

KVK, East Sikkim strengthens accreditation of horticultural nurseries through NHB Schemes

In an initiative to make aware of the farmers, National Horticultural Board, Gangtok organized a day long awareness programme on NHB schemes for recognition and accreditation of Horticulture nurseries along with demonstration of farm mechanization in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, East Sikkim. More than 50 nos. of farmers from different villages of East Sikkim district were participated in the programme. The main purpose of the programme was to sensitise the nursery growers about the new and existing schemes of NHB for the Model Nursery Standards in terms of infrastructure, quality planting materials and adoption of Nursery Management Practices of Horticultural crops.

The programme was chaired by Shri P.T Bhutia, Director, Horticulture and Cash Crop Development Department, Govt. of Sikkim. In his opening remarks he emphasized on the present horticultural activities along with the existing state government schemes for the welfare of the farming community of the state. He stated that the national and international demands of organic horticultural produces are not being fulfilled due to lack of entrepreneurial ability of the farmers in the state. He also encouraged the farmers to adopt the intensive farming system with the improved production technologies developed by the ICAR Sikkim Centre. The commercial cultivation of high value horticulture crops under protected condition was also shared through his presentation.



Dr. R.K Avasthe, Joint Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Sikkim Centre, Tadong encouraged the farmers to enhance their productivity, profitability and sustainability of agriculture through improved production technologies in coordination with extension functionaries of KVK East Sikkim. He also added that KVK East Sikkim is working with the mission as “Farmer-centric growth in agriculture and allied sectors through the application of appropriate technologies in specific agro-eco system perspective”.



Highlighting the importance of the programme, Dr. Raghavendra Singh, Programme Coordinator (*i/c*), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, ICAR Sikkim Centre, Ranipool, East Sikkim pointed out that KVK is being involved in Off and On-Campus production of quality planting materials of one or more specified crops by adopting “Good Nursery Management Practices”.

Shri Daya Ram, Centre In-charge, NHB, Gangtok highlighted the new NHB Schemes for recognition and accreditation of Horticulture nurseries of the state.

During the technical session, Dr. N. Johnson Singh, SMS (Plant Protection), Dr. J.K Singh, SMS (Plant Breeding) and Mr. B. Lepcha, Prog. Asstt shared their technical knowledge with respect to their subject matters. Demonstration of improved farm mechanization for hilly agriculture was also conducted in the farm of KVK East Sikkim. At the end of programme, Sri S.N. Mehta, SMS proposed vote of thanks.

(Source: Krishi Vigyan Kendra, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Sikkim Centre, East Sikkim, Ranipol)