



# Orchids Newsletter

ICAR National Research Centre for Orchids,  
Pakyong, Sikkim, India-737106



## TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

### Exhibition cum Workshop on “Biodiversity Utilization for Ecotourism as an Enterprise”

Exhibition cum Workshop on “Biodiversity Utilization for Ecotourism as an Enterprise” was organized by ICAR-NRCO, Pakyong during 25-26<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2019. The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri. Alok Kumar Srivastava, Hon’ble Chief Secretary of Sikkim. A total of 18 stalls were displayed by the farmers, KVK and other Govt. institutions of the region. Around 306 species of orchids flower were displayed. Among all 5 farmers were adjudged best and awarded. On the same day, a workshop on Biodiversity and sustainable Agriculture for doubling farmers income in Sikkim was also organized which was inaugurated and chaired by Dr A K Singh, DDG, Horticulture Science. Vice-President, Women Commission, Uttar Pradesh and Dean, College of Horticulture, CAU, Ranipool were the Guest of Honour and the convenor was the Dr. D.R. Singh, Director, ICAR-NRC for Orchids, Pakyong. Various centre Govt. Organisations viz., ICAR- NRCO, NOFRI, Sikkim University, CAEPHT, IBSD, GB Pant Institute, AYUSH, IIFSR, Spice Board, etc. participated in the workshop and presented their technologies and achievements for doubling farmers’ income.



Shri A K Srivastava, Hon’ble Chief Secretary of Sikkim visiting exhibition stall

### Exposure visit of Farmers from Andaman and Nicobar Island

A team of 16 farmers from Andaman & Nicobar Island visited ICAR-NRCO, Pakyong on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 on exposure visit for awareness on conservation and cultivation of orchids. The team was accompanied by Sh. P.S. Prasad (Asst. Director Agriculture) Andaman & Nicobar Administration along with two Field Assistant. All 16 farmers visited all the polyhouses and farm of ICAR-NRCO, led by Mr. Ajay Bhusal Technical Assistant (Farm) and briefly explained the mandate and activities going in ICAR-NRCO.



Further, he explained the techniques of conservation and cultivation of orchids and their management technologies developed by ICAR-NRCO. He demonstrated the Planting/Potting techniques and methods of media preparation and also highlighted the various value added products obtained from the orchid waste. Finally, Dr. D.R. Singh, Director had an effective interaction with farmers and motivated the farmers, youngsters, and students towards the field of Agriculture as a whole. He also highlighted the various opportunities and schemes introduce and their implementations by ICAR and the scope of Organic Agriculture especially in Andaman & Nicobar Island. All participants (Farmers) appreciated the initiative taken by ICAR-NRC for Orchids, Pakyong towards imparting awareness among the farmers of Andaman & Nicobar Island regarding of various technologies, schemes and opportunities in the field of Agriculture.

### **Exposure Visit of farmers from Sombaria, West Sikkim for Orchid Cultivation under Tribal Sub Plan project**

One day exposure visit of farmers from Sombaria, West Sikkim was organized at ICAR-NRC for Orchids, Pakyong on 28th March, 2019 under Tribal Sub-Plan project. Dr. Tshering Lhamu Bhutia, Scientist cum Nodal Officer, TSP, welcomed all the participants as well as State Department Horticulture Officers Shri Ongdi Lepcha and D N Sherpa and Block Technology



Manager Shri Dawa Tshering Sherpa. In this exposure visit, two lectures on Orchid based farming system and Germplasm Conservation of Orchids by Dr L C De, Principal Scientist (Horticulture) and Mr. Ravi Kishore Pamarthi, Scientist (Economic Botany & PGR), ICAR NRCO, Pakyong, respectively. The lecture was followed by field visit by the farmers along with Mr. Ajay Busal, Technical Assistant and Mr Deepak Rai, JRF, ICAR NRCO, Pakyong. More than 30 farmers participated in the said programme.

### **EVENTS/ NEWS/MEETINGS ORGANIZED**

#### **Sikkim Organic Day cum Krishi Unnati Mela-2019**

ICAR - NRC for Orchids participated in Sikkim Organic Day cum Krishi Unnati Mela-2019 on 18-19<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 at Mannan Kendra, Gangtok which was organized jointly by Food Security & Agriculture Development Department, Horticulture & Cash Crops Development Department and ICAR-NOFRI, Tadong, Gangtok. The programme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim Shri





Pawan Kumar Chamling on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2019. The institute stall displayed orchids (hybrids & species), cymbidium baskets, publications, backbulb propagating materials, poster of different orchid's diversities, technology and achievements. Hon'ble Chief Minister visited all the exhibited stalls and had an interaction with the participants. He appreciated the innovative technology of the institute of making basket out of the Cymbidium leaves. Further, the Chief Guest stressed on developing different biopesticides, on increasing production of organic produce and to be self-sufficient. On the next day, Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim Shri Ganga Prasad was the Chief Guest in the Valedictory function. He also visited all the stalls being displayed by different institutes and departments and had a thorough interaction with the participants. ICAR institutes, State Departments, Central Agricultural Universities, KVKs, Self Help Group, farmers participated in the programme.

### **Visits of Agriculture students from College of Agriculture, Tripura**

A team of 19 students including two faculty members from the College of Agriculture, Lembucherra, Tripura, visited ICAR-National Research Centre for Orchids, Pakyong on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2019. The visit in the institute was a part of the student's Educational Tour from the college. A brief interaction on importance of orchid was delivered with reference to mandate, vision and objectives of the institute, followed by farm visits and other research facilities. The prospect and potential of orchid's research was also highlighted emphasizing on conservation and breeding of this highly prized crop.



### **National Horticulture Fair - 2019 for promoting Rural Prosperity**

ICAR NRC for Orchids, Pakyong, Sikkim, participated in Nation Horticulture Fair on Horticulture for Promoting Rural Prosperity from 23-25<sup>th</sup>, January 2019 at IIHR, Bengaluru organised by ICAR Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Hesargatta, Bengaluru in collaboration with Society for Promotion of Horticulture, Bengaluru, Department of Horticulture, Government of Karnataka, National Horticulture Board, Gurugram & CDB (DAC). The institute exhibited its technology like baskets and mats made from cymbidium leaves, information regarding the conservation and cultivation of orchid's species and hybrids were displayed through posters and banners, orchid based integrated farming system and value added products for doubling farmer's income were also displayed and explained and the initiatives were highly appreciated by all the visitors visited the stall. An android app on Orchid farming developed by the institute was also installed in more than hundred android users. More than



200 personnel including students, research scholars, scientists, officers, professors, stakeholders, farmers, NGOs, FPOs etc visited the stall.

## **Visits of Hon'ble Minister of State for Tourism, Govt. of India**

The Hon'ble Minister of State for Tourism, Govt. of India, Shri K. J. Alphons visited ICAR NRC for Orchids, Pakyong on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2019. The Director of the institute highlighted the vision, mandate and objectives of the centre and briefed the works in progress. Hon'ble Minister visited the farm and other research facilities including Orchid Germplasm conservation sites. The Director of the institute marked the innovative works & technologies and further draws the



attention of Hon'ble minister and officials by delivering the importance of Orchid Germplasm conservation & management in the country. Hon'ble minister appreciated the work on vertical farming, semi-hydroponics, cymbidium leaves baskets and orchid based vegetable farming and encouraged to keep working for increasing farmer's income. Further, during the interaction, Hon'ble Minister acknowledged the bottleneck in orchid research, marketing and expansion of area under cultivation, suggesting incorporation of group farming approach.

## **International Women's Day celebrated**

ICAR NRC for Orchids, Pakyong celebrated International Women's Day on 8th March, 2019. The programme started with a formal meeting with the women staff of the institute wherein the role of women was emphasized in today's world and the impact they make in daily life which was followed by lunch and some games. In the valedictory function, Director, ICAR NRC for Orchids stressed upon the important role of women in shaping the world. He also distributed prize to the winners. A vote of thanks was given by Dr T L Bhutia, Scientist/ Chairperson, Women Grievances Committee, ICAR NRCO, Pakyong.



## Voter Awareness Forum Programme

Voter Awareness Forum Programme was conducted at the institute on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2019 by Sh. Arvind Chauhaan, Nodal Officer, Voter Awareness Forum. The programme was attended by Scientists, Technical, Administrative, project, Contractual staff of the institute. All staff were welcomed by Nodal Officer and briefed the audience regarding i) Voter Awareness Forum ii) Who shall be the member of VAF iii) What shall we do in VAF iv) Structure of VAF v) What is the role of Nodal Officer vi) Various activities of VAF. In addition video clip for voter awareness by Election Commission of India was also displayed during programme.



## Visit of Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim, Shri Ganga Prasad

Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim, Shri Ganga Prasad visited ICAR-NRCO, Pakyong on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. On behalf of the Institute, Dr. D. R. Singh, Director ICAR- NRC (O) Pakyong welcomed the Governor of Sikkim, Shri Ganga Prasad and the dignitaries and delegates from various Departments and Institutions by offering khadas, bouquet & Mementos. On this occasion a felicitation programme for progressive farmers and Official Staff was organised by ICAR-NRCO, Pakyong. Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim, Shri Ganga Prasad Ji was the Chief



Guest of the function, Sh. Khorlo Bhutia, Secretary (H&CCDD) Govt. of Sikkim as Guest of Honour, Smt. D. Lamu, Pr. Director H & CCDD) Dr. S.K. Sharma, Dean (Hort.) CAEPHT Ranipool and Sh. Ramtanu Saha, Director, Airport Authority of India, Pakyong as Special Guests. Dr. D. R. Singh, Director ICAR- NRC (O) on his welcome speech, highlighted the various achievements and progress work done by the institute in the field of Research and Extension. He also focus light on the opportunities and schemes introduce and their implementations by ICAR NRC (O) for Doubling Farmers Income and the scope of Organic Agriculture in Sikkim. Sh. Khorlo Bhutia, Secretary (H&CCDD) Govt. of Sikkim appreciated the efforts done by ICAR NRC (O) Pakyong in the field of Research and Extension technologies for doubling farmers income and also explained the Organic mission



and horticulture scenario of Sikkim. Dr. S K. Sharma, Dean (Hort.) CAEPHT Ranipool congratulated for the achievement and success achieved by ICAR-NRC (O) in various intuitional research as well as field activities. Ten (10) Progressive farmers from East and 30 from West Sikkim were also participated on the programme. Five Progressive farmers nominated by State and 5 Progressive farmers nominated by ICAR –NRC (O) from East and West Sikkim were Awarded by Hon’ble Governor of Sikkim, for their outstanding contribution in cultivation Orchid and other Sessional flowers. Hon’ble Governor of Sikkim also presented the Awards to 4 Staff of ICAR-NRC (O) Pakyong for their outstanding contribution in Research, Technical and Supporting activities of the Institute and also appreciated for their efforts. Hon’ble Governor of Sikkim also visited all farms of the institute.

### **Visits of Board of Directors and Officers from State Horticulture Department, Govt. Gardens, Hyderabad, Telangana State**

Board of Directors, Officers and entrepreneurs from State Horticulture Department, Govt. Gardens, Hyderabad, Telangana State, (altogether 6 members) Visited ICAR-NRC for Orchids, Pakyong –Sikkim on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 and had discussion with Dr. D.R. Singh Director, ICAR NRCO Pakyong regarding various issues of Agricultural, Horticultural and Floricultural field in connection with the policies and Schemes of government for doubling farmers income. The members also visited the/farm areas of ICAR NRC for Orchids attended by Dr. L.C. De, Principal Scientist, Rakesh Singh (SRF) and Sh. Ajay Bhusal (Technical Asst.) who explained the potential and importance of Conservation and Cultivation of Orchids in various States of India.



### **Stakeholder Meeting on ‘Entrepreneurship Development on Horticultural Crops / Orchids & Linkages with Central Government Institutions’**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Stakeholders Meeting on “*Entrepreneurship Development on Horticultural Crops / Orchids & Linkages with Central Government Institutions*” was organised at ICAR-NRCO, Pakyong on 07<sup>th</sup> May, 2019. The Chief Guest of the function was Hon’ble Governor of Sikkim, Shri Ganga Prasad Ji, Guest of Honour Dr. Punjab Singh, President, NAAS, New Delhi (Ex. Secretary DARE, GOI and DG, ICAR), while Special Guests were Dr. K. Jayakumar, Secretary to Hon’ble Governor of Sikkim, Sh. D.K. Bhandari, Secretary (Hort.) Govt. of Sikkim and Dr. Laxuman Sharma, Dean, Students Affairs, Sikkim University. Dr. D. R. Singh, Director



ICAR- NRC (O) Pakyong welcomed the Chief Guest as well as all the delegates. The Chief Guest of the programme stressed the scope of organic farming in Sikkim as well as other technologies developed by the institute in doubling of farmer's income. Scientists/Officers from different State and Central Govt. Organizations such as MSME, NOFRI, IBSD, BSI, AYUSH, Sikkim University, IMD, GBPIHESD, Spices Board and Progressive farmers participated in the meeting. The technical session was followed by the inaugural session wherein all the delegates from different institute presented on their research achievements and the areas where collaborated linkages can be made with all the institutes. The Chairman of the technical session Dr. Punjab Singh appreciated the effort made by the Director, ICAR-NRCO, Pakyong, for arranging Stakeholders Meeting and further requested to organise such meeting once every year. He emphasized that all the institutes should work in collaboration.



## VII<sup>th</sup> Research Advisory Committee Meeting

The VII<sup>th</sup> Research Advisory Committee Meeting of the institute was held at ICAR-National Research Centre for Orchids, Pakyong Sikkim on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2019. The Chairman of the Committee was Dr. Brahma Singh, Ex-Director, DRDO while members were Dr. T. Janakiram, ADG (Horticulture Science), ICAR, New Delhi, Dr. Rama Rao, Professor, NEHU, Shillong, Dr. S.N. Hegde, Ex-Director, SFRI, Arunachal Pradesh, Dr. D.K. Agarwala, Scientist-D, BSI, Gangtok and Shri. Pempa Sherpa, Ex-Officio member. Dr. D. R. Singh, Director ICAR- NRC (O) Pakyong welcomed the Chairman as well as all the delegates. On the onset of the programme “*Research achievements of 2017-18 and 2018-19*” was released by the Chairman. The technical session was followed by the introductory remarks of the Chairman and members. Dr. L. C. De, Principal Scientist (Horticulture) presented the ATR of the previous year. All the Scientists presented their respective achievements of on-going projects. The team reviewed the on-going and new projects and suggested technical recommendations for better output of the projects. The team appreciated the efforts of the team of ICAR-NRCO, Pakyong, Sikkim.





## **XVIII<sup>th</sup> Institute Research Committee**

XVIII<sup>th</sup> Institute Research Committee was held at Conference Hall, ICAR NRC for Orchids, Pakyong on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2019. Dr Rampal, Member Secretary, IRC welcomed all the scientists, project staff and technical staff during the meeting. All the scientists presented the achievements of institute as well as externally funded projects for the year 2018-19 along with the action to be taken during the year 2019-20. A total of four new projects were approved by the Chairman, IRC. Dr. D R Singh, Director, ICAR NRCO and Chairman, IRC appreciated all the staff for their efforts for achieving their targets. He stressed on publishing research article by every scientists, technical and project staff and also suggested everyone to set a target for all the activities to be fulfilled during 2019-20.



## **V<sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day**

V<sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day was organized at ICAR-National Research Centre for Orchids, Pakyong, Sikkim on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2019 at Training Hall of the institute. The programme was attended by Research Officers Dr. Ashok Kumar Sinha and Dr. Rahul D Ghuse, SRFs Dr. Tanushree Sarkar and Dr Ananya Saha, Mr. Manish Kumar Tiwari (Pharmacist) from Regional Ayurveda Research Institute (RARI), Tadong, Gangtok. Dr L C De, Principal Scientist, ICAR-NRCO welcomed all the guests with khada and appreciated for coming to the institute within short notice. The programme started with a practice prayer and warmup. Different kinds of yoga namely yog-asan, brigchya-asan, padhasta-asan, bhadra-asan, etc. was taught and demonstrated to the participants by the officers from RARI. All the scientific, administrative, technical, supporting, TSM, contractual, project staff of the ICAR NRCO, Pakyong participated actively.



## **PERSONALIA**

### **New Joining**

- Mrs Madhurima Das, Scientist, Plant Physiology w.e.f. 16.04.2019
- Sh. Bharath Kumar Alam, Scientist, Genetics and Plant Breeding w.e.f. 16.04.2019
- Sh Kalaivanan NS, Scientist, Plant Pathology w.e.f. 16.04.2019



## **Promotions**

- Ms. T.C. Bhutia, Technical Assistant to Sr. Technical Assistant w.e.f 28.02.2019

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