A Brief Report on

Exposure Visit-cum-Skill Training Programme at ICAR-Indian Institute of Groundnut Research, Junagadh

As a follow-up to the field visit of Dr. Amitabha Bandyopadhyay (Former Director, ICAR-IIGR) to Purba Medinipur on 28–29 March 2025, where he highlighted issues such as excess seed rate, imbalanced fertilizer use, lack of organic matter, poor seed storage, and unrealistic yield claims, a team of six progressive farmers from Purba Medinipur along with Mr. Tarun Sarkar (SMS, Agronomy) and Mr. Sudip Mandal (SMS, Seed Science) participated in an Exposure Visit-cum-Skill Training on Groundnut Seed Production Technology at ICAR-IIGR, Junagadh, Gujrat during 26.08.2025 to 28.08.2025.

The 3-day programme included classroom sessions on varietal purity, seed standards, INM/IPM practices, and post-harvest handling; field demonstrations on rouging, harvesting, and seed production; and industrial visits to seed processing and oil extraction units. Farmers also learned about low-cost seed storage technology and composting of groundnut haulm, both of which directly address the local problems of Purba Medinipur.

During the training, several newly released groundnut varieties such as **VRI 10, VRI 11, GG 37, GG 39, Girnar 4 & 5, TAG 73, K 1812, GG 34** were introduced, among which some varieties have significant promise under the agro-climatic conditions of West Bengal.

- **VRI 10 (Virginia Bunch type, 115–120 days):** Drought-tolerant, stable performance across environments, good seed quality.
- **VRI 11 (Spanish Bunch, 110–115 days):** Bold pods, preferred in local markets for better shelling percentage and consumer demand.
- **GJG 18 (Virginia Runner, 120–125 days):** High oil content, suitable for rabi cultivation.
- **GJG 19 (Virginia Runner, 120–125 days):** Stress-tolerant, high pod yield, suitable for longer season.
- **Raj Mungafali-2 (RG 578, Virginia Bunch, 110–115 days):** Superior seed quality, adaptable to diverse soils.
- **Phule Morna (KDG 123, Virginia Bunch, 115–120 days):** Disease tolerant, good oil quality, suitable for intensive cultivation.

Experts from ICAR–IIGR and Main Oilseeds Research Station, Junagadh Agricultural University, particularly **highlighted VRI 10, GG 37, and VRI 11** as **most suitable for adoption in West Bengal**, offering higher productivity, quality improvement, and better profitability compared to existing farmer practices. This information will be of immense value in guiding farmers of Purba Medinipur towards sustainable groundnut cultivation.

ICAR-IIGR also recommended the following **seed treatment and bio-input technologies**:

- **Neonix** (Imidacloprid 18.5% + Hexaconazole 1.5% FS) @ 2 ml/kg seed for combined protection against seed and soil-borne pests/diseases.
- **Nut Magic** (PGPR + PSB + Rhizobium consortium): seed treatment with **~20% yield advantage**.
- **Nut Boost** (PGPR formulation): foliar/nutrient boost with **18–20% yield advantage**.

The visit not only enhanced technical knowledge but also created a platform to interact with eminent scientists of ICAR–IIGR, which will significantly strengthen the extension efforts of Purba Medinipur KVK in disseminating groundnut seed production technologies.

This visit was organized under the framework of the Oilseeds Model Village Programme and Cluster Frontline Demonstrations on Oilseeds, currently being implemented by Purba Medinipur KVK in Egra-I and Panskura block covering 250 ha. OMV and CFLD are flagship initiatives of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and ICAR–ATARI Kolkata to enhance oilseed productivity, reduce import dependence, and promote self-reliance in seed production.

The exposure visit has strengthened the linkage between KVK–ICAR-IIGR–farmers and is expected to bring a long-term impact on groundnut seed self-reliance, sustainable cultivation practices, and profitability in Purba Medinipur.

Action Photograph