



At present there were 148 Women Farmers Field School (WFFS) developed by the TRLM in Jolaibari where women farmers were taught different techniques of farming, non-farming and farming of livestock activities. Jayanta Das, Livelihood Coordinator conceded that earlier women had no idea about the concept of nutrition gardens. He added. “The women in Jolaibari area are now experimenting with different types of vegetables depending on the season and the availability of seeds”.

Ranati Bhowmik (51) after seeing other women farmers’ enterprising initiatives started growing vegetables and now her family gets to eat something or the other every day. For her it is sufficient for meeting her family’s daily needs.

Roma Bhowmik, (48) another Community Service Provider (CSP) added, “Earlier, food habit was mostly restricted to rice and a few veggies. Now, in many parts of Jolaibari vegetables like brinjal, tomatoes, pumpkin, chilies, bitter gourd, beans, chickpeas, and green leaves are cultivated by the women of different SHG Groups”. She added.

Seeing the success of the nutrition garden initiative, TRLM started looking forward to distribute vegetable seeds in coming days to the beneficiaries free of cost and as part of the programme it has also been linked with backyard poultry, goat rearing, pisciculture, duck farming, bee farming and mushroom cultivation.

Anjana Lodh Biswas (37) of Shanti Niketan Para said, “Instead of chemical fertilizers and pesticides we use traditional organic manure prepared by a unique method of fermentation from a mixture of cow dung, cow urine, neem leaves etc. as organic fertilizer and pesticide to protect the crops from common pests and diseases in the garden”.

Taniya Baidya (29) of Datta Para said, “I am very happy and thankful to the state government for supporting us in achieving our goals as we are able to grow sufficient food for our family and don’t need to buy vegetables”.

The women in Jolaibari are very excited and overwhelmed as their hard work has borne fruits. Most of the residents of Jolaibari area have started growing vegetables in their backyard and are thriving rapidly. “Today 1,299 households have been covered by nutrition garden covering 16 gram panchayats under Jolaibari RD Block”, said, Mithun Chakraborty.

“The strength of many SHGs and their federations lies in their outreach and networks among the members which has played a key role in the success of nutrition gardening under Jolaibari”, said Rabi Nama, Chairman of Jolaibari Panchayat Samiti.

Now, the promotion of nutrition gardens as a sustainable practice to improve nutrition and food security has positively impacted the rural community and has improved nutritional status of every household not only in Jolaibari but also across the state.
