Innovative ideas bring results

Farmers of Sundarban follow traditional methods in agriculture because they have little or no exposure to modern agricultural practices and knowledge and scientific training that would help them produce in a sustainable way. They have limited knowledge about climate smart agricultural practices due to their habitat and terrain that is inhospitable with limited means of communication. They largely use chemical fertilizers, pesticides prescribed by the fertilizer shop for enhanced production in a limited time. They are not aware of the negative impacts of such unsustainable farming practices and have limited knowledge about the effects of climate change and its hazards. They only know that they have to feed their families. In such a scenario, a progressive farmer of Amtali, Gosaba Block thought differently. He is also the Secretary of Amtali Paschim Water Users Association, named Swapan Roy. Under West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project (WBADMIP), they got mixed fruit plants for sowing on the embankment of the excavated canals (khal). After plantation of those mixed fruit trees, he collected the packets of those grafting plants. He used those packets for vegetable cultivation and the growth and health of those vegetables were good and disease free. After the production cycle, he put capsicum plants in the packets and kept them in the paddy fields during Rabi season. The packets left in the fields in the Rabi season got enough moisture from the field and there was no need for any extra water for those plants. The growth of the plants was good and healthy. This is innovative thinking that yielded immediate results!!