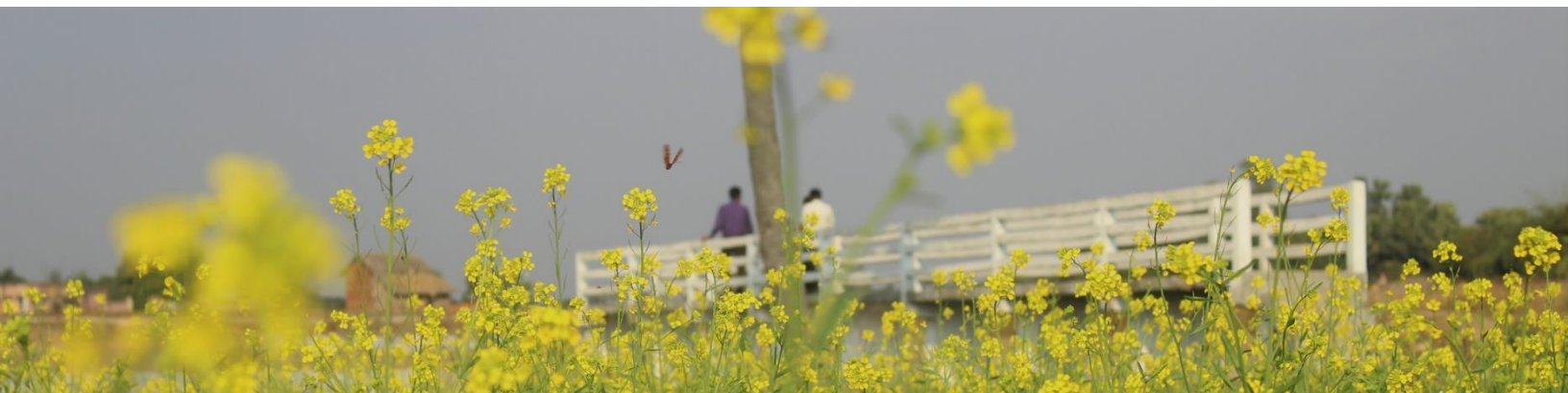


WBADMIP Quarterly Newsletter



Project Development Objectives:

To enhance the farm productivity of 1,00,000 small and marginal farmers from single cropped rainfed areas in West Bengal by creating irrigation potential of 75000 ha area

West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project

Water Resource Investigation & Development Department
(A joint initiative between Govt. of West Bengal and The World Bank)

Recent Events

1. **6th December 2018:** Mr Subrata Mukherjee, Hon'ble Minister in Charge, Water Resources Investigation & Development Department visited Tetulbedia and Bhaleya Water Detention Structures in South 24 Parganas district



2. **6th December 2018:** Country Director and other World Bank Officials were appraised with the project experience by Dr. (Ms) Anju Gaur and Mr Raj Ganguly at the World Bank Office, New Delhi.
3. **7th December 2018:** Workshop on “*Ethical Community Engagement*” between WBADMIP officials and stakeholders of Australian Govt. funded Socially Inclusive & Sustainable Agriculture Intensification Project (SIAGI) at SPMU, Kolkata

4. **14th Dec 2018:** Mr Steven N Schonberger Director, Global Water Practice, World Bank Group, Washington visited project villages in Birbhum district and left a beautiful message “*A wonderful and inspiring visit. I was very impressed by the way the WUA has taken the support of a pump and fisheries to improve the lives of all in the village.*”



5. **13-19th Dec 2018:** Review Mission Visit from World Bank team led by Dr. (Ms) Anju Gaur. Programs included under the visit were review of project's progress and planning, meeting with Hon'ble MIC, WRID&D and other Senior Officials, field visits etc.
6. International Water Management Institute (IWMI) has initiated its impact assessment activities in the four priority districts Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia and Paschim Medinipur.

Conference/Workshop attended by WBADMIP Officials:

- **26th-30th Nov 2018:** Mr Joydeep Das, EE and Mr. Amitava Mukherjee, GIS Specialist attended the workshop with the title, “*Use of Google engine in GIS*” in Pune, Maharashtra. The Workshop was organized by IWMI with support from MoWR, GoI and The World Bank.
- **10-11 Dec 2018:** Mr. Joydeep Das, EE and Mr Akhilesh Parey, TL participated “*International Conference on Sustainable Water Management*” organized by World Bank in Chandigarh

Upcoming Events:

- **28th Jan 2019:** Meeting between Project Director, WBADMIP and ICARDA officials.
- **6th Feb 2019:** Project Director will be visiting New Delhi to attend a meeting with Addl. Secy. DEA, GoI followed by another meeting with MoWR officials.
- **13th-14th Feb 2019:** International Dam Safety Conference 2019 under the aegis of GoI and World Bank to be held in Bhubneswar, Odisha.

TAPPING RESIDUAL MOISTURE FOR UP-SCALING FARM INCOME

The agriculture sector puts enormous pressure on the country's limited water resources, especially groundwater aquifers. Although there are many technological advances, but these are often beyond capacity for financially starved small and marginal farmers who find these unaffordable and unworkable. However there are others solutions, which can be adopted without adding to the capital burden of small farmers. Therefore, one of the best possible approaches of conservation agriculture enhancing crop diversification is by using the local available resources like residual soil moisture and existing crop residues of kharif rice cultivation. In this regard farmers from Jorakeundi Check Dam Scheme in Jhargram District have efficiently demonstrated the benefits of tapping residual moisture in leveraging farm income. Earlier most of the land used to remain fallow post kharif but the Check Dam which was handed over just a year before has already been able to bring a paradigm shift in attitude towards agriculture among the farmers in the command areas. Well-tailored agriculture technology dissemination initiatives from the project personnel has taken a pioneer role in encouraging the farmers to bring 13 Ha of areas under lathyrus cultivation and 3 ha under mustard cultivation using the residual moisture. Seeds were sown in first week of November, so the harvest data is yet to arrive; however the expected economy of return is as below:

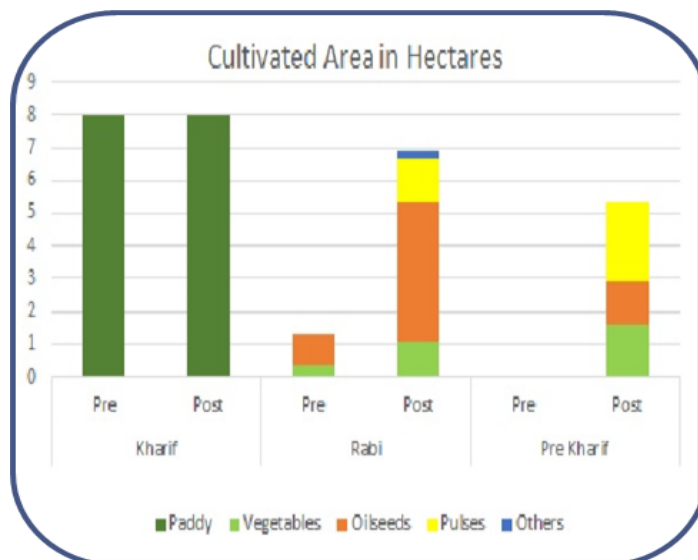


Lathyrus Cultivation

	Lathyrus	Mustard
Area(ha)	13	3
*Cost of Cultivation (Rs)	52,200	55,200
Gross Value of the produce(Rs)	3,90,000(@Rs20/kg)	1,89,000 (@Rs 42/kg)
Net Profit (Rs)	3,37,800	1,33,800
* For Lathyrus, Cost of cultivation is only on seed, for mustards it's for seed and other input		

RANIGRAM- A SHORT STORY

The Ranigram Sri Gonsaibaba Check dam was constructed on Jahanabad – Arali Stream in Rajnagar Block, Birbhum District to cover 8 hectare area for irrigation with an estimated cost of Rs. 81.93 lakh. It was handed over in 2016. Most of the Farmers in Ranigram are small and Marginal. Assured irrigation powered by Agricultural technologies instantly increased the Rabi Cultivation from 5 bighas to 55 bighas and Pre Kharif cultivation from nil to 20 bighas.



ADDRESSING WATER CONFLICT IN SURFACE SCHEMES OF ARID DISTRICTS BY PROMOTING MONOSEX TILAPIA CULTURE

Tilapia occupies lower level food chain which makes the culture economical and eco-friendly. The benefits of Monosex culture of tilapia lies in their faster growth, greater adaptability and uniform size requiring minimum level of monitoring and management as compared to other fish species. In Purulia district WBADMI Project at present primarily focusing on surface schemes such as Water Detention Structures (WDS), the water quality is not congenial for the culture of majority of fish species during the first year of excavation. In these adverse conditions other than Carps (considered as most preferred fish in Purulia) monosex Tilapia shows good result in terms of growth performance, productivity and disease resistance. A major challenge for surface schemes in arid districts like Purulia is, availability of water during Rabi. Intensive agricultural activities during Rabi results in rapid decrease in the water level which is not conducive for majority of the fish species resulting in conflict between fish and agriculture farmers. However, monosex Tilapia fits well in these conditions as they become ready for harvest within 4 months, thus bringing not only additional income to the farmers but also a working model for conflict resolution in dry and arid zones. Considering all these benefits, Project's fishery team has implemented Monosex Tilapia culture in 12 nos. of WDS from Manbazar I, Manbazar II and Barabazar Block of Purulia district. The initiative is already under implementation, it is estimated to bring a net return of Rs 21, 32,808.00 (Cost of cultivation Rs 9 lakh) for 135 farmers covering 9.63 ha of water area just within 4 months

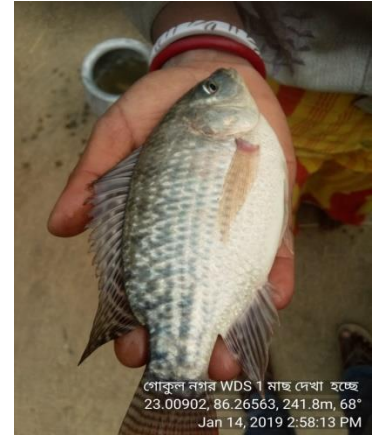


Photo of the Month



Assured irrigation has also increased the agriculture employment in the project villages
Photo: Palpuskarini TW, Bankura, Photo credit: Saurabh JG