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## ICAR-KVK promotes natural farming in Beodnabad

**PORT BLAIR, FEB 3/--**The ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair organized a Natural Farming awareness programme at Beodnabad panchayat on 02.02.2023 under out scaling of natural farming through KVKs project to promote traditional indigenous practices to reduce externally purchased agricultural inputs. Mr V. Kumar, Sarpanch of Beodnabad panchayat, was present as a chief guest. He urged farmers to produce high-quality farm products without synthetic pesticides and herbicides. Thus, natural agricultural produce is highly beneficial to both human health and the health of the land and ecosystem. Mr N.Karthik, Up-Pradhan, Mrs V.Santhi, Ex-Pradhan, Mrs. Bhanumathi, Community Resource Person, Beodnabad also spoke at the event and inspired the farming community. Dr N. Bommayasamy, SMS (Agro./Agrl.Extn.), briefed the participants on the four pillars of natural

farming practices such as beejamrit, jeevamrit, acchadana (mulching), and whapasa (moisture). Beejamrit is much more effective in safeguarding young roots from illness, but jeevamrit is a rich source of bacteria that fix nitrogen and solubilize phosphorus, potassium, and other micronutrients. Mulching with crops enhances soil nutrient content, reduces risks, reduces pest loads, boosts productivity, and offers economic sustainability. Whapasa aids in reducing crop water requirements. Dr Pooja Kapoor, SMS (Home Science), emphasized the opportunities and self-employment generation of farm women in natural farming practices and inclusion of millets in daily diet. Experts showed the preparation procedure for jeevamrit to the attendees and distributed Ghanajeevamrit, neemastra, and agniastra. In all, 42 individuals participated in and benefitted from this programme.