

ICAR organized training cum awareness programme on Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act-2001

One day Training cum Awareness Programme on Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights was organized by ICAR Sikkim Centre, Tadong, Gangtok on 04th March, 2014 under the sponsorship of Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

The training programme was inaugurated by Sh. P.T. Bhutia, Secretary, FS&ADD, Govt. of Sikkim. Sh. P.T. Bhutia in his inaugural address appreciated ICAR for highlighting the issue of plant variety protection. He told that under this Act, farmers had great opportunity for commercialization of local crops as Sikkim has unique agro-diversity. He also highlighted the importance of farmers' rights and the role of farmers in preserving and conserving important germplasm. The registration of varieties will have long term effect on the conservation of germplasm and moreover, farmers will be benefited, he opined. Dr. R.K. Avasthe, Joint Director, ICAR Sikkim Centre highlighted the importance of protection of plant varieties in today's era. He told that the Sikkim abound in biodiversity, has ample scope for protection of plant varieties to prevent bio-piracy. He mentioned that around 45 rice, 26 maize, 3 blackgram, 9 chow-chow, 3 ginger, 8 large cardamom, 14 French bean and many local cultivars of millet crops exist in Sikkim.

Around 80 participants included Scientists from various organizations like NRCO, BSI, DST, ICRI Spices Board, GB Pant Institute, IBSD, Senior State Govt. officers from FS&ADD and H&CCDD Govt. of Sikkim, Programme Coordinators and SMS of different KVKs and farmers from different districts of Sikkim.

The training was aimed to sensitize policy makers, scientists, officials and farmers on protection of plant varieties, farmers' rights, and procedure for variety registration and Plant Genome Saviour Award under PPV&FR Act, 2001.

In the beginning Dr. H. Kalita, Sr. Scientist presented welcome address and delivered a brief introduction of the training programme. The programme ended with vote of thanks by Sh. Chandan Kapoor, Scientist, ICAR Sikkim Centre.

