

ICAR ORGANIZED 'FRONT LINE DEMONSTRATION' ON "LIVELIHOOD SECURITY THROUGH LILIUM PRODUCTION" UNDER HMNEH-I

ICAR Sikkim Centre is playing a crucial role in strengthening the horticulture production in Sikkim and has been working in close association with the farmers for improving their livelihood by dissemination of scientific knowledge through field demonstrations, providing quality planting materials and technological backstopping. In continuation with the dedicated efforts for self reliance in horticulture; the ICAR Sikkim Centre organized Front Line Demonstration (FLD) on '**Livelihood Security through Lilium Production**' under Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH-I) at Sajong village, East Sikkim on 29th March, 2014 in collaboration with KVK East Sikkim, Ranipool. A total of 55 farmers attended the program and showed keen interest in learning the Lilium production techniques.

Inaugurating the FLD program, Dr. R. K. Avasthe, Joint Director, ICAR Research Complex, Sikkim Centre emphasized on the importance of Lilium as most valuable flower under Sikkim conditions for commercial production as it fetches good price in the market with the climatic conditions of Sikkim also being congenial for Lilium production. During the program, Joint Director also distributed the 1500 bulbs of Oriental and Asiatic Hybrid (LA) Lilium imported from Netherlands to two Self Help Groups of the village as per the commitment of Dr. S.V. Ngachan, Director, ICAR RC for NEH Region during his visit to Sajong in February this year.

Guest of Honour, Shri Karma Dichen Bhutia, Ex-Zilla Panchayat and Coordinator 'Krishi Samridhi NGO', appreciated the technology transfer efforts of ICAR particularly in transferring the inputs and imparting knowledge regarding improved production to promote horticulture/ floriculture production in the state.

Dr. Ashish Yadav, Senior Scientist 'Horticulture' detailed the 'Production Technology of Lilium', on quality Lilium production, planting techniques, after care during production and flower characteristics of four lilium varieties distributed among the farmers.

Earlier, Dr. R. Singh, Senior Scientist and Program Coordinator (I/c), KVK East Sikkim welcomed the Guests and all the farmers where the purpose of the program was outlined.

Mr. Boniface Lepcha, Program Assistant, KVK Ranipool discussed the propagation techniques of Lilium and its post harvest management practices to increase the shelf life of flowers.

Dr. N. Johnson Singh, SMS, KVK Ranipool coordinated the event and he shared information on disease and pest management of Lilium under organic production system.

Dr. J.K. Singh SMS, KVK Ranipool proposed vote of thanks and Miss Yamuna Pandey RA, HMNEH-I assisted actively in organizing the whole programme.



Dr. R.K Avasthe, Joint Director, ICAR Sikkim Centre Distributing the Bulbs of Lilium to the Two Self Help Groups of Sajong, East Sikkim



Shri Karma Dichen Bhutia, Ex-Zilla Panchayat and Coordinator 'Krishi Samridhi NGO' addressing the Farmers of Sajong, East Sikkim