

**Date : 20 March, 2025**

## **PRESS NOTE**

### **Capacity Building Programme on Climate-Resilient Agriculture jointly organised by ICAR-ATARI, Umiam and ICAR-RCNEH, Barapani under NICRA Project**

A 10-day residential training programme on “Strategizing Climate-Resilient Agriculture through Innovative and Technological Interventions for Improved Livelihood Security of Tribal Farmers” was jointly organized by ICAR-ATARI, Zone VII, Umiam and ICAR RCNEH, Barapani from 3–13 March, 2025 with sponsorship of NICRA project.

The programme aimed to enhance participants' understanding about extent of climate vulnerabilities, various climatic stress challenges, their impacts and acquaint them with region-specific, innovative, frontier climate-resilient technologies to strengthen the agricultural sustainability and enhance livelihood security in Northeastern Hill regions. Nearly, 40 trainees from 9 states across the country including northeastern states participated in the programme, which was contemplated with insightful lectures by national and international experts combined with practical sessions, field visits, and specific discussions on topics such as biochar technologies, climate-smart farming, space applications in agriculture, and agripreneurship.

Inaugurating the programme on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2025, the Chief Guest Shri B.K.Sohliya, Chairman & Executive Adviser of Farmers (Empowerment) Commission, Government of Meghalaya stressed upon synergy of various stakeholders for the livelihoods development of tribals in the region and mentioned about separate policy formulations for strengthening the climate resilient hill agriculture. He accentuated the importance of farm mechanization in hill agriculture and urged for developing farmers' friendly implements to reduce drudgery of the tribal farmers.

Gracing the programme as Guest of Honour Dr A.K.Mohanty, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Zone VII, Umiam in his address called for effective implementation of successful climate resilient technologies by the state in the farmers' field for sustainable growth of hill agriculture amidst the challenges of climatic aberrations, for which he emphasized regional problem identifications, research prioritization and agriculture policy planning. The inaugural event also witnessed the presence of other dignitaries on the dais including Head, Division of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Resources and Director (I/C), ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region Dr Sandeep Ghatak along with Dr. Pankaj Baishwar, Principal Scientist, ICAR RC NEHR and Dr A.K. Singha, Principal Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Umiam.

The 10 days training programme featured with the scholarly deliberations by eminent resource scientists like Dr. James Jacob, Former Director, Rubber Research institute of India; Prof. R Uma Shankar, Former Head and Dr Nataraja Karaba, Current Head, Department of Crop Physiology, UAS, Bengaluru; Dr Sudip Mitra, Head School of Agro and Rural Technology and Dr Pranab K Mondal, Associate professor, Dept of Mechanical Engg, IIT, Guwahati; Dr Smitha Kurup, Group Leader, Phenomics, Mahyco, Jalna; Dr Mona Joshi, UPL Ltd, Gurugram; Dr Prabhakar M, National PI(NICRA) and Dr Pratibha G, National PI(NICRA TDC) from ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad along with virtual lectures by few more international scientists like Dr Raju Soolanayaknahally from Saskatchan

Research centre, Agri-food systems, Canada; Prof. Raja Reddy from Mississippi State University, USA and Dr Praveen Rahi, Institute of Pasteur, Paris.

The valedictory function of the programme held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025, which was graced by Dr. S.P. Agarwal, Director, NESAC as Chief Guest along with Dr. A.K. Mohanty, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Umiam and Dr. S. Hazarika, Head, DSRE and Director (I/C), ICAR RC NEH, Umiam on the dais. Dr. S.P. Agarwal, the Chief Guest, highlighted the societal impact of space technology and its significant role of remote sensing and GIS technology in combating climate change by providing accurate, real-time data that can assist farmers in making informed decisions. He suggested for a greater focus on the application of Information Technology (IT) in agriculture citing its potential to revolutionize farming practices and improve crop yields and income. Dr. A.K. Mohanty, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Zone VII, Umiam and Guest of Honour, expressed his appreciation for the overall design and contents of the training programme and the collaborative efforts of both technology development and application institutes for organizing such an important training programme under NICRA and also suggested for increased practical sessions, greater focus on agri-entrepreneurship, and biannual training sessions for sustained knowledge exchange. Dr. S. Hazarika, Head DSRE and Director (I/C), ICAR RC NEH, Umiam, in his speech, stressed the need for more research on biochar production, and discussed the issue of water scarcity. The training was successfully contemplated, executed and coordinated by Course Directors Dr Krishnappa R. PI(NICRA), ICAR RC NEH, Umiam and Dr Amrutha T, Scientist and PI(NICRA TDC) from ICAR-ATARI, Zone VII, Umiam along with Course Coordinators namely; Dr. Ramesh T, PS (Soil Science); Dr. Amit Kumar, Senior Scientist (Plant Breeding), Dr. Simardeep Kaur, Scientist (Plant Biochemistry), Dr. Prabha M, Scientist (Env. Science) from ICAR RC NEH, Umiam and Dr. A.K Singha, PS (Agri Extension) and Mrs. Divya Parisa, Scientist from ICAR-ATARI, Umiam.



