

## **ICAR Organizing Training-cum-Awareness Program on Organic Crop Production**

**26<sup>th</sup> August, 2014, Sikkim**

ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Sikkim Centre, Tadong is organizing five day Training-cum-Awareness Program for Steering Committee Members of Sikkim Organic Mission during August 26-30, 2014 in order to create awareness among the members regarding the requirements and basics of organic crop production system.



Shri P.D. Rai, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha (Sikkim) inaugurated the function as Chief Guest on August 26, 2014. In his inaugural address, he appreciated the Joint Director and scientists of ICAR Sikkim Centre for their efforts in organizing the training program for Steering Committee Members of Sikkim Organic Mission and need based research in organic production system. He emphasized the need of extensive research in the light of climate change and further suggested that concrete planning is required for mitigating the effects of climate change. He stressed on the importance of organic agricultural produce in relation to human health and also organic produce fetched better market prices by which farmers can reap more benefits. He stressed upon the need of establishing commodity specific boards in the later stages of organic production systems for better marketing of the produce. During the program, Chief Guest also released the 'Training Manual on Organic Crop Production'.

Earlier, Dr. R.K. Avasthe, Joint Director, ICAR Sikkim Centre warmly welcomed the Chief Guest and all the dignitaries participating in the training program. He highlighted the relevance of this training in relation to climate change and its impact on agriculture. He also mentioned some major issues to be faced in changing climatic conditions *viz.*, rising extreme rainfall events and decreasing number of rainy days in the state which is disturbing the whole ecology of the system. He emphasized that soil is most important factor for balanced nutrition of plants and there is need to conserve the soil for sustaining productivity. At last, he assured the Steering Committee Members that ICAR will provide all possible technological back-up for organic crop production in Sikkim.

In the beginning of the programme, Dr. H. Kalita, Principal Scientist, ICAR Sikkim Centre heartily welcomed all the dignitaries of the program and at the end Dr. Ashish Yadav, Senior Scientist (Horticulture) proposed the vote of thanks.

*(Source: ICAR NEH Reg., Sikkim)*