

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

Sequel to the 1st Training-*cum*-Workshop held at Bamboo Composite Center of RFRI, Jorhat on 21st January, 2013, a daylong Awareness and Training-*cum*-Workshop on Bamboo *Agarbatti* Sticks Making was organized at Borholla under Titabor Sub-division of Jorhat District (Assam) on 19th March, 2013 under *Direct to Consumer* Programme of ICFRE. A total number of 42 women members from eleven Self Help Groups participated in the programme.

At the outset, Sri R. K. Kalita, Head, Forestry Extension Division, RFRI welcomed all the women participants to the programme. He explained 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.

