

## ICAR-CIARI Conducts Field Day on Fodder Cultivation

Denis Giles – 31 October 2022



**Port Blair, Oct. 30:** The Animal Science Division of ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair conducted field day on "ICAR-CIARI Lead Fodder Development in Islands" on 28<sup>th</sup> 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 enlightened them with advanced knowledge on balanced feeding. 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 led 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 centre 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. The standing Bajra-Napier Hybrid (CO-6) grass were 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.

The farmers were also enlightened with soil type, their management, fortification, types of fodders and best fodders in the island scenario. They 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 very useful to them and requested to conduct such type of programme in near future.