

**Hon'ble Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, New Delhi
visited KVK West Garo Hills, Meghalaya**

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra West Garo Hills, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, organized an "Agriculture Exhibition cum showcasing of farm innovation" in Tura on 26 March, 2013. Hon'ble Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Secretary DARE, Govt. of India, New Delhi graced the function as chief guest. More than 500 farmers from different corners of Garo Hills participated in the programme. Twenty five innovative farmers from seven north-eastern states also attended the programme, displayed the products/technologies and shared their experience with the participants. Altogether, there were 17 stalls in the exhibition covering ICAR, KVKs, financial institutes, line departments and NGOs. Various innovative technologies on crop production, horticulture, livestock farming, fishery, processing and value addition along with farm mechanization were showcased in the programme. DG sir appreciated the innovative farmers and emphasized on the importance and popularization of rural innovative technology.

Dr. S.V. Ngachan, Director, ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam in his welcome address briefed about the various research and extension activities of ICAR and KVK, Tura. A session on farmers-scientist interaction was also organized to address the farmers problems. Dr. Ayyappan visited the KVK farm, exhibition stalls and interacted with the farmers on various issues related to agriculture in the region and felicitated innovative farmers. He also released KVK newsletters and extension leaflets and distributed quality seed materials to farmers. Dr. S. Ayyappan in his address to the scientific community and farmers, urged for concerted effort to improve agricultural scenario in the region. He emphasized on the need to adopt improved technologies for conservation of natural resources (Soil & Water) and enhance agricultural productivity. Location specific integrated farming system models are to be disseminated for efficient utilization of on-farm resources and food security of small and marginal farmers. The DG, ICAR appealed the KVKs in the region to follow the concept of 'Ring Formation" among the neighboring KVKs for better sharing of technologies and information. In this regard, DG sir appreciated the KVK-Tura for initiation of the concept of Ring Formation by inviting KVKs of

Dhubri, Kamrup and Goalpara for cross sharing of various technologies with the end users in Garo Hills.

While traveling from KVK, Dudhnoi to Tura, Dr. Ayyappan also visited a rural fish seed production unit established under TSP of ICAR in Anugre Village. Dr. S.N. Puri, Vice Chancellor of CAU, Imphal and Dr. K.M.L. Pathak, Deputy Director General, Animal Science, ICAR, Delhi graced the programme and interacted with farming community. Dr. A.K. Gogoi, ZPD, Zone –III also attended the meet. Dr. T. Samajdar, Programme Co-ordinator, appraised the dignitaries about the programme, facilities and functioning of the KVK Tura. Dr. Satish Chandra, Principal Scientist, Plant Pathology, ICAR Complex, Umiam, Meghalaya offered the vote of thanks.

