

ICAR's Efforts to Strengthen Vegetable Production in Sikkim

The ICAR Sikkim Centre is playing vital role in strengthening the vegetable production in Sikkim and has been working in close association with farmers for dissemination of scientific knowledge by field demonstrations, providing seeds and technological backstopping to develop self-reliance in vegetable production in the state. In order to boost the vegetable production in the state Sikkim Centre organized Front Line Demonstration (FLD) on 'Year Round Vegetable Production Technologies' under Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH-I) at Sirwani Basti, East Sikkim on 22nd November 2013. A total of 47 farmers attended the program and showed keen interest to learn the ICAR vegetable production technologies.

Inaugurating the FLD program, Dr. R. K. Avasthe, Joint Director, ICAR RC for NEHR, Sikkim Centre emphasized the need of year round intensive production of vegetables to bring about perceptible change in the vegetable production scenario of the region. He further stressed upon 'Vegetable Village Cluster Concept' to increase the production of vegetables which will facilitate marketing and also ensure higher returns. Joint Director also distributed the seeds of green pea and seedlings of cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli to all the 47 progressive farmers of the village. Considering the demand of farmers, he also assured the farmers for providing demonstration units of *Jalkund* and *Vermicompost*.

Guest of Honour of the program, Mrs B. M. Gazmer, Member, Gram Panchayat Unit appreciated the technology transfer efforts of ICAR KVK East Sikkim for quickly transferring the organic vegetable production technologies to promote vegetable production in the state.

Dr. Ashish Yadav, Senior Scientist (Horticulture) highlighted the importance of 'Year Round Vegetable Production Technologies' and detailed the organic cultivation practices of green pea, cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli as a profitable venture for the region during winter season.

Mr. Boniface Lepcha, Program Assistant, KVK Ranipool coordinated the event and discussed about the package of practices, disease and pest management of pea and cole crops.

Dr. Johnson Singh, SMS, KVK Ranipool also shared information on disease and pest management in vegetables under organic production system.

Mr. Mithlesh Kumar, SMS, KVK Ranipool proposed the vote of thanks.

Shri A.D.D. Misra, RA, HMNEH-I and Shri Avinash, SRF, NICRA assisted in organizing the whole programme.



Dr. R.K. Avasthe, Joint Director, ICAR Sikkim Centre
Distributing the Seeds & Seedlings to the Progressive Farmer