

Information on activities carried out by Jorhat, Assam Centre

Under AICRP-WIA, Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Jorhat Centre various activities relating to women in agriculture have been implemented through different programmes and Projects to promote gender sensitive decision-making for enhancing efficiency and effectiveness of women in agriculture in the north- eastern region.

The Assam Centre has also been implementing the project-based activities in neighbour North-Eastern states, namely Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Nagaland under Agro-Ecological region 16 and 17, respectively.

The major findings of various study conducted by this centre reflected that even if the decision-making in agriculture, family, financial and entrepreneurship activities are generally men dominated but, in north-eastern states most of the decisions were taken by men and women together (agricultural activities 74.77%, family activities 82.33%, economic activities 66.20% and entrepreneurship related decisions 65.5%). Aligning with these data, 50 numbers of trainings and awareness programmes has been conducted in this region last year.

Information on activities carried out by Tura, Meghalaya Centre

- Awareness and hands on trainings were organized for farm women. Millet Mela was organized where demonstration of millet based recipes like millet ladoo, millet cookies, millet biscuits, upma, kheer, khichdi, etc. were demonstrated.
- A Model Nutri-garden is developed in the College of Community Science, Tura campus to provide awareness and training on nutria-garden.
- In villages lemon orchard, Vermicompost, apiculture, mushroom cultivation is promoted through women groups for economic empowerment of women.
- Training on processing of local spices, fruits and vegetables were conducted as a result of which women entrepreneurs have taken up those activities as commercial ventures. Skill training on bamboo shoot based recipes was provided considering the importance of local food habit.
- One hundred and thirty three numbers of mixer grinders were provided to farm women as time saving and labour saving devices.
- Considering the public health problem of North-East, low Glycaemic Index health mixes i.e., low GI atta mix, low GI cheela mix and low GI upma mix were developed. Locally available vegetable which is available throughout the year were incorporated for better utilization.
- To address other health issues multigrain high fibre mix and nutria-dense mix were developed to tackle the problem of obesity and under nutrition. Developed technologies were disseminated to farm women.
- For economic empowerment of women from Arecanut husk which is a waste, technologies are developed such as A. Textile fiber extraction and yarn preparation from Arecanut husk agro-waste; B. Woven handloom fabric from Arecanut husk agro-waste; C. Nonwoven material from agro-waste Arecanut husk; D. Composite material from Arecanut husk agro-

waste; E. Antimicrobial finish and herbal dyeing from Areca nut extract. Farm women were trained on those technologies and their uses.

- Information was collected regarding identification of gender gap for climate change in which physiological workload of farm women in agriculture was studied in Meghalaya. It was observed that cardiac cost of work is found to be high during harvesting with the traditionally used sickle.
- Musculo-skeletal discomfort was found in various parts of the body like upper back, mid back arms and shoulders. Hence, improved and refined sickle intervention is going on, to study the suitability in order to minimize musculo-skeletal problems and to reduce cardiac cost of work. As traditional “kokcheng” (headbaskets) creates same problem the refined kokcheng was introduced on experimental basis.
- Two resource centres are established in adopted villages from where farm women are taking farm tools for their use.
- Capacity building programmes were also conducted on Irrigation and cropping system. Cattle vaccination drives Programme, method demonstration on vermicomposting, training and method demonstration on mushroom cultivation. Seasonal fruit preservation and value added products, package of practices of different vegetables also.
- During the year 2022, 29 numbers of capacity building programmes were organized where 1081 farm women have participated. In the current year 23 numbers of programmes were organized so far in which 844 participants have participated.