

RFRI, JORHAT ORGANIZED OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TRAINING

Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat (Assam) organized a three-day training programme on “Forestry in Addressing Livelihood Issues of People of North Eastern States” sponsored by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India from 28-30 November, 2018 at ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam, (Meghalaya). The training was organized for the state of Meghalaya. A total of 36 participants from different sectors such as Govt. Departments, JFMC, SHG, NGO, Entrepreneur, Students, Progressive Farmer, etc participated in the training programme.

Dr. R.S.C. Jayaraj, Director, RFRI, Jorhat welcomed to the participants and appealed to them to disseminate the idea of sustainable use of forestry resources for improving the livelihood of people in the region. He emphasized that forests are one of the largest natural resources of the region which can be used for generation of employment and thus human development.

The Training was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Shri B. S. Kharmawphlang, IFS, PCCF, Meghalaya at Dr. D. N. Barthakur Memorial Seminar Hall of ICAR Research Complex on 28th November, 2018 and addressed the gathering.

Dr. S. Hazarika, Principal Scientist of ICAR spoke on the occasion as Guest of Honour.

Shri R. K. Kalita, Scientist-E and Course Director of the training offered vote of thanks.

There were altogether 10 technical sessions were held and one field trip was conducted. **Dr. R. S. C. Jayaraj**, Director, RFRI, Jorhat delivered a presentation on 'Forestry in addressing livelihood issues in North Eastern India –An overview'. He focused on the major human development issues such as poverty, unemployment, high drop out from schools, poor child health, gender inequality and prevalent environment issues.

Dr. R. K. Borah, Scientist F, RFRI, Jorhat delivered a comprehensive presentation on “Agarwood based Livelihood Options” where he emphasized on nursery techniques, cultivation of *Aquilaria malaccensis*, insect pest diseases of agar trees and their control measure through scientific methods. The presentation covered various aspects such as natural agarwood formation, artificial agarwood induction using physical, chemical and biological methods. He also emphasised on agarwood research in India and other countries, agar based high-value agro forestry practices, market potential, harvesting methods, cost-benefit ratio and employment opportunities.

Dr. T. C. Bhuyan, Scientist (Retd.), RFRI, delivered a presentation on “Prospect of Bamboo and Cane based Entrepreneurship Development”. He explained the scope of entrepreneurship development, division of labour, profit sharing and market potential of bamboo and cane based industries. He emphasized on skill development, value addition, employment opportunities, role of sectoral industries with respect to bamboo and rattans. Development of Common Facility Centres, local talent encouragement, product development as well superior plant selection for raw material generation were also discussed.

Dr. Indrani P. Bora, Scientist, RFRI, Jorhat made a presentation on “Broom Grass Cultivation and Its Role in Income Generation”. She discussed broom grass cultivation practices undertaken by RFRI in degraded *jhum* Lands of Ri-Bhoi district, Meghalaya economic potential, intercropping patterns, harvesting technologies, cost-benefit analysis as well as value addition of Broom grass (*Thysanolaena maxima*).

Dr. N. D. Barthakur, Scientist B, RFRI delivered a presentation on “Prospect of Lac cultivation and Processing for Livelihood Generation”. She discussed various research and training programmes undertaken by the Institute for cultivation of lac insect using different host plants belonging to different geographic locations of North East India. The presentation covered lac cultivations methods, sustainable harvesting, processing of lac, uses in different sectors (Medicine, cosmetic etc), market potential and livelihood opportunities.

Day long Field Visit was conducted at Mawphlang to witness the developments made by REDD⁺ Project and also to visit ‘Sacred Grooves.’ Mr. Tambor Lyngdoh welcomed the participants and explained about the REDD⁺ project and its activities. He explained about the utilization of forest resources for sustainable development of people of Mawphlang area. The participants visited the Sacred Grooves. Four local guides engaged for guiding the participants explained about various important aspects of Sacred Grooves.

All the third day sessions were conducted at the Conference Hall of Krishi Vigyan Kendra of ICAR.

Dr. Tasvina Rahman Borah, Scientist, ICAR delivered an exhaustive presentation on Mushroom Cultivation for livelihood generation. She dealt with scientific cultivation practices of various species of mushrooms. She cautioned the participants not to consume wild mushrooms which are sold in road-side markets by certain people. Misidentification of poisonous mushrooms as consumable mushrooms would lead to death to the people. She also presented the economics of growing mushrooms by firms and appealed to participants to grow mushrooms for economic empowerment.

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Dr. S. Hazarika, Principal Scientist, ICAR gave a detailed presentation on Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture & Forests and discussed various important issues related to climate change.

Dr. Puran Chandra, Scientist, ICAR explained about the concepts of agroforestry. He took the participants to the field and showed various models of agroforestry.

Dr. Rajappa, J. J., Scientist, ICAR gave a presentation on ‘Alternative to *Jhum* Cultivation’ and sensitised the participants about the alternative practices which can be practised to earn livelihood. He explained few success stories of ICAR and appealed to the participants to work in this line.

Dr. Subhash Babu, Scientist, ICAR spoke on Integrated Farming System and dealt with various avenues of income generation by diversifying the farming systems.

The training programme was concluded with the thought sharing and feed back by the participants, certificate distribution and valedictory speech by Shri R. K. Kalita, Course Director, RFRI, Jorhat.

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GLIMPSES OF THE TRAINING



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