Minutes of the Interactive meeting on formulation of project proposal on ***Ecosystem service assessment and bio-capacity management of IFS under agro-ecological condition of NEH region*** held on 31st January 2024 at ICAR ATARI Zone VII at 11:00 AM on hybrid mode.

The meeting on formulation of project proposal on 'Ecosystem service assessment and bio-capacity management of IFS under agro-ecological condition of NEH region' was held on 31st January 2024 at ICAR ATARI Zone VII in hybrid mode.

Following Members attended from ICAR ATARI Zone VII, Umiam

Sl. No	Name	Designation
1	Dr. A.K. Mohanty	Director, ICAR ATARI Zone VII, Umiam *(Chairman)*
2	Dr. Anup Das	Director, ICAR RC Eastern Region, Patna *(Expert & Chief Guest)*
3	Dr. A.K. Singha	Principal Scientist, ICAR ATARI Zone VII, Umiam
4	Dr. R. Bordoloi	Principal Scientist, ICAR ATARI Zone VII, Umiam
5	Dr. Amrutha T.	Scientist, ICAR ATARI Zone VII, Umiam
6	Dr. Md. Mokidul Islam	Principal Scientist and head Ribhoi KVK
7	Shri. Saikat Sinha	Senior Scientist & Head of West Khasi Hills KVK
8	Smt. Jeseama K Marak	SMS (Fisheries) West Jaintia Hills KVK
9	Shri. Samborlang Malngiang	SMS (Fisheries) East Khasi Hills KVK
10	Shri. Wanphrang Kharkongor	Senior Research Fellow, ICAR-ATARI
11	All heads of KVKs (43 Nos) under ATARI Zone VII attended the meeting online.	

The meeting started after felicitating the Chief Guest Dr. Anup Das, Director, ICAR RC Eastern Region, Patna by Dr. A.K. Mohanty, Director, ICAR ATARI Zone VII, Umiam

Dr. R. Bordoloi, Principal Scientist (AE), warmly welcomed the dignitaries present and the staff of the KVKs who attended the meeting online. He emphasized the meeting's importance for the KVKs of the NEH Region and highlighted the significance of Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) in the Northeastern states particularly for farmers with smaller land holding to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

Dr. A.K. Singha, Principal Scientist (AE), emphasized the importance of identifying the right type of IFS model in respective KVKs for sustainability, profitability, and stability.

Chairing over the meeting, Dr. A.K. Mohanty, Director of ICAR-ATARI Zone VII, Umiam, during his brief speech emphasized to develop prevailing agro-ecosystem based suitable IFS model in scientific mode to ensure desired outcomes. Furthermore, he stated the importance of incorporating the knowledge and expertise accumulated by all KVKs staff over time into this IFS to enhance the societal wellbeing as well as institutional building. He called for working on IFS through the involvement of 43 KVKs of Zone VII on research mode. He said that the guidance of Dr. Das will add an insight to this effort.

Dr. Anup Das, Director of ICAR RC Eastern Region, Patna, then delivered a brief address and interacted with the KVKs, offering the following ideas to be considered during the proposal formulation and implementation of the IFS model.

- It is crucial to develop an efficient and effective model of Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) with the approach of resource optimization.

- The foremost priority for selecting a particular IFS model is to increase the income of the farmers/stakeholders and to ensure a sustainable farm income, optimum resource utilization, and maximum productivity.

- The type of the IFS model will be determined by the major component of intervention that contributes the highest percentage of return.

- IFS designs need to be distinct from one district to the other and should also focus on ecotourism/ Ecosystem resource.

- Requested all the KVKs to have brainstorming exercise involving all its staff, officers, and stakeholders before preparing an action plan for designing the IFS model for optimal results.

- Emphasis should be given to traditional crops (10-20%) and ITKs followed by the specific community within the district.

- Establishing a crop calendar throughout the year is crucial for ensuring family nutrition and food security of small farm holders.

- The model developed and validated by the KVKs should be replicable in farmers' fields in the similar agro-ecosystem based on its viability, profitability, and sustainability.

- The model and crops grown should align with market demand.

- The IFS model should conserve and promote biodiversity and ecosystem services.

KVKs from five states namely Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura, also shared their experiences and made some queries with respect to the development of the IFS model. They also identified components suitable for their respective districts and expressed eagerness to undertake the IFS project with an objective to address critical gaps through a variety of scientific interventions.

It was requested to all KVKs to submit a brief note and a sketch outlining of the IFS model having feasible, profitable, and sustainable component suitable to the district to be implemented in their respective KVKs by **February 15th, 2024** to the Director of ICAR ATARI Zone VII for further needful action.