



## “Diwali Utsav Mela - Exhibition of Products of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmers and Producer Association at the famous Ridge, Shimla

Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Director (Incharge), Himalayan Forest Research Institute, participated as the Chief Guest on 17 October 2022 in the “Diwali Utsav Mela - Exhibition of Products of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Farmers, Producer Association organized for 5 days from 14 to 18 October 2022 at the famous Ridge, Shimla. During his address, Dr. Sharma highlighted the importance of civil society and Self-Help Groups in the development and implementation of various schemes of Government of India and State Government in the present-day scenario. He told that the SHGs initiative was adopted by India several decades ago in order to alleviate poverty, and improve women’s ability to achieve and well-being and now-a-days several schemes of the Government are being implemented through SHGs and they are also playing important role in sensitizing the general public for development agriculture, horticulture, local craft works at the regional level. He also emphasized the importance of product development, branding and quality maintenance. About 50 stalls were functioning in this fair where a platform has been provided by NABARD for popularizing and sale of the local agriculture, horticulture and handicrafts, where hundreds of people are visiting these stalls continuously during this Mela. Dr. Sharma appreciated the efforts of NABARD particularly Dr. Sudhanshu K.K. Mishra, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Shimla and informed that HFRI, Shimla has also established close liaison with the SHGs & civil society for demonstration of technologies and research results to the stakeholders. He appealed the agriculturists and farmers to contact HFRI, Shimla for various forestry activities, cultivation of medicinal plants of temperate region and scientific harvesting of Chilgoza-pine.

## Glimpses of the Programme





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