

## **ICAR-NOFRI organized three days training on “Women Empowerment through Vanaraja Poultry Farming”**

The ICAR –National Organic Farming Research Institute (NOFRI) Tadong, Gangtok organized a three days training program on “Women Empowerment through Vanaraja Poultry Farming” under Tribal Sub Plan of Poultry Seed Project” during March 14-16, 2017 for Tribal women farmers of Sikkim.

Welcoming the guests and participants, Dr. Rafiqul Islam, Senior Scientist, ICAR-NOFRI and coordinator of the training program briefed the House about the aim of the training program. During the Inaugural Ceremony held on March 14, 2017. The



training programme was attended by 22 female participants from different villages of Sikkim comprising of 14 participants from East district and 8 from South district.

The training programme was organized with an aim to train the trainers who can educate and train the other farmers particularly women farmers of both the districts. All the participants were educated and interactive during all the theory



as well as practical sessions given on various aspects of Vanaraja poultry farming.

Dr. R. K. Avasthe, Joint Director, ICAR-NOFRI, Tadong, Gangtok congratulated the participants for getting the opportunity to be a part of the training program. He highlighted the role of the educated women for the development of the society in general and families' economy in particular with their active participation. Dr. Avasthe was also happy to inform the gathering that one lady entrepreneur of South Sikkim had been very much successful in earning good revenue through Vanaraja Poultry farming in a large scale. Citing the example he stressed upon the role of the women to improve the livelihood and nutritional security of the farmers families of rural Sikkim and this could be easily possible with the Vanaraja poultry farming. He further informed the House that though the programme was started in 2010, yet it has gained a huge momentum from the year 2014 and in the current year the ICAR-NOFRI could produce huge numbers of Vanaraja day old chicks and supplied 68000 numbers of chicks to the farmers of Sikkim since April, 2016 to till date.



Dr. H. K. Chettri, Principal Director, Department of Animal Husbandry, Livestock, Fisheries and Veterinary Services (AHLF&VS), Government of Sikkim attended the Inaugural Ceremony as Chief Guest. During the address, Dr. Chettri appreciated the ICAR-NOFRI to undertake the training programme for a very important target group and hoped that this training program will enormously help and strengthen the farmers' economy through rearing of Vanaraja poultry at backyard condition. He further encouraged and reiterated the youth educated girls attending the

program for utilizing the benefits of the training program and execute effectively for improving Vanaraja poultry farming in their respective villages.

During the three days a total of eleven lectures were delivered and many practical sessions were conducted.

Dr. Rafiqul Islam, Senior Scientist (Animal Reproduction) and Scientist In charge, Poultry Seed Project elaborated the participants in detail about the floor management, housing, feeding, therapeutic management and vaccination schedule of the Vanaraja



birds in various age groups of different sexes with special reference to prevention of early chick mortality at farmers field. He also drew attention of the participants to maintain hygiene and effective bio-security measures in the poultry farm premises to protect from various diseases. Dr. Brijesh Kumar, Scientist (Animal Reproduction) detailed about Vanaraja poultry farming for eggs and meat production at higher altitudes and scope of Vanaraja poultry farming at backyard condition in Sikkim with minimal inputs. Dr. P. K. Pathak (SMS, Animal Science), KVK, Ranipool briefed the participants about nutritional and housing management of the Vanaraja birds at backyard condition and feeding management of the birds for better growth and production with locally available

feed ingredients in rural villages. Ms. Pallabi Phukan highlighted the importance of SHG for upliftment of rural economy with the help of women empowerment and also briefed about the economics of Vanaraja poultry



farming at village level. Dr. (Ms.) Priya Chettri, SRF, Poultry Seed Project explained about parasitic diseases of poultry and their treatment and control. Mr. Avinash, SRF (Horticulture) has briefed the participants about the cultivation practices of year round organic vegetables under low cost plastic tunnels, rain shelters and green

house conditions. The special hands on training on floor management, housing, nutritional and therapeutic management including vaccinations were given to the participants by Dr. Rafiqul Islam and Dr. (Ms) Priya Chettri at ICAR-NOFRI farms.

The valedictory program was held on March 16, 2017 at ICAR-NOFRI, Tadong, Gangtok with the gracious presence of Dr. R. K. Tamang, Director (Animal Husbandry), Department of AHLF&VS, Government of Sikkim as Chief Guest of the programme. Hearing the brief outline of the activities undertaken during the three days from Dr. Rafiqul Islam, Coordinator of the training program; Dr. Tamang congratulated Dr. R. K.



Avasthe, Joint Director, ICAR-NOFRI and his team of scientists for the significant contributions made by the Institute during the recent years for the development of agriculture sector in general and Vanaraja poultry farming in particular in Sikkim. He invited the participants to utilize the know-how gained during the three days training program for increasing production through Vanaraja poultry farming in their respective areas. At the end, various inputs like Vanaraja chicks 50 numbers, water troughs, vitamins and electrolytes were distributed to each participant. At the

end, vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Brijesh Kumar, Scientist, ICAR-NOFRI. Mr. S. M. Kandwal, Mr. K. B. Basnett, Dr. (Mrs) Sumi Handique, Mr. Avinash, Mr. Pushkal, Mr. Adarsh Kumar and Ms. Sujata Rai rendered their help and active cooperation for the smooth running of the program.





**-Issued by ICAR-NOFRI, Gangtok, Sikkim**