

Farmers learn climate-smart farming practices under Khet Bachao Abhiyan

14 June 2026 | Motihari, Bihar

ICAR–Mahatma Gandhi Integrated Farming Research Institute (MGIFRI), Motihari organized an awareness-cum-training programme under the nationwide Khet Bachao Abhiyan 2026 at Village Siswah, Banjaria Block, East Champaran district, Bihar. The programme focused on promoting scientific, resource-efficient, and soil-health-centered agricultural practices among farmers, particularly in waterlogged, flood-prone, and soil-degraded areas. The central message of the programme was the importance of balanced fertilizer use and soil health protection through scientific nutrient and crop management. A total of 42 participants, including farmers, village representatives, and field-level agricultural functionaries, actively participated in the programme.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Subham Mukherjee, Scientist (Soil Science), emphasized the need for soil-test-based fertilizer application instead of indiscriminate fertilizer use. He highlighted that balanced fertilization improves nutrient-use efficiency, reduces input costs, enhances crop productivity, and sustains long-term soil fertility. He encouraged farmers to integrate chemical fertilizers with organic manures, green manuring, biofertilizers, and Azolla to improve soil biological activity and nutrient availability.



Dr. Mukherjee also discussed the benefits of green manuring using locally suitable leguminous crops and emphasized the incorporation of crop residues and organic materials into the soil for improving soil structure, fertility, and microbial activity. Farmers were made aware of the advantages of conservation agriculture practices, including zero tillage and direct-seeded rice, for reducing cultivation costs, saving water, and ensuring timely crop establishment.

Er. Vikas Paradkar, Scientist (Farm Power and Machinery) emphasizes on mechanization-based solutions for sustainable crop production. He explained the adverse effects of

repeated rotavator use, which can lead to soil pulverization, shallow hardpan formation, and deterioration of soil structure. He emphasized the need for appropriate tillage practices and occasional deep tillage to break compacted layers, improve root growth, and enhance water infiltration and aeration. Considering the local challenges of waterlogging and flooding, Er. Paradkar advised farmers to strengthen field bunds, adopt proper land levelling, and use suitable farm machinery for efficient crop establishment and water management. He explained that scientific land shaping and drainage management are essential for improving crop productivity in flood-prone regions.



The programme witnessed active participation from the village Mukhiya, Agriculture Coordinator, ATMs, BTMs, and progressive farmers. Participants openly discussed challenges related to fertilizer use, soil degradation, waterlogging, tillage practices, and crop establishment. Scientists provided practical and location-specific recommendations to address these issues through balanced nutrient management, soil conservation, and appropriate farm mechanization.

The programme concluded with a strong message that healthy soil is the foundation of productive, profitable, and climate-resilient agriculture. ICAR-MGIFRI reaffirmed its commitment to empowering farmers through scientific advisories, field demonstrations, and sustainable farming technologies under the broader objectives of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan.