

Assessing the Effectiveness of IARI- Post Office Extension Model to Bring About Changes in Technological Scenarion in Agriculture: A Case of Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri District

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Abstract—*The technological scenarion in agirulture specifically in case of new varities is stagnat for whole East and North East India with no exception of West Bengal for almost a decade. The seed replacemnet rate was very low in comapre to other agriculturally developed states and farmers were growing popular rice varities for almost 20 years mostly through farm saved seeds. Hence, IARI-Post office extension model was conceptualized and implemented in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri district to update the farming communities with new varities and quality certfed seed. The popular rice varieties like Pusa-1121, Pusa-1509, Pusa-44 etc were disseminated through postal network in rice growing areas in Kharif 2015 and 2016. The performance of IARI technologies distributed under IARI-Post office model in Darjeeling district was assessed. All the farmers reported that the yield of PS-5 (@5-5.4 ton/ha) was comparatively higher than the local check Jupaka, Ranjan etc (4.5ton/ha). Eighty per cent farmers preferred PS-5 due to its resistance against lodging problem and more number of active tillers than the local varieties. However, majority of the farmers (52%) reported that Pusa 44 was highly susceptible to neck blast and white ear head due to attack of YSB and false smut. Similarly, farmers were highly satisfied with the average yield of PM-26 was 1.5 ton/ha which was much higher than local varieties.*