

Date: 13 November 2025

Report on the Seed Bank Conservation & Awareness Programme for Farmers

Venue: Srirampur Village, Gunupur

Organised Under Janajatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2025 on 13 November 2025

School of Agriculture, GIET University, Gunupur

In Collaboration with

ICAR–Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (ICAR-CIWA), Bhubaneswar

1. Introduction

As part of the ongoing celebrations of Janajatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2025, the School of Agriculture, GIET University, Gunupur, organised a Seed Bank Conservation & Awareness Programme for farmers on 13 November 2025 at Srirampur village.

The programme aimed to promote the conservation of indigenous seed varieties, encourage farmer-led seed banks, and enhance awareness on climate-resilient agricultural practices rooted in traditional knowledge systems.

This initiative focused on empowering rural and tribal farmers by strengthening their capacities in seed conservation, natural farming, and community-driven resource management.

Highlights of the Event

- Experts highlighted the urgency of preserving indigenous seeds for future climate resilience.
- Women farmers were encouraged to take leadership roles in community seed banking.
- Farmers received guidance on seed exchange, seed storage, and traditional conservation methods.
- University students and faculty participated actively in farmer interactions and demonstrations.

2. Inaugural Session and Dignitary Participation

The programme was smoothly coordinated by **Ms. Sucharita Panda, Assistant Professor, School of Agriculture**, who welcomed all guests, resource persons, and participating farmers.

The event was enriched by the presence of distinguished scientists and agricultural experts:

- **Dr. Lakshmipriya Sahu, Senior Scientist, ICAR–CIWA**, delivered an insightful lecture on seed conservation, natural farming, and the crucial role of women in rural empowerment and sustainable agriculture.

- **Dr. Sushanta Kumar Mohanty, Professor, School of Agriculture**, discussed the importance of community seed banks in ensuring food security, biodiversity conservation, and climate-resilient farming systems.
- **Dr. Rinny Swain (Associate Professor) and Ms. Mita Meher (Assistant Professor), School of Agriculture** had a meaningful interaction with the farmers about the ongoing Cropping systems in that area. Their inputs emphasized the need for farmer-led seed preservation initiatives and revival of traditional exchange networks.

The inaugural session set the tone for an interactive and knowledge-rich programme.

3. Technical Sessions and Awareness Activities

The technical sessions covered a wide range of topics relevant to local farmers, including:

- **Significance of Indigenous Seed Varieties:** Their role in maintaining genetic diversity and sustaining traditional farming systems.
- **Community Seed Banks:** Steps for establishment, management, seed storage protocols, and periodic seed renewal.
- **Climate-resilient Agriculture:** Importance of diverse seed pools to withstand climate variability.
- **Women's Participation:** Empowering women through seed-saving activities, collective seed banks, and leadership in community farming initiatives.
- **Natural and Organic Farming:** Integrating sustainable soil and crop management practices with seed conservation efforts.

Farmers were encouraged to collect, store, multiply, and exchange indigenous seeds within the community to strengthen local resilience and self-reliance.

4. Farmer Participation and Community Engagement

The programme witnessed active engagement from farmers, women's groups, and young learners. Farmers interacted with experts on practical issues like seed storage techniques, selection of mother plants, and maintaining purity of indigenous varieties.

Participants appreciated the need for a systematic, community-driven seed bank and expressed willingness to initiate seed collection and exchange activities in the coming agricultural seasons.

After the discussion and Field demonstration, the event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by **Dr. Anmol Panda Assistant Professor, School of Agriculture**.

5. Conclusion

The Seed Bank Conservation & Awareness Programme, organized under *Janajatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 2025*, successfully sensitized farmers about the importance of indigenous seed preservation and community seed banking. The programme strengthened local knowledge systems, encouraged active participation of women in seed conservation, and laid the

foundation for establishing a community seed bank in Srirampur village. This initiative marks a significant step toward promoting climate-resilient, sustainable, and self-reliant agriculture in the tribal dominated Gunupur region.

6. Outcomes of the Programme

1. Farmers gained practical knowledge on the importance of preserving traditional seed varieties, leading to increased interest in establishing and maintaining community seed banks.
2. The programme encouraged active involvement of women farmers and local SHGs, empowering them to take the lead in seed-saving, natural farming, and community-based resource management.
3. Farmers expressed willingness to collect, multiply, and exchange indigenous seeds, laying the foundation for a sustainable community-driven seed conservation system in the region.

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Glimpse of Seed Bank Conservation & Awareness Programme for Farmers



Seed Bank Conservation & Awareness Programme for Farmers

School of Agriculture (ICAR ACCREDITED), GIET University
In Collaboration with
ICAR-CIWA, Bhubaneswar



Interaction with Farmers at Srirampur Village by
Dr. Lakshmipriya Sahu, Senior Scientist, ICAR-CIWA





Farmers field visit at Srirampur Village, Gunupur

