

### **Zonal Project Directorate, Zone-III, Umiam Successfully Organizes a Three days Awareness cum Training programme on “Protection, Management and Conservation of Agro-Biodiversity in North East Region: Strategies and Issues”**

The Zonal Project Directorate, Zone-III, Umiam, Meghalaya organized a three days awareness cum training programme during December 18-20, 2014 on “*Protection, Management and Conservation of Agro-Biodiversity in North East Region: Strategies and Issues*” at KVK, Kamrup, Kahikuchi, Assam. Dr. S. Paul, Scientist, ZPD-III, Umiam was the Course Director of the training programme. The programme was distinctly divided into two parts- the first part of the programme being consisting of one day awareness cum training programme on “Different provisions of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer’s Right Act (PPV & FRA), 2001 which was held on Dec. 18, 2014 at the mentioned venue. A total of eighty two participants comprising of multiple stakeholders like scientists from ICAR, professors, officials from PPV&FR, Guwahati, KVK personnel, NGO personnel, farmers and rural youth actively participated in the programme. The second part of the programme was devoted to an awareness cum training programme for the KVK SMSs from the disciplines of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Horticulture and Agronomy to impart necessary knowledge among them in different aspects of protection, management and conservation of agro-biodiversity in NE region such that they can formulate suitable strategies which can be implemented in future through KVK mandated activities. A total of forty seven participants including participant trainees from different KVKs of the North Eastern region and resource persons from different organizations like ICAR, AAU, Jorhat, NABARD, Institute of Rural Management, Guwahati, NIRD&PR, Guwahati, ASCA, Govt. of Assam were actively involved in the programme.

The inaugural session of the awareness cum training programme started at 10:00 hrs. on 18<sup>th</sup> of December, 2014 under the chairmanship of Dr. A.C. Sharma, Deputy Registrar, PPV & FRA, Guwahati. Dr. S. Paul, Course Director in his welcome address stated the importance of the programme in light of the present scenario of climate change and thereby invited active participation of all the stakeholders in the programme. Dr. Sharma in his encouraging remarks congratulated the efforts of ICAR-Zonal Project Directorate, Zone-III to organize the very important programme at the required time and thereby briefly explained to the participants the importance and different aspects of protection of plant varieties and other farmers’ rights. Dr. R. Bordoloi, Co-course Director and Dr. D.N. Kalita, Programme Coordinator, KVK, Kamrup were among the other speakers in the inaugural session. The inaugural session came to an end with vote of thanks proposed by the Course Director.

The technical sessions of the programme consisted of lectures and practical exercise based classes in different thematic areas like protection of plant varieties through registration, protection of farmers’ rights, conservation of indigenous germplasm of field crops, vegetable crops,



**Dr. A.C. Sharma, Dy. Registrar, PPV&FRA, Guwahati addressing the gathering in the inaugural session of the awareness cum training programme**



**Participants attentively listening to the lectures during the awareness cum training programme**

fruit crops, flowers, medicinal plants etc. in NE region which is one of the twelve biodiversity hotspots in the world. Powerpoint presentation based lectures on the very first day of the programme by the SMSs from different KVKs of the region w.r.t issues, objectives, extent of intervention and achievements made through KVK mandated activities in protection and conservation of agro-biodiversity in the region enriched the entire programme. The important areas covered in the awareness cum training programme included potential application of Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) in agro-biodiversity conservation, psychological and extension perspectives in conservation and protection of agro-biodiversity in the region, developing linkage and convergence with financial organizations in general and NABARD in particular in the said aspect, promotion of seed village and commodity village in the region etc. The lecture sessions came to an end on the third day (20<sup>th</sup> of December, 2014) at 13:00 hrs.



**A trainee participant giving feedback about the awareness cum training programme during the valedictory session**

The valedictory session of the training programme started at 14:00 hrs. on 20<sup>th</sup> of December, 2014 under the chairmanship of Dr. H.C. Bhattacharyya, Director of Extension Education, AAU, Jorhat, Assam. The session continued with opening remarks and presentation of proceedings of the training programme by the Course Director, encouraging speech by the chairman of the session, feedback from the participants, distribution of certificates to the participants by the chairman and finally proposal of vote of thanks by the Course Director. The three days awareness cum training programme organized by the Zonal Project Directorate, Zone-III, Umiam was a successful event.



**Dr. H.C. Bhattacharyya, DEE, AAU, Jorhat addressing the participants during the valedictory session of the awareness cum training programme**