

Honorable Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare visits ICAR-NRC for Orchids, Pakyong Sikkim

Honorable Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India Shri. Kailash Choudhary visited ICAR-NRC for Orchids, Pakyong Sikkim in presence of Honorable Minister of Agriculture, Government of Sikkim, Shri. Loknath Sharma, Member of Parliament, Sikkim Lok Shaba Sh. Indra Hang Subba, Rhenock M.L.A Sh. Bishnu Khatiwara and Gangtok Area M. L.A Sh. Y. T. Lepcha. They visited laboratories and farm of ICAR-NRCO followed by interaction with the farmers on various aspects of orchid cultivation to marketing. Dr. Rampal, Director, ICAR-NRCO presented the gathering on the salient achievements of ICAR-NRCO in the past years followed by launch of two mobile application and felicitated two progressive farmers Mr. Phip Raj Subba and Mr. Jeewan Subba for their keen interest in adoption of new technology in orchid cultivation. Dr. A. K. Singh, DDG(Horticulture Science), ICAR, New Delhi put forward the importance on the expansion of orchid cultivation to boost the production and improves the quality to capture the international floriculture market and reduce the import. Member of Parliament praised the efforts of central government in the improvement of livelihood of farmers of Sikkim and asked the farmers to be proactive in taking up the scientific technologies for crop cultivation in difficult place like Sikkim. Minister of Agriculture, Government of Sikkim asked the ICAR institutes to work hand in hand with state departments and encouraged the farmers to participate in the state government mission on 'SWA NIRBHAR SIKKIM' in agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry. Chief Guest, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare informed the audience about the significant increase in the efforts of central government for improving socio-economic conditions of farmers especially small and marginal farmers through various yojana like Atma Nibhar Bharat, 1.5 times increment in MSP and formation of 10, 0000 FPOs throughout the country. He also stated the concept behind the formation of FPOs and its benefits to the small farmers. He added the NE region targeted missions of central government and encouraged the farmers to utilize the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund to take up the value added farming to have business with farming. MoS added the value of scientific research in the improvement of production and ease of cultivation of farmers, made an emphasis on Lab to Land and encouraged that Sikkim state should emerge as an organic destination for the tourists and consumers. The interaction session ended with vote of thanks.