



INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS 2015-2016

Visva-Bharati University
(A central University)
Santiniketan, West Bengal-731235

During this academic year, Visva-Bharati focussed mainly on extension programmes, community linkages and services to the neighbouring communities. The University has taken up a series of extension work conducted mainly by Palli Samgathana Vibhaga (PSV), Palli Siksha Bhavana (PSB) and other various centres involved in similar activities. These departments, centres and schools are located in Sriniketan, the rural hub of Visva-Bharati's agriculture and social-work where the focus is on ground learning and socio-economic connections with the surrounding villages and rural communities.

- 1) **Development of Village Societies:** Forty (40) Village Development Societies, twelve (12) Mohila Samities and one (1) Health Society are motivated to organise reconstruction activities in more than fifty (50) villages in and around Sriniketan.

- 2) **Women Empowerment:** As part of women empowerment and entrepreneurship development Self Help Groups have been formed in villages in order to further develop all-round socio-economic conditions and self reliance among women.

- 3) **Rural Library Services:** The programme is carried out through the network of thirty nine (39) rural libraries with partial financial support from Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation (RRRLF), Kolkata. Librarians are working voluntarily for a noble cause that not only promotes reading and post-literacy development but also acts as a space for social bonding among the youth as well as keeps them entertained and occupied.

- 4) **Health Extension and Education:** Various departments from Sriniketan regularly organised health awareness and sensitization programmes in the villages and health check-up clinics in different villages. The programme was conducted in collaboration with Village Development Societies as mentioned above.

- 5) **Audio-Visual Programmes**: The university has promoted a number of audio visual programmes through Doordarshan and All India Radio, Santiniketan. These programmes mainly covered the issues faced by farmers of Birbhum vis-à-vis West Bengal. These programmes were targeted for an audience/listenership comprising agricultural workers and were broadcast in such a way that was both accessible technologically and linguistically and beneficial knowledge-wise to them in the long run.
- 6) The **Rathindra Krishi Vigyan Kendra** (RKVK) covered a total of twelve (12) On-Farm Trials and four-hundred and twenty (420) farmers for extension activities with different directions and initiatives to use as guidelines in trainings and related programmes. The total participants under different such extension programmes is 44,707.
- 7) **Cluster Front Line Demonstration** (CFLD) Programme on Pulses and Oilseeds were started during the winter season of this year throughout the country. It was a great idea of the Honorable Prime Minister of India. The objective is to increase production and productivity of pulses and oilseeds using recent technologies. The price of pulses and oilseeds in the Indian market will not be hiked leading to a reduction in import of pulses and oilseeds and conservation of foreign exchange.



Fig. Cluster Front Line Demonstration (CFLD) Programme on Pulses and Oilseeds