

Chairman, Meghalaya Farmers' (Empowerment) Commission Emphasizes on Indigenous Germplasm Conservation during PPV&FRA Workshop



KVK, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya under ICAR-ATARI, Zone-VII organised a one-day workshop-cum-awareness programme on PPV&FRA on 26 March, 2025 at the KVK premises in Upper Shillong. The programme was attended by scientists of various research institutes, government officials of Meghalaya, Heads and SMS of four KVKs of the state & more than 200 farmers from different districts of Meghalaya.

Gracing the programme as the Chief Guest, Shri. B.K. Sohliya, Executive Advisor & Chairman, Meghalaya Farmers' (Empowerment) Commission, highlighted many indigenous germplasms of different fruits and spices of Meghalaya, which are in the verge of extinction due to lack of awareness about its importance. In this connection, he urged the KVK scientists to hunt for the indigenous germplasms lying with the farming communities and give them the rights for protection of their local germplasm under PPV&FRA Act.

The Guest of Honour of the programme, Dr. A.K. Mohanty, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Zone-VII, Umiam; in his deliberation accentuated the role of KVKs for empowering the farming community by registering their local indigenous varieties with PPV&FRA. Lauding the KVKs as lighthouse for the Indian farming community, he stressed upon for changing the mindset of rural youth for agripreneurship development through multiple options. The programme was also graced by the Special Guest Dr. A. Pattanayak, Former Director, ICAR-IIAB, Ranchi and Honorary Technical Adviser, Meghalaya Farmers' (Empowerment) Commission, who explained the role of PPV&FRA in providing the rights to the farmers and importance of germplasm conservation. Dr. Pattanayak also affirmed that more than 218 farmer's varieties of rice and maize of Meghalaya have been registered by PPV&FRA.

The event was also featured with an input distribution programme to farmers of East Khasi Hills sponsored by ICAR-National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganism (NBAIM), Mau, Uttar Pradesh under their NEH Component. On this occasion, a Brochure entitled *Khyndiat Ki Jingtip Shaphang Ka Hok U Nongrep Hapoh Ka Ain Protection Of Plant Varieties And Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001* (in Khasi language) published by the KVK, East Khasi Hills was released by the dignitaries on the dais for the benefit of the farming community.

As part of this event, an exhibition was also organized to showcase the varied exotic and local varieties which was participated by KVK, West Khasi Hills; KVK, Jaintia Hills; KVK, Ri-Bhoi and KVK, East Khasi Hills along with research institutes like Institute of Bioresources & Sustainable Development (IBSD), ICAR-CPRI RS, Shillong. The event was followed by technical deliberations by various scientists on various topics with special emphasis on the utilization, conservation and documentation of the rich biodiversity of the state.

	
<p>Chief Guest Shri B.K. Sohliya delivering inaugural address</p>	<p>Guest of Honour Dr. A.K. Mohanty addressing the farmers</p>



Inauguration of the Exhibition



Dignitaries visiting the exhibition displaying the exotic and local plants germplasms



Distribution of Inputs to farmers



Release of a publication by dignitaries