

**‘MODEL KIWIFRUIT ORCHARD’ ESTABLISHED IN NORTH SIKKIM  
During ‘Front Line Demonstration’ Program of ICAR Sikkim Centre**

Kiwifruit is also known as China’s miracle and wonder of New Zealand. Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh are leading producer of kiwifruit in India. In Sikkim, West Sikkim is taking lead in its area and production especially it is growing well in Rinchenpong, Deythang and Soreng areas. The ICAR Sikkim Centre is playing fundamental role in strengthening the technological backstopping in horticulture production to develop self-reliance in the state. In an initiative to promote the kiwifruit cultivation in North Sikkim; under the guidance of Dr. R.K. Avasthe, Joint Director, ICAR Sikkim Centre, a ‘Front Line Demonstration’ program was organized for ‘Kiwifruit Production Technology’ under Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) Project of ICAR Sikkim Centre at Upper-Gyathang under Hee-Gyathang GPU, Dzongu, North Sikkim on 20 February 2014. A total of 19 progressive farmers attended the program.

Inaugurating the program at Ward Sabha Ghar Upper-Gyathang, Shri Samro Ugain Palzor Lepcha, Panchayat President, Hee-Gyathang GPU highlighted the importance of kiwifruit in North Sikkim and anticipated that it could be the important crop in higher hills where Sikkim Mandarin can’t grow well. He suggested the farmers to grow kiwifruit on large scale and told that ICAR Sikkim Centre is very effective in fast transferring of horticultural technologies among the farming community.

Dr. Ashish Yadav, Senior Scientist (Horticulture) detailed the ‘Organic Kiwifruit Production Techniques’ to the progressive farmers of North Sikkim. Later on during the FLD program, under his guidance and supervision a ‘Model Kiwifruit Orchard’ of 100 plants was established in the farm of Shri Lhendup Tshering Lepcha, a progressive farmer of Samro village (1728 m AMSL), Upper-Gyathang, Dzongu, North Sikkim. All the 19 farmers walked through rugged terrains to Samro village from Ward Sabha Ghar Upper-Gyathang and showed keen interest in learning the kiwifruit orchard establishment techniques during the program. Shri A.D.D. Misra, RA assisted actively in laying out and establishing kiwifruit orchard during the program and also proposed vote of thanks.



Shri Samro Ugain Palzor Lepcha, Panchayat President, Hee-Gyathang GPU Addressing the Farmers during Front Line Demonstration on Kiwifruit Production Technology



Dr. Ashish Yadav, Senior Scientist (Horticulture), Demonstrating the Kiwifruit Orchard Establishment Techniques to the Progressive Farmers of Upper-Gyathang, Hee-Gyathang GPU, Dzongu, North Sikkim