



**A
REPORT
ON ORIENTATION OF
ICRO AMRIT INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME
(02ND FEBRUARY 2024)**

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A
REPORT ON THE ORIENTATION OF
ICRO AMRIT INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME AT MSCB UNIVERSITY
(02.02.2024)

Agriculture is primary occupation in India which is currently the world's second largest producer of several agriculture-based textile raw materials, roots and tuber crops, pulses, farmed fish, eggs, coconut, sugarcane and numerous vegetables. It is an important sector of the Indian economy employing the largest share of workforce and providing food and nutrition security to the nation. In wake of emerging challenges, we need to focus on sustainability through the food system and build long term resilience in the agri value chain resulting in improving farmers income.

Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanj Deo University (MSCB University) has taken initiative in this line and collaborated with IPL Centre for Rural Outreach (ICRO) established jointly by IPL (Indian Potash Limited) and NPC (National Productivity Council (NPC) for a unique **ICRO Amrit Internship Programme** where post graduate students across all the discipline of the University will get an opportunity to be exposed to learning experiences and new skills making them more employable and also promote entrepreneurial ideas and opportunities. On the other hand, the contribution of Amrit interns will provide valuable insights to practical issues at field level and also the overall local agro-climatic scenario of Mayurbhanj district.

The induction ceremony for the ICRO (IPL Centre for Rural Outreach) Amrit Internship Programme was organized at the HRDC Conference Hall, MSCB University on 2nd February, 2024. This event marked the launch of an innovative initiative aimed at involving post graduate MSCB university students in agricultural research and data collection. The ICRO designed this programme to empower the students by engaging them as paid interns to conduct surveys across various blocks of Mayurbhanj district, Odisha.

Survey Area

Mayurbhanj is a land- locked district, having Similipal Biosphere Reserve, large tribal population and their unique culture, famous Chhau Folk dance, rich archaeological evidence and so on. The economy of Mayurbhanj District is mostly dependent on agriculture. The agro climatic zone and the favourable soil type induce the proper growth of agriculture in the District of Mayurbhanj. Paddy is the major cultivated crop, followed by pulses and oilseeds. While there has

been decrease in the coverage of Khariff paddy in high lands, the area under pulses, oilseeds and other cereals has been showing an increasing trend due to diversification of cropping pattern in such land.

Mayurbhanj divided into 26 Community Development Blocks, and this survey will include all the 13 blocks in KVK I of Mayurbhanj District. Fifty students from different subjects of the University are participating in the survey in 13 blocks, namely Shamakhunta, Bangriposi, Rasgovindpur, Suliapada, GB Nagar, Kaptipada, Saraskana, Khunta, Betnoti, Udala, Kuliana, Badasahi, and Muruda.

Registration

The orientation programme was held on 2nd February 2024 at HRDC building of the University. The programme started with registration process both offline and online started in the morning from 9.00 am in the registration desk of HRDC building. After this formal Offline registration process started with offline forms followed by collection of Bank account details, Qualification certificates, passport size photos. The offline registration followed by online and **Mrs. Roy, Mentor ICRO** guided the participants for online registration. On this occasion interns were supplied with ICRO kit consisting up writing pad, folder, pen, T-shirt, Cap, Xerox copies of certain study materials, questionnaires, *etc.*



Inauguration

The inaugural ceremony began with a warm welcome to the interns, setting a tone of enthusiasm and anticipation for the journey ahead. **Prof. S. K. Nayak, Coordinator, ICRO Amrit Internship Programme**, hosted the meeting, introducing the program's objectives and the significance of the students' roles in advancing agricultural research. The event proceeded with the dignified invitation of resource persons to the Dias followed by a heartfelt gesture where

volunteers presented the guests with saplings, symbolizing the themes of growth, sustainability, and gratitude that underpin the program's ethos.



The orientation Programme was graced by a distinguished panel of invited guests/resource persons, each bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the forefront of this significant event. The interns were guided through the process of registering their profiles on the ICRO online portal by **Mrs. Nandini Roy, Mentor ICRO** who also facilitated access to e-learning modules and assessment questionnaires, ensuring a solid foundation of knowledge before embarking on fieldwork. The focus on effective data collection methods aimed to equip the interns with the skills necessary for engaging meaningfully with farmers and gathering accurate data that could inform future agricultural strategies. Additionally, the interns received detailed instructions on the protocol for submitting their collected data through the online portal, emphasizing the importance of precision and integrity in their research efforts. This season overview highlighted the programme's commitment to not only providing a rich learning experience but also to contributing valuable insights to the agricultural sector through meticulous and thoughtful survey work.

Address by Eminent Resource Persons

The induction ceremony was enriched with addresses from the programme's stakeholders, each shedding light on different aspects of the internship:

Prof. S.K. Tripathy, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Chief Guest of the programme, offered his esteemed leadership and vision for integrating practical agricultural experience with academic learning. Prof. Tripathy enlightened the importance of such initiatives in fostering a deeper understanding and connection with the agricultural sector among the students of MSCB University. On this occasion the Prof. Tripathy, formally inaugurated the programme, by handing over the internship T Shirt and Cap to all the interns.

Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, Director, ICRO addressed the orientation programme through online mode.

Dr. Ranjan emphasized the importance of agricultural surveys from India perspective, emphasizing the role of youth especially rural youth in enhancing the productivity, sustainability, and economic viability of this sector.

Prof. S.K. Nayak, Coordinator, ICRO Amrit Internship Programme welcomed the interns and outlined the objectives of the Programme, emphasizing its potential to bridge knowledge with practical agricultural work. Prof. Nayak provided a comprehensive snapshot of the forthcoming activities designed to immerse the interns in the practical aspects of the survey.

Prof. H. K. Sahu, Chairman of the PG Council, presided over the event, representing the academic excellence and support the university extends to such innovative programs. Prof. Sahu, highlighted the academic and professional merits of participating in such a programme, urging students to leverage this opportunity for their growth and development.

Mrs. Nandini Roy, Mentor ICRO, offered insights into the mentorship and support system that interns could expect, encouraging them to fully immerse themselves in the learning experience.

Dr. Abhiram Das, Head & Professor, College of Agriculture, OUAT, Bhubaneswar defined the objective of the ICRO survey and outlined the types of agricultural surveys, including but not limited to crop yield surveys, soil health assessments, and livestock health monitoring. Dr. Dash explained the interns regarding the filling up the questionnaire, data/information collection, compilations and upload. Looking into the Science, Social Sciences backgrounds of interns, Dr. Das gave special tips to collect information from farmers and also explained various common things and terminology required for agriculture-based survey.

Dr. Monoranjan Mishra, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Badasahi, Mayurbhanj gave an overview of the agriculture system of Odisha in general and Mayurbhaj district, in particular.

Dr. Mishra also clarified doubt of interns related to survey and encouraged them to involve wholeheartedly in such type of study to educate the farmers in the tribal dominated district to improve their livelihood.

Dr. Gargee Mohanty, Assistant Professor, Zoology, MSCB University provided invaluable insights as the resource person, her expertise in agricultural sciences highlighting the importance of organic farming and its need in modern day of agricultural practices. Dr. Mohanty shared her success story of organic manure derived from fish waste viscera.

Dr. Sitaram Das, Member, ICRO Amrit Internship Programme, summarized the entire orientation programme. Finally, Dr. Dash delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all the speakers, interns, and organizing committee members.







Conclusion

The Induction Ceremony for the ICRO Amrit Internship Programme successfully laid the foundation for what promises to be a transformative experience for the interns. By connecting academic learning with practical fieldwork, the programme aims not only to enhance the interns' understanding of agricultural practices but also to contribute valuable data and insights to the sector. As these students embark on their journey, they carry with them the potential to make meaningful contributions to the field of agriculture, driven by the knowledge, mentorship, and opportunities provided by the ICRO Amrit Internship.













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