

WORKSHOP ON "AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE" CUM FARMERS' FAIR ORGANIZED BY ICAR RESEARCH COMPLEX FOR NEH REGION, MANIPUR CENTRE, IMPHAL

Three Days Workshop on "Agriculture and Food Security in the Context of Climate Change" cum Farmers' Fair was inaugurated on 12th October, 2012 at ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Manipur Centre, Imphal. Mohammed Abdul Nasir, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of Manipur has graced the inaugural function as Chief Guest; while Shri Rajesh Agarwal, IAS and Commissioner of Agriculture, Govt. of Manipur and Dr. S. V. Ngachan, Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Meghalaya acted as Guest of Honour and President, respectively. Dr. S. Joute, Director of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Services, Manipur; Dr. K. Saratkumar, Director of Fisheries, Manipur and Prof. M. Premjit Singh, Director of Extension Education, CAU, Imphal were also present in the inaugural function as Special Guests.

Mohammed Abdul Nasir, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of Manipur, in his speech as Chief Guest. congratulated ICAR for their contribution in agricultural research and emphasized the need for holistic development of horticulture, floriculture, poultry and fisheries sector along with agriculture sector to combat the climate change. He also expressed that all the state departments like agriculture, horticulture, veterinary and fisheries along with ICAR should work together in an integrated way for the farming community and stated that agriculture department is ready to solve the problems faced by the farmers of the state. The Guest of Honour Shri Rajesh Agarwal, IAS and Commissioner (Agriculture), Govt. of Manipur congratulated ICAR for organizing the farmers' fair and the meaningful workshop. He emphasized the need of restoring the eco-system, scientific water management, water harvesting, introduction of heat tolerant crop varieties and block level planning to mitigate climate change and also to reduce greenhouse gas emission. He also stated that, though Manipur has limited infrastructural facility for the industries; but taking the advantage of diverse agro-climate, the farming sector needs to be developed and commercialization of the agro-produce should be done. Dr. S. V. Ngachan, Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Meghalaya, in his Presidential address, highlighted the deficit in agro-production in North Eastern Region and need for natural resource conservation to fight hunger and famine. he also mentioned the newly launched website 'www.kiran.nic.in' developed by ICAR to harness the power of scientific knowledge and technology innovation for strengthening agricultural production system in the region.

One Souvenir to mark the event and one technology bulletin on pineapple was also released during the function. More than five hundreds delegates comprising scientists from ICAR, central agricultural university, state department officials, KVKs, NGOs, agro-industries and farmers from different districts of Manipur participated in the events. Seeds of newly released varieties of rice and tomato were also distributed to the farmers at the occasion.

In the valedictory function on 14th October, 2012; Prof. H. Nandakumar Sharma, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Manipur University has graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while Prof. Rohinikumar Singh, Director of Research, CAU; Prof. M. Premjit Singh, Director of Extension Education, CAU and Dr. Narendra Prakash, Joint Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Manipur Centre acted as Guests of Honour and President, respectively.

In his speech as chief guest, Prof. H. Nandakumar Sharma congratulated ICAR to organize such a mega event and also for developing sustainable technologies and high yielding varieties for the farmers. He emphasized on awareness campaign on climate change, change in the lifestyle, value addition of fruit and vegetables, reduction of post harvest losses, introduction of new varieties and adaptation of new technologies developed by ICAR and CAU etc. to mitigate the impact of global warming. Prof. M. Rohinikumar Singh explained the different aspects and consequences of climate change and farming systems of the state. He emphasized on the development of hill agriculture, production of good quality seed of suitable varieties, integrated farming system, distribution of river water to the crop land and value addition. He also mentioned that scientists have already developed some technologies to mitigate the effect of climate change. Prof. M. Premjit Singh emphasized on the climate literacy among the farming community, water harvesting, crop diversification, seed bank and low cost processing technology to make our agriculture sustainable in the context of climate change. In presidential speech, Dr. Narendra Prakash explained the negative impact of climate change on agriculture and highlighted the research achievements of ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Manipur Centre in the area of climate resilient agriculture.

One farmers-scientists interaction programme was also organized during the programme. Prizes were awarded for best stall arrangement in the farmers' fair by ICAR. In Government Organization and Enterprises category, Department of Forest was awarded the first prize, while, KVK, Imphal East and Sui generic Inc, Kwakeithel received the second and third prize, respectively. In farmers and SHGs category, Western Farmers Association, Imphal West secured the first place; while Needy Home, Imphal West and Gaidelau SHG, Noney, Tamenlong were awarded the second and third prize, respectively. Consolation prizes were given to all the participating farmers and SHGs. More than 1000 farmers have participated in the three days workshop cum farmers' fair. The event was co-sponsored by National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA), Horticulture Mission for North Eastern and Himalayan States (Mini Mission I) and NABARD.



Inauguration of Farmers' Fair by Agriculture Minister of Manipur



Agriculture Minister of Manipur Visiting ICAR Stall at Farmers' Fair



A View of the Audience



Speech by Agriculture Commissioner, Manipur



Valedictory Function



Prize Distribution