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## ICAR-CIARI conducts field day on 'Fodder cultivation'

**PORT BLAIR, OCT 30/--/** The Animal Science Division of ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair conducted a field day on "ICAR-CIARI Lead Fodder Development in Islands" on 28th October, 2022 at Animal Farm complex. The programme was conducted under the NABARD funded project "Establishment of sustainable model village on fodder production at South Andaman". The field day was attended by livestock farmers from Ranchi Basti and Indira Nagar of Wandoor area. At the outset, Dr. E.B. Chakurkar, Director, ICAR-CIARI addressed the participants and enlighten them with advanced

knowledge on balanced feeding.

Further, he emphasized that surplus production of fodder may pave the islands way towards milk sufficiency in near future. Dr. P.A. Bala, Senior Scientist and Course Director lead the participants for hands on training experience in fodder cultivation in the demonstration field at the farm. He explained the present scenario of feed and fodders of the islands and how milk productivity of the animals can be improved by balanced feeding of the animals with fodders as center point. He briefed about the animal's class, physiology and production status, their nutrient requirements,

thumb rule in balancing the ration and how to prepare only fodder for medium milk yielding animals.

After the demonstration of the field activities, the farmers tried their hands on preparation of land, where they prepared the field with spade and then prepared the bunds for sowing the fodder cuttings. Then the standing Bajra-Napier Hybrid (CO-6) grass was cut by the farmers with three nodes and the roots were dug for replanting in the prepared field. After plating the farmers were advised post planting management, where irrigation, weeding and manure dredging was explained. Over and above the farmers were enlightened with soil type,

their management, fortification, types of fodders and best fodders in the island scenario. The farmers were distributed with 60 pieces of Bajra-Napier Hybrid (CO-6) grass's stem cutting to each of them by Dr. D. Bhattacharya, HoD, Animal Science Division. The participants showed keen interest in hands-on training imparted to them and were very much enthusiastic to inculcate the ideas in their field to increase their animal's productivity and their own profit margin. In the feedback, the participants felt the knowledge was very useful to them and requested to conduct such a type of programme in near future.