

ONE DAY SEMINAR ON USAGE OF AGROTEXTILES SUITABLE FOR MANIPUR STATE AND ITS ADVANTAGES ORGANIZED BY ICAR-RC FOR NEH REGION, MANIPUR CENTRE



SEMINAR ON USAGE OF AGROTEXTILES SUITABLE FOR MANIPUR STATE AND ITS ADVANTAGES ON 29th October, 2013

One day seminar on "Usage of Agrotexiles Suitable for Manipur State and its Advantages" under the scheme on promoting usage of agrotexiles in north eastern region was organized by ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region Manipur Centre Imphal and funded by O/o Textile Commissioner, Govt. of India, COE Agrotech SASMIRA, at the Classic Hotel, Imphal on 29th October 2013. The inaugural function was graced by Shri J.C Ramthanga, IAS and Commissioner, Dept. of Horticulture and soil conservation, Govt. of Manipur. As the Chief Guest of the Seminar, he emphasized on working in collaboration within different government departments and promoting the usage of agrotexiles. He informed that the use of agrotexile is being known to this region and practiced by few progressive farmers. The awareness is however, still at nascent stage and he welcomed the initiatives of Ministry of Textiles, Government of India for implementing a scheme for promoting the usage of agrotexile in NE region. President of the Seminar, Dr. N. Prakash, Joint Director, ICAR Research complex for NEH Region, Manipur centre delivered the welcome speech mentioning about scope and benefits of usage of agrotexiles in north east India specially in Manipur. Dr. Manisha Mathur, Asst. Director, SASMIRA, Mumbai, in her Concept address mentioned about the assistances which could be provided to the farmers and other agri-entrepreneurs. Dr. K. Kipgen, Addl. Director, Dept. of Horticulture and Soil conservation, the guest of honour of the seminar, also emphasized its use of agrotexile products in agriculture and other agri-related fields. Lastly, Shri Premnath Surwase, Scientist-B, SASMIRA, Mumbai concluded the Inaugural session of the seminar by proposing a vote of thanks. The scientists and resource persons presented on different technical aspects in two technical sessions related to Agrotexiles in English which was translated to local dialect (Manipuri) at the end of each session. Dr. S.S. Roy, Scientist (Horticulture), ICAR Manipur Centre presented the importance and benefits of various agro-textile such as agro-shade

net, photodegradable mulch net, anti-weed mat, anti-insect net, bird protection net, harvest net, crop cover, vermin-bin, water harvesting sheet, food packaging packets and geo-textiles in different agricultural operations starting from the nursery raising to crop production, protection, harvesting and post harvesting. He also mentioned the importance of fishing net in fishery sector. Dr. Shashidhar K.S., Jr. Agronomist, AICRP on MULLaRP, CAU, Imphal highlighted the benefits of conservation agriculture, where Mulching has been an important component. Use of various mulching materials and their benefits were explained in detail. He also mentioned that under climate change scenario of Manipur growing potato and other tuber crops with plastic cover will be more productive in recent future. Use of tunnel mulching will be useful for growing vegetables like tomato. Mrs. Punitha P., Scientist (Agril. Extension), ICAR Manipur Centre in her presentation discussed in detail about the scheme available for promotion of agro-textiles in north eastern region of the country. The Ministry of Textiles, GoI has formulated a two component scheme to promote the usage of agro-textile in NE region. 'Component I' covers of creating awareness, setting of demonstration centre and capacity building for the usage of agro-textiles; whereas 'Component II' includes of distribution of agro-textile kits in the NE states. A total of Rs. 55 crore have been allocated for both the components of the scheme. The interventions in Component I, eligible agencies, market studies, activities required and requirements of demonstration were discussed. Under Component II, standard kit components, eligible beneficiaries, targets and scheme implementation with monitoring were also enumerated. Dr. M. Thoithoi Singh, PC, KVK, Thoubal highlighted the losses caused by bird and insect pests in field and vegetable crops and emphasised the need for use of bird protection nets, anti-insect nets. He also discussed the importance, scope and opportunities of using shed nets and bird protection nets under Manipur conditions. Dr M. R. Sahoo, Sr. Scientist, Horticulture, ICAR Manipur Centre discussed about the various crop covers such as butterfly nettings, garden cages, veggimesh, thermacrop, fruit cage netting, garden fleece, wind breaks, winter blankets, trellises, irrigation bags, post harvest covers etc. He also mentioned that protected cultivation using agro-textiles developed for watermelon and tomato at ICAR Centre has increased 25-30% higher incomes compared to the conventional open cultivation. Mr. Md. Moin, Regional Manager, CTM Technical Textiles Ltd. discussed the differences in basic textiles and technical textiles. He also mentioned that under changing climatic conditions, the use of shade nets and other type of agro-textiles in the production of agricultural and horticultural crops is highly required. SASMIRA Dept. Of Agro textiles GOI presented a video on Case Studies on the advantage, usage of agro textile products used by the farmers using shade nets was shown to the farmers and other participants. After these two technical sessions, farmers' scientist interaction held which was chaired by Dr. I.M. Singh, Principal Scientist (Seed Technology). In this discussion, farmers, scientists, representatives of various NGOs, NABARD and other delegates were encouraged to discuss various issues related to agro textiles. Finally, Dr. I. M. Singh concluded the farmers scientist interaction both in English and local dialect. This was followed by the concluding remark of Dr. Manish Mathur who advised farmers to be in touch with SASMIRA and ICAR Centre for any kind of guidance related to agro textiles. Dr. N. Prakash finally concluded the seminar and seminar ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. S. S. Roy. More than 150 participants including farmers, academicians and Agricultural scientists attended the Seminar.