

KVK, East Sikkim Opened Farm Field School on IPM on Rice

In an initiative to promote Farmer-to-Farmer extension for effective and quick transfer of agricultural technology among the farming community; Krishi Vigyan Kendra, ICAR Sikkim Centre, Ranipool, East Sikkim today started a **Farm School** at Marchak Village of East Sikkim on **Integrated Pest Management on Cereal crop (Rice)** with the sponsorship of ATMA (East), Deptt. of FS&AD, Govt. of Sikkim. In fact, as per the guidelines of the Union Ministry under extension reforms policy the Farm School concept is based on the principles of “learning by doing” as well as ‘seeing is believing’ with focus on successful technology dissemination through farmer-to-farmer extension and to strengthen the researcher-extensionist-farmer chain.

Inaugurating the Farm School, Dr. R. K. Avasthe, Joint Director, ICAR Research Complex, Sikkim Centre said that the idea of opening Farm School at the farm and village level is to support agriculture and allied activities to bring about change in the agricultural development scenario in the State under changing climatic conditions and opined that the Farm School would help in developing a cost effective extension system for effective and rapid technology transfer in agriculture and allied field particularly integrated pest management. He lauded the collaborative efforts of ATMA (East) and KVK, East Sikkim to establish a Farm School in the most relevant field *i.e.*, **“Integrated Pest Management on Cereal crop (Rice)”** which is more relevant in Organic Mission of Sikkim.

Highlighting the importance of Farm School, Dr. Raghavendra Singh, Programme Coordinator (*i/c*), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, ICAR Sikkim Centre, Ranipool, East Sikkim pointed out that the Farm Schools empower the farmers through *Farmer- to- Farmer extension* where farmer himself will be the Teacher for other farmers. He stressed upon the advantage of the Farm School which is very effective due to language convenience with free conversation among farmers, based on farmer’s own success, ease in meeting the farmer-teacher at any time being in the same village, having the same agro-eco situations and same socio-economic status.

Focusing on the programme Dr. N. Johnson Singh, SMS (Plant Protection) elaborated the evolution and different tools of IPM on rice. Major insect pests of rice in Sikkim condition were also expressed.

The **Farm School** was established in the field of **Shri Indra Dahal**, Marchak village as **Farmers' Teacher** who has cultivated rice in about one ha area. Initially, Shri Boniface Lepcha, Prog. Assistant, KVK, Ranipool welcomed the gathering and narrated the importance of Farm School. Ms. Karma Peden Kaleon, BTM, ATMA (East) explained about Farm School to the farmers. Dr. J. K. Singh, SMS (Plant Breeding), Dr. Pratap Subba, ADO, FS & AD, and Miss Anushree Gogoi, Programme Assistant (Home Science) coordinated the programme. The programme was brought to an end by vote of thanks by Mr. Miss Anushree Gogoi,



Joint Director Dr. R.K. Avasthe addressing the Framers