

Brief Report on Demonstration and Training in West Bengal

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Rice-fallow (in West Bengal and eastern part of India) areas are those where rice crop is grown during Kharif season (June–October) but are left fallow during Rabi season (November–February). Smallholder agriculture applications (With typical smallholder parcel sizes <2 ha) requires very fine spatial resolution data to map those rice fallow areas for pulse intensification towards practice conservation agriculture and economic growth of the smallholder farmers. For all these, geotagged-ground data collection and reanalysis of the collected data is essential. Heterogeneous and fragmental landscape, complex crop cycles, many more related information are not sufficiently available to understand the spatiotemporal dynamics of agriculture system in West Bengal. Therefore, the systematic and geotagged database can help to take decision for appropriate pulse intensification in rice fallow areas. Geo-tagging is the procedure of attaching location information (latitude and longitude) with other information or media. Geoinformatics Unit (GU), ICARDA develop an Open Data Kit (ODK) based survey for geotagging field characteristics, farmers' economic conditions as well as farm boundary. ICARDA-ODK template is flexible and easy to use.

Fieldwork and capacity building for Geotagging of farm-level agricultural information (through ODK based mobile app) in West Bengal has been recently completed during 25th November- 3rd December 2018. GU, ICARDA trained Scientists/Professors/ field data collector/students (Total no. 22) of Visva-Bharati University, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Ramakrishna Mission Sargachhi Ashram and Pulse and Oilseeds Research Station (PORS) and several farmers club in West Bengal. Based on the feedback of the ground staff who are directly working with the farmers, the ODK based survey form will be updated.

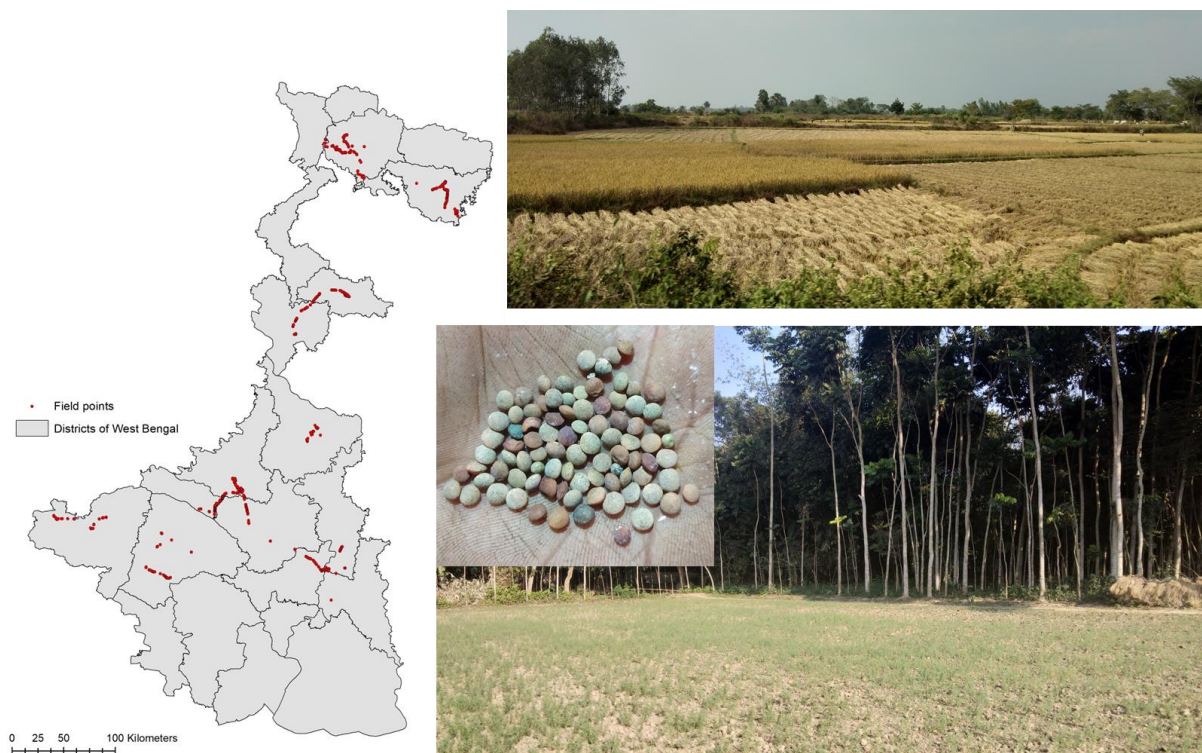


Fig. 1 Field photograph of different stages of rice and pulse cultivation