

Orchid entrepreneurs and technicians from Arunachal Pradesh trained in propagation and cultivation of orchids



A 16-member team comprising orchid entrepreneurs and technicians from Arunachal Pradesh underwent a 6-day practical training programme on "Propagation and Cultivation of Orchids" at ICAR National Research Centre for Orchids (ICAR-NRCO), Pakyong, Sikkim, from September 19 to 24. The training was conducted under the collaboration between DBT-APSCS &T Centre of Excellence for Bioresources and Sustainable Development, Kimin and ICAR-NRCO, Sikkim.

Dr Ram Pal, Director of ICAR-NRCO, in his valedictory address congratulated the participants for completing the training. He also pointed out that the completion of the programme was not the end but the beginning of a lasting relationship between the orchid growers of Arunachal Pradesh at DBT-APSCS &T and hoped that in future orchid cultivation would be taken up in every nook and corner of the state to develop an orchid industry in the region.

The orchid entrepreneurs from 4 different regions of Arunachal Pradesh, namely Pasighat, Namsai, Ziro and Deed, represented their organization in groups of two. The orchid entrepreneurs were happy to learn many new techniques that will help them in propagating and cultivating orchids. They also formed a WhatsApp group through which they will keep in touch with the experts from ICAR-NRCO, Sikkim. After the completion of the training programme, these representatives will be ready to act as a resource in their respective units and further spread awareness about orchid culture.

The programme also included practical sessions on propagation of orchids for conservation and commercial cultivation. The team also visited farmers' fields in Sikkim and the Orchid Conservatory in ICAR-NRCO, Sikkim. The conservatory houses 3130 accessions, 360 orchid species, of which 1026 accessions have been registered.