

Bamboo Agarbatti Sticks Making Workshop at Sipahikhola, Jorhat (Assam) under *Direct to Consumer* Programme of ICFRE

Sequel to the 2nd Training-cum-Workshop held at Borholla under Titabor Sub-division of Jorhat District (Assam) on 19th March, 2013 another daylong Awareness and Training-cum-Workshop on Bamboo Agarbatti Sticks Making was organized at Sipahikhola Block on 23rd March, 2013 under *Direct to Consumer* Programme of ICFRE. A total number of 78 women members from thirty Self Help Groups participated in the programme.

At the outset, Mrs. Nijula Barua welcomed all the women participants to the programme. She introduced the Officials of RFRI to the august gathering. She explained aims and objectives of organizing the programme by RFRI.

Sri R. K. Kalita, Head, Forestry Extension Division, RFRI informed the participants about the '*Direct to Consumer*' programme under which this training was being organized. He informed that bamboo based handicrafts can change our rural economy. He emphasized on family income generation through participation of women by making bamboo Agarbatti sticks.

Dr. T. C. Bhuyan, Research Officer, RFRI sensitized the women through a Power Point presentation about the diverse products which can be made from bamboo as cottage industry. Agarbatti sticks making is such a profitable venture that all categories of women can adopt. This is a simple technique which does not require any heavy machinery. The women can make use of their spare time for making the sticks at their home thereby they earn their livelihood.

Hands-on demonstration was performed for making the bamboo sticks. The women members showed immense enthusiasm in this venture. Marketing aspects of the bamboo sticks was explained by Sri Tapas Sarma, a local young entrepreneur who informed that there was good market for bamboo sticks in Assam.

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