

## **Press Release**

### **ICAR SIKKIM CENTRE HOLDS STATE LEVEL RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

ICAR Sikkim Centre has been working in close association with state line department's and farmers for timely dissemination of scientific knowledge and technological backup to develop self-reliance in organic agriculture production in the state. To create a common platform for effective interaction between the researchers and users, ICAR Sikkim Centre held State Level Research Advisory Committee meeting on May 5, 2014. The meeting was chaired by Shri P.T. Bhutia, Secretary, Food Security and Agriculture and Development Department and Horticulture and Cash Crop Development Department, Govt. of Sikkim. The other dignitaries from state and other departments present on the occasion were Dr. Sandeep Tambe, IFS, Special Secretary, RMDD; Shri Khorlo Bhutia, Principal Director, HCCDD; Dr. Senthil Kumar, IFS, MD, Sikkim Milk Union; Dr. R.P. Medhi, Director, NRC Orchid; Shri C.K. Dorjee, Director PIB, Gangtok; Dr. Yashoda Pradhan, Additional Director, HCCDD; Shri N.T. Bhutia, Additional Director, Research; Dr. K.K. Singh, Scientist 'F', GBPIHED; Dr. S. Manivannan, Associate Professor, Sikkim University and Dr. Sunil Thorat, Incharge, Regional Station IBSD.

Dr. R.K. Avasthe, Joint Director, ICAR Sikkim Centre, welcomed all the dignitaries and presented the overall research and extension activities of ICAR Sikkim Centre. He emphasized the need for intensive research programs including agriculture, horticulture and livestock components. He asked the dignitaries for their valuable suggestions, which will help in developing the roadmap for the future research and development programs.

Shri P.T. Bhutia, Secretary, FSADD and HCCDD, during his inaugural speech, applauded the role of ICAR in Sikkim for better cooperation and collaborative programs. He suggested that there is need for integrated farming systems with at least two production systems including agriculture/horticulture and animal husbandry at village cluster level. He further suggested that there is need to develop programs for organic milk production also in Sikkim.

Dr. Sandeep Tambe, IFS, Special Secretary, RMDD, in his address stressed that in the near future water will be the most precious commodity, hence, there is need to develop technologies for optimum use of stored water. He further raised the concerns of farmers regarding organic disease and pest management in large cardamom and non-availability of quality planting material. He also professed future collaborative work with ICAR under MNREGA.

Shri Khorlo Bhutia, Principal Director, HCCDD, complimented the entire team of ICAR Sikkim Centre for playing pivotal role in development of agro-animal technology which had led to an increase in production of fresh vegetables, fruits, milk and meat. He suggested that Washington Navel and Sweet Orange can be very successful table purpose oranges in Sikkim and trials need to be done and also agreed to share the planting material of both crops with ICAR. He also emphasized on the importance of high quality organic seed production in Sikkim.

Dr. Senthil Kumar, IFS, MD, Sikkim Milk Union, accentuated the role of ICAR in region. He suggested that there is urgent need to raise the SNF content in milk of Sikkim, which is lower than the other states. He said that there is need to take up research on synchronization of oestrus cycle in dairy animals and establishment of embryo transfer technology facility at ICAR Sikkim Centre.

During technical session, Dr. H. Kalita, Principal Scientist (Entomology); Dr. Ashish Yadav, Senior Scientist (Horticulture); Dr. R. Gopi, Scientist (Plant Pathology); Dr. Subhash Babu, Scientist (Agronomy); Shri Shaon K. Das, Scientist (Soil Science) and Dr. Brajesh Kumar, Scientist (Animal Reproduction) presented their respective salient achievements and researchable issues to the august gathering. There was lively interaction between the state officials and ICAR scientists for the development of future R&D roadmap for Sikkim.

At the end Dr. H. Kalita, Principal Scientist (Entomology) proposed vote of thanks.

