

## ICAR Sikkim Centre emphasized upon technological empowerment of farming community on its 38<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day Celebration

ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Sikkim Centre, Gangtok organised a day long programme to commemorate the 38<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 in the premises of its Research Farm at Tadong, Gangtok. The celebration of this auspicious occasion was planned with some well thought customized programmes like *Felicitations of successful farmers, Input distribution programme, Release of Extension Folders, Farmers' field visit and Farmers-Scientists' interaction* for the technological enlightenment of the farming community of the state under the theme “**Technological Empowerment through Input Support System**”.

Shri D. N. Takarpa, Hon'ble Minister of Agri. and Hort., Govt of Sikkim, inaugurated the celebration as **Chief Guest** by lighting the ceremonial lamp in the presence of dignified luminaries on the dais viz., Shri D. N. Sapkota, Chairman, Agriculture and Horticulture Board, Govt of Sikkim as **Guest of Honour**, Shri S. Pradhan, Secretary, Deptt. of Food Security & Agril. Devt. and Hort. & Cash Crop Devt., Govt of Sikkim and Shri D. P. Sharma, IAS, Secretary, Deptt. of AH, LF& VS, Govt of Sikkim as **Special Guests**; Shri P. T. Bhutia, Principal Director (Agriculture), Govt of Sikkim and Dr. R. K. Avasthe, Joint Director, ICAR Sikkim Centre. Besides that many distinguished guests from State line departments, National Horticulture Board, Press Information Bureau; Scientists from ICAR Sikkim Centre, NRC for Orchids, Regional Centre of IBSD, GBIPHED, Spices Board; extension functionaries of state department along with more than 150 farmers from four districts of Sikkim and staff of ICAR Sikkim Centre were also present in the function. Nine technical folders on Nucellar seedling production in Sikkim mandarin, Backyard poultry, Mushroom cultivation, System of Rice Intensification, Organic ginger cultivation, Upland rice cultivation (in Nepali), Water harvesting through Jalkund (in Nepali), Cole crop cultivation and Organic management of ginger soft rot were released on this occasion. Twelve successful farmers were felicitated on this occasion for their outstanding contribution in different areas of farming along with some retired officials of ICAR Sikkim Centre. Inputs such as mustard seeds of high yielding varieties, low-cost agricultural implements, HDPE for Jalkund and HYV seeds of vegetables were also distributed among the farmers of Sikkim.



Audience in ICAR Sikkim Centre Foundation Day function



Inaugural address by the Chief Guest



Foundation Day Lecture by Joint Director



Farmers' felicitation by the Chief Guest



Agril. implements distribution by Guest of Honour



Farmers- Scientists' interaction



Field visit of farmers