

ICAR-RC-NEHR, Arunachal Pradesh Centre's Initiatives at Menchukha

ICAR AP Centre, Basar took initiative on improvement of livelihood through introduction of eight different varieties of apple grafts (Tydeman's Early, Golden Delicious, Lal Ambri, Ambred, Mollies Delicious, Oregon Spur, Cooper-IV & Gala Mast) under Institute Flagship programme on Temperate Horticulture to three different beneficiaries with 120 nos. of apple saplings for the establishment of apple mother blocks for planting material generations at Menchukha.

Under National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA), six different improved varieties of paddy (VL Dhan-62, VL Dhan-65, VL Dhan-85, VL Dhan-87 VL Dhan-154 & VL Dhan-209), three *Ragi* varieties (VL Mandua-149, VL Mandua-315 & VL Mandua-324), two maize varieties (Vivek QPM-9 & Vivek Makka-31), three soybean varieties (VL Soya-47, VL Soya-59 & VLSoya-63), two horsegram varieties (VLG-15 & VLG-19), millets and 'Vanaraja' Poultry breed (20 nos.) were distributed for performance evaluation under Menchukha condition. Under Tribal Sub-Plan-Integrated Farming System (TSP-IFS) horticultural tools (secateurs- 6 nos.), sprayers (4 nos.), polyfilms for low cost polyhouse (2 nos.) and silpaulin for *Jalkund* (2 nos.) were distributed to different farmers of different villages in Menchukha.

Two days Training cum Input distribution programme was organized on 1st and 2nd May, 2013 at Menchukha by ICAR-RC-NEHR, Arunachal Pradesh Center, Basar. Menchukha (~2000 m above msl) is having good potential for introduction of temperate horticulture and Integrated Farming System (IFS) owing to the climate change scenario. Dr. Rupankar Bhagawati, Joint Director, ICAR A.P. Centre in his introductory speech elaborated various projects like NICRA, TSP-IFS and Flagship programme on Temperate Horticulture initiated by the Centre for overall livelihood improvement of the farmers at Menchukha. He also requested the farmers to improve the production & productivity so that in the near future they can sell their produce to the downstream cities instead of purchasing from them for their daily consumption.

Shri. G. Poyum, ADC, Menchukha delivered his Chief Guest address and reiterated the point stressed by Dr. R. Bhagawati that the Menchukha farmers should sell their produce instead of depending their daily kitchen needs from Aalo. He also distributed inputs like maize seeds & five different cucurbitaceous vegetable seeds to 55 farmers from 16 different villages along with Dr. R. Bhagawati.

Earlier Dr. D. Ramajayam, Senior Scientist (Horticulture) welcomes all the farmers, Chief Guest and special invitees for the programme. He imparted training programme on rejuvenation of old apple orchards, training and pruning in apple and wedge & tongue grafting to the apple growing farmers in their fields. He also delivered a training lecture on cultivation practices, propagation, top-working, training & pruning of important temperate fruits to selected farmers who are growing apple, kiwi, pear & plum.

Mr. A. Kirankumar Singh, SMS (Agronomy) delivered the lecture on the improved cultivation practices and management of paddy, maize, millet, *ragi*, and soybean to the farmers and demonstrated the method of making *jalkund* to the beneficiary farmers. At the end he also proposed vote of thanks to the gathering.

