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BHUBANESWAR, WED

## 'FOCUS ON CROP ROTATION FOR BETTER PRODUCTION'

PROPER USE OF WATER MANAGEMENT METHODOLOGIES REQUIRED, SAYS SK AMBAST

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
Dhenkanal, 10 February

Dr SK Ambast, the national director of Indian Institute of Water Management (IIWM), stressed on crop diversification and better utilization of water management methodologies to boost farm production and enhance socio-economic condition of the farmers.

"Crop diversification with efficient water management technology not only boosts productivity but also encourages integrated farming to maintain soil fertility in the backdrop of weather variability. The concerned departments and agencies of Union and state government should work hand in hand in the direction," he said, while



IIWM national director Dr S K Ambast and principal scientist Dr G Kar interact with farmers at Parbatia village in Dhenkanal district. © SNS

interacting with farmers here.

Dr Ambast claimed that IIWM has scripted success stories by working with farmers in Dhenkanal district.

"Our Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-IIWM senior scientists have worked with farm-

ers for over 10 years and the success of collaboration of scientists and farmers is visible in farm lands of Jiral, Parbatia, Arnapurnapur and other villages," he said.

IIWM officials claimed that the scientists have trained farmers in modern farming methods in maize,

groundnut, vegetables and flowers.

"We have recently installed 14-drip-fertigation under National Initiative for Climate Resilient Agriculture of ICAR in Parbatia village of Dhenkanal and Gudpada village of Dhenkanal-Cuttack border. These two villages are pilot project village under scientific intervention of IIWM-ICAR at present," he said.

The IIWM has already adopted water technology innovative method in Kamakshyanagar area and several villages in Sadar block and claimed to have played a role in mitigating labour migration in the previous years.

While interacting with the scientists, one farmer Mr

Rama Chandra Rout of Parbatia village informed that he is presently earning Rs 1.50 lakh per hectare by growing vegetables as suggested by the IIWM officials.

At least 100 farming communities of 12 model villages have become self-reliant this way, he added.

The project head principal scientist Dr G Kar claimed that proper economic thinking and on-field training to farmers have helped in boosting production here.

"Besides, the farmers have shown interest to follow the suggestions on scientific farming like crop diversion and ways to minimize wastage of water. This is a very positive sign," he added.