

The National Innovation Foundation–India (NIF-India) successfully conducted a Capacity Building and Orientation Workshop at the Department of Lifelong Learning & Extension (REC), Palli Samgathana Vibhaga, Visva-Bharati University, West Bengal, under the project "Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods through Grassroots Innovations in Adopted Villages of Visva-Bharati University."

The workshop engaged 15 Master in Rural Development students, introducing them to NIF-India's mission of scouting, supporting, protecting, and disseminating grassroots innovations across the country. Participants were also oriented to the project's objectives, implementation strategy, and the vital role of grassroots technologies in promoting sustainable livelihoods and rural development.

Following the orientation, a field visit was undertaken to the adopted villages to conduct a preliminary assessment of beneficiary sites. The team evaluated the existing infrastructure, assessed the feasibility of proposed technologies under local conditions, and interacted with Self-Help Group (SHG) members to understand their needs, expectations, and readiness for technology adoption.

As part of the outreach activities, Technology Dissemination and Innovation Sensitization Farmer's Meetings were organized in Daronda Kamarpara and Halsidanga villages of Birbhum district, West Bengal. The programme witnessed the enthusiastic participation of over 60 community members, including more than 45 women and 15 men, who actively engaged in discussions on grassroots innovations, sustainable livelihoods, and technology-driven rural development.

The programme concluded on a positive and inspiring note, reaffirming that grassroots innovations can play a transformative role in reducing drudgery, improving livelihoods, empowering rural women, and strengthening the socio-economic well-being of rural communities.

