

ICAR-MGIFRI and KVK Sheohar promote soil health and integrated farming systems under Khet Bachao Abhiyan in Bihar

18 June 2026 | Motihari, Bihar

As part of the nationwide Khet Bachao Abhiyan-2026, ICAR-Mahatma Gandhi Integrated Farming Research Institute (MGIFRI), Motihari, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Sheohar, organized a farmer awareness programme at Narainpur and Mesuara villages, Piprahi Block, Sheohar district, Bihar. The programme focused on promoting soil health conservation, balanced fertilizer use, crop diversification, and sustainable farming practices to reduce excessive dependence on chemical fertilizers and improve long-term agricultural sustainability.



The campaign aimed to create awareness on protecting agricultural lands from the adverse effects of excessive fertilizer use through balanced nutrient management, promotion of alternative and eco-friendly farming practices, crop planning for reduced fertilizer dependency, and strengthening farmer awareness for behavioral change toward sustainable agriculture.

The meeting commenced with an introduction by KVK scientists, followed by a detailed discussion on the objectives of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan by Dr. P. K. Bharti. During the technical session, farmers were sensitized on the balanced use of chemical fertilizers and biofertilizers in major crops such as rice, maize, and wheat. Scientists highlighted the importance of green manuring through Dhaincha (*Sesbania*), integration of green gram and Azolla as biological nitrogen sources, soil-test-based fertilizer recommendations, crop residue management, conservation agriculture practices, and inclusion of pulses and legumes in cropping systems.

Dr. Amol K. Jadhav emphasized that incorporating at least one pulse crop in the annual cropping cycle can significantly improve soil fertility through biological nitrogen fixation while enhancing farm profitability and nutritional security. Dr. Anuradha Ranjan Kumari, Head and Senior Scientist encouraged farmers to adopt vermicomposting as a sustainable and eco-friendly source of nutrients for field crops, vegetables, and horticultural crops.



During the interactive session, farmers expressed keen interest in adopting balanced nutrient management practices. Several participants shared their experiences of cultivating summer green gram and acknowledged its role in reducing nitrogen fertilizer requirements for the succeeding rice crop. Farmers also showed considerable interest in cultivating Dhaincha for green manuring, although timely availability of quality seed was identified as a key requirement for wider adoption.



Scientists further explained practical approaches for reducing chemical fertilizer dependence through green manuring, crop diversification, biofertilizers, and soil-test-

based nutrient management. Special emphasis was given to the importance of Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) for waterlogged and flood-prone regions of North Bihar, where crop, livestock, fishery, and horticultural enterprises can be integrated to improve resilience, income, and resource-use efficiency.

Farmers were also made aware of the adverse effects of crop residue burning and the benefits of crop residue recycling for improving soil organic matter, nutrient availability, and soil biological health.

During the discussion, farmers raised concerns regarding the lack of electricity connections in agricultural fields for operating irrigation pumps. The issue was noted by the concerned state government officials for appropriate follow-up action.

The programme concluded with a strong message that healthy soils, balanced nutrient management, and diversified farming systems are essential for achieving sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture, reinforcing the objectives of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan in Bihar.

A total of 117 farmers (84 male and 33 female) participated in the programme. The event was attended by Shri Vinod Mahato, Sarpanch; Shri Haidar Ali, Block Technology Manager (BTM); local coordinators; and KVK staff, who actively contributed to the discussions on sustainable agriculture and soil health management.