

## **PRESS RELEASE**

One day Awareness Programme on “**Climate Change in Agriculture**” was inaugurated today, the 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 by Md. Abdul Nasir, Hon’ble *Minister (Agriculture & Fisheries), Manipur* as Chief Guest. Prof. H.Nandakumar Sarma, Vice-Chancellor, Manipur University and Dr. N. Prakash, Joint Director, ICAR Manipur Centre graced the occasion as Guest of Honour and President respectively. Shri M. Gojendro Singh, Director, Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Department of Agriculture, Manipur and Shri G. Kipgen, Additional Director, Department of Horticulture and Soil Conservation, were also special guests of the function. Nearly 200 farmers representing all the districts of Manipur participated in the function. Officers from line departments and staff of KVKs also participated. The dignitaries distributed critical inputs like seeds, chicks, fingerlings and seeds.

Prof. H. Nandakumar Sarma, Vice-Chancellor, Manipur University stated that rise of temperature of 2<sup>0</sup>C due to climatic change might not affect agriculture in northern India where tube wells are used for irrigation as much as Manipur where agriculture is wholly dependent on monsoon. He opined that as man is naturally adaptive, we should not be too alarmed as affect of climate change on agriculture is not as precarious and dangerous as natural calamity like earthquakes. Meanwhile, scientists from ICAR and other research organizations are trying hard to address the challenges of climatic change and had technologies suitable with the change.

Shri M. Gojendro Singh, Director (ATMA), Manipur and Shri G. Kipgen, Additional Director, Department of Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Manipur also talked about their contingency plans taken by their respective departments.

Dr. N. Prakash, Joint Director, ICAR Manipur Centre stated that this year India has 18% deficient in rainfall upto August whereas in Manipur, Imphal valley has only 0.25 % deficit but 23% surplus in Tamenglong district, 22 % deficit in Ukhrul district and 31% deficit in Chandel district. He further stated that 526 districts of India had been instructed to prepare contingency plan including 5 KVKs under ICAR Manipur Centre to mitigate challenges of climate change in agriculture. He advised the farmers for crop diversification like growing pulses plus oilseed after short duration rice variety RC Maniphou -12. In this regard, this Centre introduced lentil cultivation in Thoubal district last rabi season. Integrated farming system is another viable alternative in hill districts.

