' programme organized under Agriculture Project of Oil India Rural Development Society (OIRDS)

'Meet the Farmers' programme under Agriculture Project of Oil India Rural Development Society (OIRDS), a CSR project of Oil India Limited was successfully held on 8th January, 2021 at Pandhowa Gaon, Tengakhat, Dibrugarh, Assam. Representatives from 13 (thirteen) Pather Parichalona Samities (PPS) participated in the event. The event was attended by Shri Roon Kumar Barooah (President-OIRDS), Shri Nripendra Kumar Sarma (Secretary-OIRDS), Shri Trideeb Saikia (GM-Public Affairs, OIL), Shri Madhurjya Prasad Chaliha, Joint Secretary-OIRDS (Agri), Ms Nayana Madhu Dutta (Joint Secretary-OIRDS (HTPC)), Shri Arup Tanti (Treasurer-OIRDS), Dr. Niloy Baruah, Scientist, Assam Agriculture University, Shri B N Sonar, Retired District Agriculture Officer and currently Adviser to the Project and other managing committee members of OIRDS and senior officials of Public Affairs Department of Oil India Limited.

'Meet the Farmers' was organized for the first time with the objective of a community-based and in-field interactive session of team OIRDS & agricultural experts with the farmers on various issues of agriculture, current practices on commercialization, advanced technologies, government schemes on agriculture, financial literacy, ongoing activities of the project and any feedback or suggestions from the farmers for future improvement if any. Also, as a part of motivating the farmers, a competition was held to award the best performing PPS in terms of paddy production in the last Kharif season amongst the adopted PPSs/villages under Agriculture Project of OIRDS. The event was held at a picturesque location in one of OIRDS's Rabi cultivation (winter vegetables) areas adjacent to the Dihing River at Pandhowa gaon organized in association with Pandhowa Gaon Pather Parichalona Samiti.

The members of OIRDS in their address to the farmers emphasised on application of modern technologies and methods in agriculture, adoption of multi cropping to ensure a good market and profitable returns. While ensuring support from Oil India, the members also urged the farmers to reap maximum benefits from the project.

The farmers from various PPSs also shared their experiences at the interactive session and expressed their satisfaction with the support extended by OIRDS under its

agriculture project. They appreciated the kind of training & other handholding support provided to them along with the supply of high quality paddy and vegetable seeds and organic manure to increase production. The farmers talked about increased and much better production post intervention of OIRDS compared to previous years.

In association with District Agriculture Department, Govt. of Assam scientific methods were followed to estimate the paddy production of various PPSs for the season of the year. The highest paddy producing PPS was awarded to Ankuran PPS, Sadiya, Tinsukia District in FY 2020-21 with a memento and a certificate whose production was recorded at 11.12 quintal per bigha compared to earlier production of only 5-6 quintal per bigha. The other PPSs also recorded production in the range of 8-10 quintal per bigha. Certificates were also handed over to all the PPS for their wholehearted effort.



The highest paddy producing PPS awarded to Ankuran PPS, Sadiya, Tinsukia District (in FY 2020-21)



The members of OIRDS along with farmers posing for a photograph