

## Establishment of Regional Training Facility on Conservation Agriculture

Conservation Agriculture (CA) based crop management practices has gained popularity among the farmers as well as policy makers in West Bengal and as a result large no of farmers (more than one lakh) have adopted the technology. Still the lack of awareness of the benefit of CASI among the extension specialists, development workers and even the scientists are the major drawback of wider adoption. Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal have taken a firm decision to include Conservation Agriculture Machineries/ Implements in the proposals of Custom Hiring Centre, which essentially is a bold step taken towards the right direction to avoid any kind of resource loss and pollution in the long run. In this given situation, as Conservation Agriculture is knowledge intensive technology, proper training on the use of science in the field is of immense importance.

Considering the importance a **Regional Training Centre of CA** was inaugurated by Ms. Rowan Ainsworth, Australian Consul General in Kolkata in presence of Dr. Pratibha Singh, Regional Manager, ACIAR, Mr. Pawan Kadyan, IAS, District Magistrate and Collector, Coochbehar and Dr.Swarup K Chakrabarti, Vice Chancellor, UBKV on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 with the fund support from Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). This centre will address the following issues.

- i. Critical Linkage between machinery subsidies and human
- ii. Offer courses on
  - a) operators of custom hiring centres for capacity development
  - b) Extension agents, NGOs and Field staffs
  - c) Specialized training for women and youths
- iii. Infrastructure for machinery testing

