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## 446 farmers field schools set up in Nertakona

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A total of 446 farmers field schools were set up in different villages of Netrakona district under a joint venture to train field level farmers on modern agriculture technologies. Sources concerned said that the Department of Agriculture Extension had set up the field schools in 10 upazilas of the district in the last five years with a view to increasing crop production through farm mechanisation.

The Integrated Farm Management Component programme of the government and DANIDA, a foreign funding agency, jointly implemented the project.

Under the project, at total of 22,200 farmers, including 11,571 females, were given training on producing crops and vegetables cultivation free of toxic elements, homestead gardening, pisciculture, cattle and poultry rearing, forming farmer's society, socio-cultural activities and marketing of agricultural products and crops diversification.

Apart from this, each farmer trained at the schools was provided with Tk 1500 as financial assistance for procuring different agricultural equipment, the sources added.

Deputy director of the DAE Netrakona M Habibur Rahman said these schools had created unique opportunities for the farmers to educate them about modern methods of cultivation, crop diversification and different ways of improving their socio-economic condition.

Talking to BSS, over 50 farmers informed that during training at the schools they were acquainted with many modern cultivation methods to produce crops and vegetables free of toxic elements and at a reduce production cost.

They were also given training on undertaking various income generating projects for improving their living condition.

The trained farmers thanked prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her government for setting up the farmers' field schools in the district.



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