

RFRI CONDUCTS TRAINING ON FORESTRY IN ADDRESSING LIVELIHOOD ISSUES OF PEOPLE OF NORTH EASTERN STATES

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 12 to 14 November, 2019 at Forest Research Centre for Livelihood Extension, Hatipara, Agartala (Tripura). The training was organized for the state of Tripura. A total of 30 participants from various sections of the society *viz.* NGOs, JFMC members, Students, members of Nature clubs/ Eco clubs, Panchayat members, elected public representatives, social activists, watershed committees, academic and media persons, etc participated in the training programme.

Shri R. K. Kalita, Course Director & Scientist E, RFRI, Jorhat welcomed the participants and other dignitaries present in the inaugural session. He informed about content of the training programme.

The Training was inaugurated by Shri Rameswar Das, IFS, APCCF, Government of Tripura as Chief Guest.

Shri P. K. Kaushik, Scientist E and Head, FRCLE, Agartala offered vote of thanks.

DAY 1-TECHNICAL SESSIONS:

Shri R. K. Kalita delivered first technical session on 'Forestry in addressing livelihood issues in North Eastern India – An overview'. He discussed the role of forestry sector in gainful employment generation through sustainable utilization of certain potential resources such as bamboos, agarwood, broom grass, forest silk, non-timber forest produce (e.g. lac, honey, medicinal plants and wild edible mushrooms). He also addressed the participants to take up activities on conservation of forests, wetlands of Tripura, restoration of degraded forests/*jhum* lands, through plantation of important bamboo species along the natural streams for soil stabilization and flood control. He drew attention of the participants to the linkages between human development issues and the environment issues.

Dr. Abhijit Bhattacharjee delivered a presentation on need for inclusion of forestry, environment and eco-development education at school level. He emphasised on orientation of young students towards the forest and environment conservation from childhood itself. He appealed all to inculcate best practices among students from young stage.

Dr. Mahashweta Saha delivered a detailed presentation on 'Forestry & Livelihood-Role of Ecotourism'. She cited different examples around the world on best practices relating to ecotourism. She showed the outcome of her studies on ecotourism potential of Tripura. There is tremendous scope for development of ecotourism sector in Tripura. There are large numbers of important tourist destinations in Tripura. All round efforts are required in this regards.

A unique session was conducted on sharing the experience and success stories of few participants through power point presentation. Shri Biswajit Majumder, participant, shared his journey through which he has established himself as most progressive farmers of Tripura. He belonged to a very poor family and started his journey from scratch. By dint of his hard work, Shri Majumder is earning in lakhs and also employing many others.

Another participant, Mr. Swatik Chakraborty started a Start-up, named as **S. S. Bamboowala**. He also stated his journey as young entrepreneur. There are three more participants who shared their experience of their endeavour.

DAY 2-TECHNICAL SESSIONS:

Shri P. K. Kaushik delivered a presentation on ‘Bamboo for livelihood generation in Tripura’. He mentioned the role of bamboo for social, cultural, economic, food security and various types of ecological applications such as soil stabilization, reclamation of land and environmental degradation etc. He mainly emphasized establishment and management of bamboo nursery and shared his experience on standardization of nursery techniques for propagation of commercially important bamboo species through culms and branch cuttings, selection of superior planting material, planting techniques for different bamboo species, fertilization trials on bamboo plantation, improved harvest technology for crop management and productivity enhancement, and different bamboo based agroforestry intercropping.

Dr. Sujoy Hazari delivered a presentation on ‘Role of forestry in livelihood management’. Tripura is basically a tribal and forest dependent state. There is large scope for livelihood generation through various forest related activities.

Shri Prasad Rao also delivered a presentation on ‘Potential Forest Products of Tripura’. He cited certain successful case studies on utilization of forest products in Tripura.

Mr. Deepayan Ghosh spoke about scope for Self-help Groups (SHGs) in forest-based livelihood in Tripura.

Dr. N. D. Barthakur delivered a presentation on ‘Cultivation of Lac and its Processing for livelihood Generation’. She discussed various issues relating to 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.

Shri Pratap Dutta informed the participants about lesser known bioresources for community livelihood activities in Tripura. He told that lesser known plants are generally neglected by the people. He told that many lesser bioresources are store house of important molecules which have great importance in pharmaceutical industries.

Dr. Saurabh Deb sensitised the participants on NTFPs found in Tripura.

Dr. Selim Reza presented an impressive presentation on ‘Sustainable Utilization of Natural Resources’ for better human wellbeing. He explained the concept of sustainable utilization of resources. He emphasised on judicious and optimum use of resources so that

environmental balance is maintained. He also referred to sustainable development goal (SDGs) for better future.

DAY - 3: FIELD VISIT & TECHNICAL SESSION:

Field Visit was conducted at ICAR Research Complex for Tripura. Scientists of ICAR like Dr. Gulab Singh, Dr. Anup Das, Dr. Lupa Mudra Saha and other explained various activities such as zero tillage farming, mixed cropping, water conservation practices, mushroom cultivation, agroforestry models, horticulture, concept of kitchen gardening etc. to the participants. The participants highly appreciated the research and development activities of ICAR.

Shri R. K. Kalita delivered a brief presentation on '*Aquilaria malaccensis*: A potential aromatic and medicinal plant for livelihood generation in North-East India'. He explained 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.

VALEDICTORY SESSION:

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.

Forestry in Addressing Livelihood Issues of People of North Eastern States

GLIMPSES OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

INAUGURAL SESSION



GROUP PHOTO



Forestry in Addressing Livelihood Issues of People of North Eastern States

TECHNICAL SESSIONS



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FIELD VISIT TO ICAR RESEARCH COMPLEX, AGARTALA, TRIPURA



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VALEDICTORY SESSION



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MEDIA COVERAGE

FRC-LE training on Forestry

Times News

Agartala, Nov 12: A 3 days training program on 'Forestry in Addressing Livelihood Issues of People of North-Eastern States' was inaugurated at Forest Research Centre for Livelihood Extension (FRC-LE), Salbagan Forest Campus, Agartala sponsored by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India. 30 stake holders from different field of Tripura,

Assam and students from Tripura University have joined the training. Dr. Rameshwar Das, IFS, Addl. PCCF, was present as a Chief guest. R.K. Kalita, Scientist E and head, Extension Division, RFRI, Jorhat presented welcome note and briefed about RFRI activities.

P.K. Kaushik, Scientist E and Head, FRCLE, gave presentation on priority Issues Of Forest-based livelihoods. Dr. Abhijit Bhattacharjee discussed

about the Need for Inclusion of Forestry, Environment and Eco-development education at school level during valedictory session.

The training program was inaugurated by the Chief guest. An overview on Forestry in addressing Livelihood Issues in North Eastern India was shared by R. K. Kalita. Discussion on 'Role of Ecotourism' was presented by Dr. Mahashweta Saha during the training session.

TRIPURA TIMES AGARTALA, 14/11/2019

Positive things need to promote: Rameshwar

By Our Reporter

Agartala: Nov 13. It is important to promote the positive things which are available in Tripura and also related with bamboo, said Rameshwar Das.

While he was addressing here at training program on 'Forestry in Addressing Livelihood Issues of People of North Eastern states, Rameshwar Das, IFS officer appointed here in Tripura has said that forest is very important in case of our daily life and the state Tripura is very rich in case of bamboo production. It is very important to promote the importance of bamboo made products of Tripura, added Rameshwar Das.

A total of 30 numbers representative from different part of the state Tripura are being attended in the workshop. The workshop has organized by Rain Forest Research Institute, Indian Council of Forest Research & Education, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government



Tripura Bamboo Product

of India at Forest Research Center for Livelihood Extension, Hatipara, Agartala, Tripura. The program has sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India.

The topics on Forestry in Addressing Livelihood Issues in North Eastern India- An Overview has discussed by R.K Kalita, Scientist -E and Head, Extension Division, RFRI, Jorhat. The subject on 'Need for Inclusion of Forestry, Environment and Eco-development Education at School' has discussed by

Dr. Abhijit Bhattacharjee. Dr. Mahashweta Saha has discussed on Forestry and Livelihood Issues- Role of Ecotourism in the workshop. The resource persons have come from across the country India in the workshop. The workshop will be continued still next two days.

Biswajit Majumder, a farmer and entrepreneur, come from Sabroom area has said that he has received a lot of information from the resource persons in the workshop. This type of workshop is important for the development of entrepreneur in Tripura.