

## **KVK- East Sikkim Promotes and strengthens SHGs of Nandok for Organic Ginger Production under NICRA**

An initiative to strengthen the Self -Help Groups of Lower and Upper Nandok ginger seed input distribution-cum-training was organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, ICAR Research Complex, Sikkim Centre, Ranipool, East Sikkim on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 under the project 'National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)'. More than 100 farmers of 8 SHGs from Upper and Lower Nandok participated in the programme during which 30 quintals of quality ginger rhizome (cv. *Bhaise*) was distributed. In addition, 40 chicks of Vanaraja (improved dual purpose backyard poultry birds) were also distributed to 4 tribal farmers to support Backyard Poultry Production in village.

Gracing the occasion as Chief Guest, Dr. R.K. Avasthe, Joint Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Sikkim Centre in his brief address motivated the farmers for production of quality ginger for achieving self-dependence in seed production and urged the ginger growers of the village to make Nandok as a Seed Village for quality ginger production. In his remarks, farmers were suggested to multiply the rhizomes in the ratio of at least 1:8 through improved production technology and ensured them for procurement of quality ginger rhizome. Expressing satisfaction over the overwhelming response of the farmers towards ginger cultivation, he encouraged them to put extra effort in cultivation of various cash crops like ginger, potato, tomato, garden pea, coriander leaf and cole crops *etc.* that can fetch them a better market price and bring a paradigm shift in agricultural growth of the region.

The farmer's representative Mrs. Meena Rai of Lower Nandok in her address asked the SHG's members of Nandok to benefit from large-scale adoption of improved technologies for socio-economic upliftment of the region. She on behalf of farmers expressed deep gratitude and satisfaction over the on-going agricultural activities under NICRA project and also assured full co-operation from the SHGs to the KVK, East Sikkim for fulfilling the objectives of the programme. She also appreciated the regular monitoring efforts of the KVK East Sikkim over the years in all the programmes.

Mr. Boniface Lepcha imparted training cum field demonstration on organic ginger production technology to enhance the knowledge of the SHG's farmers. He elaborated and demonstrated the package of practices covering hot water treatment of rhizome seeds and then treatment with *Trichoderma viride* and *Pseudomonas fluorescens* for organic disease management in farmer's field. He

also emphasized on timely and regular intercultural operations to be carried out for better yield and returns.

Dr M. Rana, JRF under Poultry Seed Project explained to the farmers for benefit of Backyard Poultry Production. He imparted technical knowledge for proper care and management of poultry chicks. He also made the farmers aware of the various diseases and disorders during their growth period. He also trained the farmers through demonstration on vaccination and basic medicare through hands-on practical.

Initially Dr. J. K. Singh SMS, (Plant Breeding) KVK, Ranipool warmly welcomed the gathering. The programme was coordinated by Mr. Tezoshi Khawas and Ms Lalita Rai SRF- NICRA Project.

