

### **Three-day training programme on “Skill Development and Agri-Entrepreneurship for Enhancing Sustainable Livelihoods of SC Farmers” under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP)**

A three-day training programme was conducted under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) of ICAR–IARI, New Delhi on “Skill Development and Agri-Entrepreneurship for Enhancing Sustainable Livelihoods of SC Farmers” from 17–19 February 2026 at Jaunti Village, North-West Delhi, for 50 Scheduled Caste farmers. The training programme was organized by the Scientists of the Division of Agricultural Extension, ICAR–IARI, New Delhi, wherein Dr. Misha Madhavan M, Scientist (SS), ICAR-IARI, acted as the Course Director, and Dr. Sukanya Barua served as the Course Coordinator. Dr. Sandeep Kumar Lal, Principal Scientist, Division of Seed Science and Technology, ICAR–IARI, provided guidance as the Nodal Officer for the SCSP programme. A total of nine resource persons delivered lectures during the training programme, including seven scientists from ICAR–IARI, New Delhi, and two Subject Matter Specialists from KVK, Ujwa, Delhi.

The training programme featured a comprehensive series of lectures aimed at strengthening farmers’ technical knowledge, entrepreneurial skills, and resilience for sustainable livelihoods. Sessions on scientific crop production practices and pest management emphasized improved agronomic and plant protection strategies to ensure stable and enhanced farm income, while climate-resilient crop production focused on adaptive practices to address climate variability. Lectures on agri-waste management and wealth creation highlighted opportunities for converting farm residues into value-added products, complemented by modules on value addition and food processing to enhance marketability and profitability of farm produce. The programme also promoted environmentally sustainable enterprises through natural and organic farming, along with scientific mushroom cultivation and apiculture as viable income-generating options. Institutional strengthening was addressed through sessions on the formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to improve collective marketing and input access, and bridging the agriculture information gap among women, ensuring inclusive access to technologies and decision-making. Collectively, these lectures equipped participants with integrated technical, entrepreneurial, and institutional capacities for sustainable livelihood enhancement. At the end of the training minor farm implements and vegetable seeds kits from ICAR-IARI were distributed among the trainees.



**Glimpses of the training programme conducted**



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