

ARYA and Student Ready Programme organized by ICAR-National Research Center for Orchids

ICAR-National Research Center for Orchids, Pakyong, Sikkim organized the one day programme on ARYA (Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture) and student READY (Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojna) on 11th March, 2017. In this programme more than 300 students from four schools *i.e.* St. Xavier School, Dikling Senior Secondary School, Jawahar Navodaya Vidhyalaya, Pushpanjali School and Students from Sikkim University, CAU-College of Agricultural Engineering & Post Harvest Technology were participated in the programme. Thirty women entrepreneurs from 03 self-help groups of Pakyong area also participated in the programme and they learn about the various products prepared from dry flowers.

Dr. D. R. Singh, Director, ICAR-NRCO in his address emphasized the various opportunities in the sector of agriculture. He also urged to the students to go for higher studies in the agriculture education. Dean, Sikkim University emphasized the importance of Agriculture in higher studies and discussed the importance in competitive examinations. He also elaborated the various opportunities for skill and entrepreneurship development.

Dr. S. Manivannan, Dean, Sikkim University, Dr. R. K. Agrawal, NHB, Gangtok, Dr. Sangama, IIHR, Bengaluru, Dr. Dharam Paul, Spices Board Gangtok, Dr. G. T. Patle, CAU-CAEPHT and staff of ICAR-NRCO were also present on the occasion.

Vote of thanks proposed by Sh. Raj Kumar, Scientist In-charge, ITMU, ICAR-NRCO.







Krishi Mela begins at NRCO Pakyong

AJAYTHAPA

PAKYONG, March 10: The two-day long Krishi Mela organised by National Research Centre for Orchids-ICAR, Pakyong began at the centre here today. Rhenock MLA Hemendra Adhikari inaugurated the fair as the chief guest. Sikkim University vice chancellor Prof. T.B. Subba, CAU vice-chancellor Prof. Premjit Singh, Jitendra Chauhan the scientific advisor to Union Agriculture minister, State Agriculture officials and others were also present.

The fair had stalls by farmers from Pakyong subdivision area on cymbidium hybrid orchids, conservation and vertical farming, Sikkim organic products by SHGs, seasonal flowers, Central and State department stalls, spices stalls and poly house of NRCO.

NRCO-ICAR director D.R. Singh mentioned that the centre in Pakyong is the first such orchid research centre in the country. He informed that the NRCOs scientists have been working for the past two years especially on Cymbidium and Dendrobium Nobile orchids, the State

flower. He said the centre has come up with low cost methods to multiply the plants for the benefit of the farmers.

Karma Bhutia from FPO and Agriculture deputy director Palden Bhutia spoke on organic farming and its benefits.

Dr. Jitendra Chauhan suggested the youngsters to take agriculture related education as there is much scope in the area.

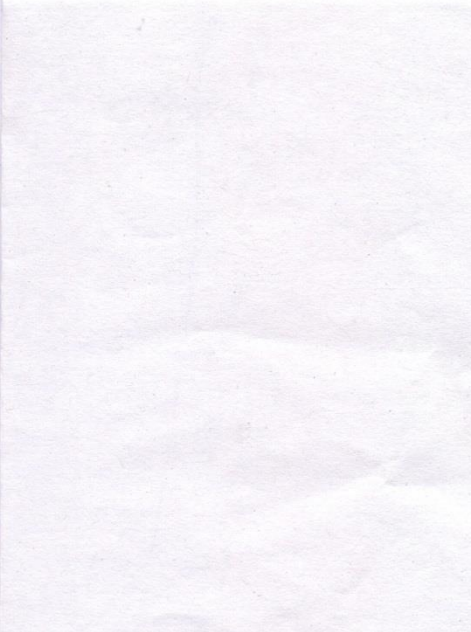
CAU vice-chancellor Premjit Singh said Northeastern States are chosen in national scenario to start second green revolution. If farmers do integrated farming their income can be doubled, he said adding that several other States in the region are opting for organic farming like Sikkim.

Sikkim University vice chancellor Prof. T.B. Subba said the Centre and State governments are working for the benefits of farmers and scientists are working to increase productivity.

The chief guest said the world has changed and methods of farming have changed. 'We should take modern technical way to do

organic farming so that our income may be more. The organic concept initiated by the State government is very beneficial not only for humans but also for all living things," he said.

Prizes were given to progressive farmers who bagged the top three positions in the display of flowers. Technical sessions were also held by the scientists of the centre for the farmers.



Krishi Mela concludes with students' programmes

AJAYTHAPA

PAKYONG, March 11: The two-day long Krishi Mela organised by ICAR-National Research Centre for Orchids at its centre here concluded today.

More than 300 students from nearby schools and Sikkim University visited the centre and interacted with the resource persons and scientists on the concluding day.

The fair had exhibitions stalls by the progressive farmers of Pakyong on cymbidium hybrid orchids, conservation and vertical farming, Nobile house, organic products by SHGs, seasonal

flowers, Central and State departments, spices stalls and poly house of NRCO.

Centre director Dr. D.R. Singh, in his remarks, said agriculture sector has vast scope and students can think of taking agriculture subject. He informed that there are 73 universities in the country that offer courses in agriculture.

The students also participated in the workshop - ARYA (Attracting and retaining Youth in Agriculture) and Students READY (Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojana).

Resource persons Dr. D.R. Singh, Dr. S. Manivanan of Sikkim University, Dr. G.T.



Patle of CAEPHT, Dr. Sangma of ICAR-IIHR and Dr. Dharam Pal of Spices Board informed the students on agriculture as a career option and entrepreneurship.

On the occasion, winners of drawing competition among participating schools based on orchids were given certificates and prizes. JNV Pakyong stood first, St. Xavier's school

second and Puspanjali Vidhyalaya third.

Participating farmers were also given certificates and prizes through the hand of director.